Obituary

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Dr. Guru Prakash Dutta Ph.D., D.Sc., FNA, FNASc With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Dr. Guru Prakash Dutta, Ex Head of Division of Microbiology, CSIR—Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow on April 25th, 2021.

Born November 19th, 1933, Dr. Dutta received his bachelors in Zoology in 1952 from DAV College Jalandhar, followed by Masters and Ph.D. from Panjab University in 1956 and 1961, respectively. He joined Panjab University as a lecturer in Zoology and did his post doc at the National Institutes of Health with Dr. G. M. Jeffery, who introduced him to malaria drug development. Dr. Dutta joined CSIR—Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow in 1964 and served for three decades, retiring as Deputy Director in 1993. He also served as emeritus scientist at CDRI (1994–1998) and as honorary consultant at Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (1998–2000).

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An eminent parasitologist and microbiologist of international repute, Dr. Dutta's research on histochemical studies of free-living amoebae led to his studies in *in-vitro* culture and immunology of *Entamoeba histolytica*. He established *in-vivo* models for malaria that led to the discovery of antimalarial drugs alpha/beta Arteether (EMAL), Dihydroartemisinin and a safe anti-relapse drug, Bulaquine, to replace Primaquine. His collaboration with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) helped with the discovery of the anti-malarial, Tafenoquine.

During his four-decade long career, Dr. Dutta was elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Sciences India and Indian Society for Parasitology. He was conferred 'Life Time Achievement Award' by ISP in the year 2009.

He received the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology, one of the highest Indian science awards, in 1976, for his contributions to biological sciences. Dr. Dutta published 275 articles and authored three books including "Antimalarial Drug Development and Prophylaxis against Malaria", "Experimental and Clinical Studies on Amoebiasis" and "The use of artemisinin derivatives suppositories as life-saving remedy for critical malaria patients"—the last one published in 2021.

He mentored more than 40 Master's and Doctoral scholars and reached the pinnacle of research with sheer hard work, honesty and tireless effort. He laid the foundations of malaria drug research at CSIR-CDRI with 30 international patents and the drugs he helped to discover are currently being used to save lives in India and Africa. A man of the highest integrity, he dedicated his life to the cause of scientific endeavors and humanity. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

The Indian Society for Parasitology and all scientific community will always miss him.