

## PERSONAL NEWS

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with passion. He had guided more than 20 students for their Ph D degree, before he officially retired from the department in 1982. With his foresight, TR was undoubtedly instrumental in developing the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology to its current status. He had received international grants from the Nuffield Foundation, Watmull Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation with which he equipped the department and selflessly extended the facilities to all other colleagues. TR pursued his scientific interests even after his official retirement by

continuing his association with the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology and the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. He has published nearly 100 research papers during his career. He has been a fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.

Ramakrishnan's wife Devi passed away in November 2007 due to cancer and her demise was a severe blow to him, since she was a great strength and support. He is survived by two sons and a daughter. In Ramakrishnan's demise

we have lost a good friend and an excellent scientist. TR will be remembered for a long time for his scientific contributions, especially for his pioneering work on mycobacteria.

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## Jacob Chandy (1910–2007)

Jacob Chandy, well known in the field of neuroscience, died on 23 June 2007. His contributions to the field, particularly the efforts to promote training and teaching of neuroscience, shall remain fresh in our memories.

Jacob Chandy, son of a clergyman, was born on 23 January 1910. After graduating from the Madras Medical College, he practised at American Mission Hospital in Bahrain. During the Second World War, he decided to further his education in USA. He had his training in neurosurgery at Montreal Neurological Institute under Wilder Penfield.

Jacob Chandy returned to India in the latter part of 1949 and started the Department of Neurological Sciences at C.M.C. Hospital, Vellore. This was the first department of neurological sciences in India. The department attracted a lot of talent and soon bloomed into a premier centre of training and teaching in neurosciences, where postgraduate training in neurology, neurosurgery and allied sciences started in the 1960s. Students and postgraduates in neurosurgery and neurology from the department later

started many centres in India and held important positions abroad.

In 1951, Jacob Chandy became the founder-president of the Neurological Society of India and was helped by B. Ramamoorthy, Baldev Singh and S. T. Narasimham. The seeds sown by these



stalwarts have now given roots to subspecialty societies for neuro trauma, paediatric neurosurgery, cerebro-vascular surgery, and stereo toxic and functional neurosurgery.

The academic pursuits of Jacob Chandy attracted worldwide attention. He was honoured by the American Col-

lege of Surgeons, WHO and World Council of Churches. He was a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore. In 1989, the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies felicitated him by bestowing the 'Medal of Honour'. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Bhushan.

Jacob Chandy worked tirelessly to make the Department of Neurosciences at C.M.C. Hospital, Vellore a place of repute.

After his retirement he became an emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery at the Kerala Medical College. He pursued teaching until his 68th year, when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He continued his efforts in the service of the sick. The end came rather suddenly when he was 97 years old. Jacob Chandy's wife also died six months later.

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