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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AWARD OF F. R. S. TO PROF. C. GOPALAN

We are glad to announce that Prof. Gopalan has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, London, this year. Dr Gopalan was born in Salem Town in November 1918 and took the M.B.B.S. and M.D. degrees from the Madras University, the Ph.D. and D.Sc. Degrees from the London University and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians (F. R. C. P) from Edinburgh. He was awarded D.Sc.(Hon. Cause) by the Banaras Hindu University. He was the first recipient of Nuffield Foundation Fellowship from India and while on this Fellowship, joined the Medical Research Council (Human Nutrition Unit) in London. His work there led to his Ph.D. Degree of the London Universi y. On return to India, he was appointed Deputy Director, Nutrition Research Laboratories (now the National Institute of Nutrition) where he was responsible for the promotion of clinical and field research in nutrition. When the Institute was shifted to Hyderabad, he became its Director and continued in this post for 15 years. He became the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, a position which he held for over five years. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Medical Sciences. He is currently the President of the Nutrition Foundation of India and in this capacity, he is organising, directing and coordinating a number of community studies on nutrition in different parts of the country. He founded the Nutrition Society of India and initiated the series of Asian Congresses. He was the first President of the Indian Dietetic Association, President of the First Asian Congress of Nutrition, First Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee of Medical Research of WHO, Chairman of the Technical Session of World Health Assembly in 1977 and was President, International Union of Nutrition Sciences (affiliated to ICSU) from 1975 to 1979. He is currently Honorary President of the IUNS affiliated to ICSU. He is a member of the WHO Expert Panel on Nutrition continuously from 1953.

Dr Gopalan's research contributions relate to the currently widespread problems of Human Nutrition among underprivileged communities. These include over 200 papers in journals in India and abroad, and the contributions to over a dozen books on Nutrition (mostly published in Europe and U. S. A.). His researches have been directed to the elucidation of the pathogenesis of some of the major nutritional disorders widely prevalent in this country and in arriving at practical approaches towards their solution.

His studies on the problem 'of protein-calorie-malnutrition provided convincing demonstration that the basic deficiency underlying kwashiorkor, marasmus (and PCM in general) was calorie deficiency and *not* protein deficiency as was till then generally believed, and that there was no basic difference in this regard as to the dietary background between kwashiorkor and marasmus. Though this view was strongly opposed at the time of its announcement, it is now widely accepted and has changed the concept and strategy with regard to the prevention and control of this major nutrition problem of children.

Dr Gopalan's studies on the effects of chronic starvation and Famine Oedema have provided insight into the clinical, biochemical effects of chronic famine.

Studies in the area of human milk and lactation have provided important data on the output and chemical composition of human milk of Indian mothers of poor socio-economic groups, and have

served as a basis for action programmes designed to promote breast feeding which continues to be the sheet-anchor of infant nutrition.

The series of papers on Pellagra has served to challenge the current concept that Pellagra was a disease of maize-eaters and advanced the view that apart from tryptophan deficiency, aminoacid imbalance arising from excess leucine in the diet could be causative.

Dr Gopalan has made contributions of practical value in important areas related to health and nutrition, afflicting not only the poor in India but a large part of mankind. He has maintained a sustained tempo of work for over 30 years and in his present capacity as the Director-General of the Nutrition Foundation of India, he has been playing a leading part in focussing public and governmental attention on major nutrition problems through the 'Bulletin of the Foundation' and a number of other publications and prestigious lectures including the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Lecture.

His contributions to the development of nutrition science and promotion of programmes for the nutritional uplift of the poor communities in India include (a) the building up of the National Institute of Nutrition almost from the point of its shift to Hyderabad from Coonoor to its present level as one of the leading nutrition centres in the developing world; (b) Initiation of large scale programmes for prevention of malnutrition. Thus the current programme of control of nutritional blindness through the massive dose Vitamin A prophylaxis was initiated under his leadership by NIN and was included as a National programme in the Fourth Five-Year Plan. Since then, this approach has been copied by several other countries. (c) Training of a large number of medical and health personnel; (d) Setting up of a major new institution "National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau," for regular monitoring of population in different parts, changing trends in nutritional situation and dietary practices of the country.

Current Science wishes him all success.

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY MEDALS FOR 1986

Dr C. V. Sundaram, Director of the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research at Kalpakkam, Madras has been awarded the *S. H. Zaheer Medal.* Dr Sundaram who has been associated with the Indian Atomic Energy Programme since 1956 was instrumental in the completion and commissioning of the fast breeder test reactor (FBTR) at Kalpakkam. The FBTR is a landmark in the efforts to use breeder reactors for future power generation in the country.

Prof. M. A. Viswamitra, Chairman, Physics Department, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, received the *J. C. Bose Medal* for his contribution to the crystallization and the structure analysis of biologically important molecules.

Prof. S. Ramaseshan, Visiting Professor, Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, recipient of *Aryabhata medal* has made pioneering contributions in the field of optics, x-ray neutrons, physics of materials at high pressures, fibre reinforced composites and electrocomposites. The Aryabhata medal has been awarded for his contributions in the field of crystallography.

Prof. O. Siddiqi of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, is the first recipient of the *Golden Jubilee Commemoration Medal* instituted by INSA in 1985 to be awarded once in every three years. Prof. Siddiqi has been awarded the Medal for his outstanding contributions in biological studies.

Prof. C. S. Pichamuthu, former Director of Mines and Geology Department of Karnataka, received the *D. N. Wadia Medal* for his contributions in the field of pre-Cambrian geology, particularly his studies in Dharwar craton. Dr Pichamuthu's research contributions went a long way in the understanding of the crystal evolution during the pre-Cambrian period as evidenced from the Dharwar craton.
