Editorial

Agostino Pierro¹ · Tomas Wester²

Published online: 20 December 2021

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2021

Professor Prem Puri

MBBS, LRCP, LRCS(Ed), DCH, MS, FRCS, FRCS(Ed), FACS, FC Paed Surg(SA)(Hon), FAAP(Hon), D.Sc(Hon)

It is a great honour to write this Editorial in recognition of the exceptional career and numerous accomplishments of Professor Prem Puri. He has served as the Editor-in-Chief of Pediatric Surgery International for the last 20 years and has recently decided to step down from this position, leaving to us an outstanding legacy.

Professor Puri is one of the giants of our specialty and a role model for many academic pediatric surgeons. His dedication and hard work in advancing the field of pediatric surgery and training young surgeons, both clinically and in basic science, has influenced the lives of many colleagues, including ourselves.

Professor Puri is the Newman Clinical Research Professor at the University College Dublin School of Medicine

and Medical Science and Consultant Pediatric Surgeon and Director of Surgical Research at the Beacon Hospital, Dublin. He is currently the Secretary of the International Board of Pediatric Surgical Research. He is the Past President of the World Federation of Associations of Pediatric Surgeons (WOFAPS), the Past President of the European Pediatric Surgeons Association (EUPSA) and the past President of the World Federation of Associations of Pediatric Surgeons (WOFAPS) Foundation. As mentioned above, he has been Editor-in-Chief of Pediatric Surgery International since 2001, and he is on the Editorial Board of several other journals. He was the Director of Research (1989–2009) and President (2009–2016) of the National Children's Research Centre, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin. He was a Member of the Health Research Board of Ireland (2010–2015).

He has been awarded many honorary fellowships of prestigious associations, such as the American Surgical Association (ASA), American Academy of Pediatrics, American Pediatric Surgical Association, Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgeons, Japanese Society of Pediatric Surgeons, and Argentinean, Austrian, Czech, Croatian, Cuban, Indian, and South African pediatric surgical associations.

Professor Puri is known internationally for his research into underlying mechanisms causing birth defects, and innovative treatments, which have benefited hundreds of thousands of children all over the world. His research on vesicoureteral reflux (VUR), the most common urological disorder in children, has had a major worldwide impact on patient treatment, through the development of a 15-min day-care endoscopic procedure. As a direct result of his research, this endoscopic treatment has radically altered the management of VUR throughout the world.

He is a multi-award-winning researcher whose previous awards include the People of the Year Award (Ireland), the prestigious Denis Browne Gold Medal by the British Association of Pediatric Surgeons, the Rehbein Medal by the European Pediatric Surgeons Association, and the Colles Medal by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, for outstanding contribution to pediatric surgery. He has been a visiting

✉ Agostino Pierro
agostino.pierro@sickkids.ca

¹ The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

² Department of Pediatric Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

professor to many leading universities all over the world and invited speaker at over 250 international scientific meetings.

Professor Puri is also one of the most cited pediatric surgical researchers in the world. His research work has been cited over 22,000 times in peer-reviewed articles with an h-index of 73 and an i10-index of 474. He has published 10 books, 147 chapters in textbooks and over 750 articles in peer-reviewed journals, including many in high impact factor journals, such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal* and *Nature Genetics*, etc. He is the Editor of *Newborn Surgery*, which is regarded as the authoritative book in our field, and also of the widely acclaimed *Pediatric Surgery* (Springer Surgery Atlas Series), which had its 2nd edition published in 2019. The 4th edition of *Hirschsprung Disease* was published in 2019, Volume 1 of a major reference book called *Encyclopedia of Pediatric Surgery* was published in 2020 and Volume 2 in 2021. Volume 3 (*Pediatric Urology*) will be published in 2022 and the 2nd edition of *Pediatric Surgery—Diagnosis and Management* is currently in production.

Between 1985 and 2019, Professor Puri trained 81 research fellows in basic science research at the National Children's Research Centre in Dublin. These research fellows were pediatric surgeons in the early stages of their training and each spent 2–4 years in the laboratory. Several of them are now professors and heads of departments of Pediatric Surgery in various parts of the world and are very active academically.

During his tenure as Editor-in-Chief, Professor Puri has worked hard to improve the quality of the articles submitted to *Pediatric Surgery International*. His dedication to improving the quality of the articles published in the journal is evident from the fact that although he published many papers in high-ranking journals, such as *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *British Medical Journal*, *Nature Genetics*, *European Urology*, *Nature Scientific Reports*, etc., he made sure that his team continued to submit good clinical and basic science research to *Pediatric Surgery International*. Of the over 750 articles he published, 247 articles were published in *Pediatric Surgery International*. Interestingly, 5936 of his 22,000 citations in peer-reviewed journals derived from his articles published in *Pediatric Surgery International*, with 101 articles having 20 or more citations (Range 20–147 citations).

Professor Puri has made an enormous contribution to our speciality and has influenced the care of millions of children worldwide. His legacy stands out, not only for his introduction of novel clinical advancements but also for his development of research in pediatric surgery. His research productivity has been of the highest quality and has been uninterrupted during his entire career. Professor Puri has been able to bridge the gap between clinical and basic science, being highly regarded by surgeons on one side, and by

basic scientists on the other. He is not only an internationally renowned pediatric surgeon but also a remarkable clinical scientist.

We are sure that many pediatric surgeons will look at Professor Puri's accomplishments as an example of what can be achieved with talent, dedication, attention to detail, hard work and more importantly a genuine interest in the promotion of surgery and science.

Reflecting on Professor Puri's achievements, we wonder how he has been able to balance his dedication to clinical, academic and research work with his love and attention for his family. We personally learned a lot from Professor Puri and continue to enjoy and benefit enormously from the interaction and friendship with Prem, Veena and the rest of the Puri family.

Since 2018, Professor Pierro had the honour of working with Professor Puri as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatric Surgery International* and appreciated even more his dedication, and support of the journal. His constant availability, vision and knowledge will continue to resonate within *Pediatric Surgery International* and will always represent a point of reference for all of us.

On behalf of the international community of pediatric surgeons, we would like to thank Professor Puri for his enormous contribution to pediatric surgery and for what he will continue to do through his insight and vision in future.

Agostino Pierro

OBE, MD, FRCS(Engl), FRCS(Ed), FAAP

Professor of Surgery, University of Toronto
Division of General & Thoracic Surgery, The Hospital for Sick Children

Senior Associate Scientist, Research Institute of The Hospital for Sick Children

Editor-in-Chief of *Pediatric Surgery International*

Tomas Wester

Professor and Head of Department of Pediatric Surgery
Karolinska University Hospital

Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm

Sweden

Editor-in-Chief (from 1st of January 2022)

Publisher's Note Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.