

Obituary: Tribute to Dr. R. Ganapati - Mahaguru of Leprosy Workers



Dr. R. Ganapati (1930 – 2011)

Dr. R. Ganapati breathed his last on November 13, 2011, while undertaking anti-leprosy work till the very end. He began his career at Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Wadala, Mumbai, on October 1, 1963, as Assistant Medical Officer, and within one year he had become a Research Officer. He faced unfavourable circumstances while undertaking novel concepts of leprosy control, which he successfully put into practice, with the help of some likeminded colleagues who formed a 'ginger' group of leprosy workers in that hospital. He pioneered the work of active school surveys and slum surveys in Mumbai city.

In order to widen his scope of work, he founded the Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP) in September 1976 with the help of the ginger group. He demonstrated effectively the importance of field work in leprosy control. He toiled hard to reach the root causes of leprosy in the urban situation.

The Government of India (GOI) took cognizance of his gigantic work and bestowed upon him the coveted title of 'Padmashree' in January 1983. Thereafter, he was showered with awards for his yeoman's services to leprosy patients. He was a scientist with a keen interest in research and went on to publish more than 100 research papers on different aspects of leprosy

in the medical and scientific journals of the world. He understood the pulse of the leprosy problem and created a well-trained team of workers to manage it. He is the doyen of the history of leprosy control in Greater Mumbai city.

He participated actively in the genesis of organizations such as The Society for the Eradication of Leprosy (SEL), the Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education in Leprosy (ALHRRE), Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP), Maharashtra Branch (MB) of Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL-MB), and rejuvenated organizations such as Maharashtra Branch of Hind Kushta Nivaran Sangh (HKNS-MB), and Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) through close associations with the executives of these organizations, and has played a samaritan's role of achieving the aims and objectives of these organizations.

Welfare of patients and their rehabilitation was the ultimate motive of this stalwart. People remember his role in evoking interest in leprosy management among skin specialists across the country. GOI sought his assistance for assessing the anti-leprosy work in the country including the functioning of training centers for leprosy. As his name is, he was considered the God of knowledge of leprosy. Patients all over the country knew him because wherever he visited for conferences, workshops, he made it a point to create a rapport with local leprosy patients in their colonies. A resurgence has been observed in the leprosy problem, but, unfortunately, Dr R Ganapati will not come back.

He was concerned about the leprosy problem and wanted to draw the attention of the authorities concerned with the subject of care after cure of leprosy patients with deformities and disabilities for a worthwhile Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR).

His soul will be at rest and in eternal peace, only when, leprosy workers toil hard to achieve his dream for a 'World Without Leprosy'.

V. V. Dongre

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Announcement

Search for the next Editor of IJDVL (2014-2016)

The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL) is in search of candidates (Indian nationals with life membership of IADVL) to be considered for the position of Editor of its official journal, Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprology (IJDVL). The present editor, under whose leadership the journal has been further elevated to international standards and received its first impact factor 2009 in 2010, will be completing his term (editor elect 1 year + editor in chief 5 years) and will be laying down office by 31st January, 2014. The journal has a wide readership base both in India and abroad and is now indexed with MEDLINE, PUBMED, EMBASE and other indexing agencies.

A search committee has been formed comprising following IADVL members to select the new Editor: Dr. Uday Khopkar (Chairperson), Dr. SDN Gupta, Dr. Suresh Joshipura, Dr. Chetan Oberoi, and Dr. DM Thappa. Ex-officio members: Dr C.R Srinivas and Dr P. Narasimha Rao

IJDVL had the good fortune of being served as its editors by some of the most illustrious names in Indian dermatology and the search committee would be expecting candidates with the following attributes:

- A broad-based background in dermatology with enough academic experience
- Highest leadership and organizational capabilities
- A commitment to work hard and maintain the high standards of the journal
- Demonstrated writing skills in English
- Proficiency in electronic communications
- A reputation for fairness and impartiality
- Enthusiastic and whole-hearted support from the institution and colleagues
- Reasonable number of quality publications as a lead author in peer-reviewed national and international dermatology journals
- A life-member of IADVL with at least five years' good-standing
- Previous experience in an editorial role
- A pleasant and affable personality

The Editor of the journal will be responsible for the following:

- Forming an editorial team with a broad spectrum of representation for academic and practicing dermatologists
- Directing and implementing journal policy within the ambit of the goals and the financial resources of IADVL
- Maintaining the independence and the high dignity of the journal
- Raising resources for the journal publication through ethical and just sponsorships
- Elevating the position of the journal globally
- Publishing articles of highest standard, with insistence on ethical clearance for original articles and/or conflicts of interests from the contributors if any
- Obtaining and organizing editorial team review before peer reviews and appointing reviewers
- Corresponding with authors and organizing adjudication wherever needed
- To publish the journal in time and to supervise and work closely with the team members to meet publication deadlines and improve the overall efficiency
- To maintain and update the IJDVL website
- To submit an audited accounts of the journal at the annual general body meeting of IADVL
- All other duties as assigned in the Constitution of IADVL

The selection of the new Editor would be made before the DERMACON 2013 conference in January/February 2013 for approval by the Central Council and the General body of the IADVL. The Editor would be appointed for an initial 3-year term beginning in February 2014, and this can be renewed through mutual agreement for another term of 3 years. The new Editor is required to join the present team during the transition period in order to acquaint with the day-to-day functioning of the journal, and is expected to be fully functional from 1st February, 2014.

Interested candidates meeting the above requirements and who are keen to serve the association may please send their curriculum vitae and a one page letter discussing their level of interest, the qualities they would bring to the position and any potential conflicts of interest via e-mail and through speed-post by 30th July, 2012 to the following address:

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