

Dr B.N. Dhawan left for his heavenly abode



Dr B.N. Dhawan

(Former Director-CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow and Past President – Indian Academy of Neurosciences, Indian National Science Academy and Indian Pharmacological Society)

It is with profound sadness that the Indian Academy of Neurosciences informs the sudden demise of Dr B.N. Dhawan, an internationally acclaimed neuroscientist and pharmacologist. A doyen of Pharmacology, he was one of the founder members, a founder fellow and former President of the Indian Academy of Neurosciences. Dr Dhawan held the office of President of the Academy for two separate terms. He occupied several important positions in Government agencies, academic institutions and countries top scientific bodies like Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI). He was the youngest person to be appointed as Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacology, at the age of 31 At Moti LalNehru Medical College, Allahabad. Besides his past teaching positions at Lucknow and Allahabad, he held illustrious research positions as Assistant Director, Deputy Director, and Scientist in Director's Grade and Director at CSIR - Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. Dr Dhawan made outstanding basic and original contributions to neuropharmacology and introduced modern concepts in pharmacology related to teaching and drug research. For the early drug discovery and development, he set up several test systems and animal models at CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow which are being followed in several institutions and accepted by WHO. He conceptualized the research program for advance studies on traditional medicines and headed the ICMR Center for Advanced Studies on Traditional Remedies at CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow. These contributions earned him the coveted Fellowship of CINP and founder membership of IUPHAR Receptor Nomenclature Committee. Dr Dhawan served as a Senior Commonwealth Medical Fellow, St Bartholomew's Medical College. London, Visiting Professor to several foreign universities, - Consultant /or Committee Member IUPHAR, UNIDO, WHO, UNESCO etc. - Committee Member/Chairman of many Committees of Ministries of Earth Sciences, Environment, Health and Family Welfare, Human Resource Development, Petroleum Chemical; Departments of Science and Technology, Scientific and Industrial Research, Biotechnology, Ocean Development and Councils (CSIR, ICAR. ICMR) etc., - Board of Director/ Committees of Public/Private Sector Pharmaceutical Undertakings.

He was conferred Fellowships by several national and international organizations including CINP and Third World Academy of Sciences. He was a Member of British Pharmacological Society - Medicinal Chemistry Section of American Chemical Society - International Brain Research Organization and many other Scientific Bodies. He was a Fellow of INSA and NASI. Dr Dhawan published over 400 research papers, obtained 20 foreign and 32 Indian Patents. He had written/edited 20 books. He mentored several Indian scientists, who are occupying high positions in pharmacology and related areas in the country and abroad.

Several prestigious awards namely Third World Academy of Sciences Award in Medical Sciences, Hamdard Foundation Research Award, Vasvik Life Sciences Award, Ranbaxy Medical Sciences Award, OP Bhasin Medical and Health Sciences Award, DN Prasad Memorial Award of Indian Council of Medical Research and K.P. Bhargava Memorial Medal & Dhanwantari Prize of Indian National Science Academy were conferred on Dr Dhawan.

Besides the above outstanding qualities, Dr Dhawan was a great human being and a man of high ethical values. He regularly attended the annual meetings of Indian Academy of Neurosciences and his advice in planning the meetings was very valuable. The Academy will always remember his numerous valuable contributions to science and society.