

OBITUARY

Professor (Rtd.) Dr. K. Chandra Shekhar

24th September 1946 - 13th August 2005

Dr. K. Chandra Shekhar comes from Muar, Johor, Malaysia and was married with 3 children, a boy and 2 girls. He had his primary and secondary school education upto O Levels in Johor and his High School Certificate at Beatty Secondary School in Singapore. He had his tertiary education in medicine and surgery in Bangla Desh (1974), an M.Sc. from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK (1977), a PhD from the University of Malaya, Malaysia (1985), an M.P.H. from the Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University (1987) and a Doctor of Medicine in Ayurveda from Kerala University, India (1997).

He started his working career in Malaysia with the State Vector Borne Diseases Control Office, Johor, Ministry of Health Malaysia in 1978 and was later transferred to the Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. He joined the Department of Parasitology, University of Malaya as a lecturer in 1982 and was promoted as an associate Professor in 1990 and as Professor in 1998.

He has an excellent service record spanning over the 25 years he served the Government of Malaysia as a researcher and an academic. He has served on many important decision making committees such as Faculty Board Member, U.M., Board of Examiners, U.M., Senate Member for Appeals, U.M., Internal Assessor for Promotions, U.M., and also as external examiners for many post graduate students. He was awarded the Fellow of the Royal Society of Health (FRSH) in 1993 and a Member Fellow of Community Medicine (MFCCM) in 1995.

He was appointed the Acting Head of the Department of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, U.M. in 1990, 1992, 1993 and 1994. In 2001 he was appointed as a special consultant to the Drug Control Authority, Ministry of Health and later as medical consultant to Oze Marketing Sdn. Bhd. for Ayurvedic Drugs. From 1985 to 2000 he was nominated for the Best Lecturer's Award by the Medical Society, Faculty of Medicine, U.M. He was the Editor for the Journal of the Malaysian Society of Health and Editorial Board Member of the Tropical Biomedicine. He has written various chapters in books such as Progress in Clinical Parasitology 2; Child Development – Preschool Children; Parasitology for the 21st Century; Management of Common Gastroenterological Problems – A Malaysian & Singapore Perspective; and Social and Behavioural Aspects of Malaria Control – a study among the Murut of Sabah. His work has also been published in textbooks such as Trends in Microbiology and Tropical Nephrology. He also has numerous scientific publications in local and international journals to his credit.

Dr. K. Chandra Shekhar retired from government service in 2001 and went into the private sector to promote alternative and complimentary medicine. At the time of his untimely death in August 2005 at the age of 59, he was still actively conducting clinical trials on two herbal diabetic drugs – Cogent db and Ilogen Excel not only in Malaysia but also in the region. With his demise the Scientific Fraternity and the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine has lost an excellent scientist who will be difficult to replace.

Dr. Stephen Ambu
Council Member
43rd Council of MSPTM