

PROFESSOR PRASANTA KUMAR RAY

(1941-2018)



Professor Prasanta Kumar Ray, former Director of Bose Institute, Kolkata passed away on October 5, 2018. He was born on September 29, 1941 in West Bengal. He was the son of Mr. Benode Behari Ray and Mrs. Labanya Prava Das. He obtained Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy from Calcutta University. He then received Doctor of Science from Calcutta University in 1974.

Prof. Ray joined as Scientific Officer at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay in 1973 and was there till 1976. He was Director, Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Institute Calcutta from 1976 to 1977, Bengal Immunity, Calcutta, 1977 to 1978. He was Director of the Indian Toxicological Research Institute, CSIR, Lucknow from 1984 to 1992. Prof Ray joined thereafter as Director, Bose Institute, Kolkata, in 1992 to 2000 and completed his professional career at this organization. As the Director, he was instrumental in modernizing the institute through a number of new initiatives and established two new sections i.e., Immunotechnology and Environmental Sciences. He had a sympathetic attitude towards students and would patiently hear their problems and try his best to resolve the matter.

He also served as Director of the ADM Laboratory of Surgical Immuno-biology, Medical College of

Pennsylvania and Hospital, Philadelphia, USA, from 1978 to 1984 and as Visiting Scientist at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York, USA and Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA.

Prof Ray was a biomedical scientist, who worked in multidisciplinary areas like immunology, cancer, transplantation, toxicology, environmental science, microbiology and nutrition. He worked on a series of modalities of immunotherapy of cancer including the use of irradiated BCG and protein A as immunomodulators, as well as removal of tumor-associated antigen as blocking factor of immunotherapy. He authored of many books and more than 200 research publications. He was elected as Fellow, Institute Biology (chartered biologist), London, Indian National Academy of Sciences, and West Bengal Academy of Sciences. He was recipient of several awards including Cancer Research award from Indian Council of Medical Research, 1977, Ranbaxy National award in Medical Sciences from Ranbaxy Foundation, 1985, Gold Medal of the Society of Toxicologists of India and many more.

Prof. Ray was associated with the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, a professional body under Department of Science and Technology, GOI for a long time and became the Sectional President of Section of

Biochemistry, Biophysics & Molecular Biology in 1997-98. Prof Ray was President of an NGO called Centre for Applied Science & Technology, which was working towards Science Promotion, Science Awareness and Science Education by conducting workshops and training programme related to areas of Environmental sciences.

Prof. Ray was also closely associated with Indian Science News Association (ISNA) for a long period and took keen interest in the activities of the Association. He

was Vice President of ISNA from 2005 till he became its President in April 2016. He resigned from the post of President of ISNA because of his ill health.

Prof. P.K. Ray was a source of inspiration and encouragement not only to the students but also to all the faculty members and colleagues with whom he was associated. □

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