



## Obituary

**Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh**, one of the founders of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India [APCRI], died on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 8am, at Goa. He was only 56 years of age at the time of his death. Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage at about 2am of 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, and was admitted to the Apollo hospital in Goa. All efforts to revive him ultimately failed and he left for his heavenly abode at 8am of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

**Dr Tapan Kumar Ghosh**, graduated from the Calcutta National Medical College, under Calcutta University, in 1977. He completed his post graduation in pediatrics in 1981, from Calcutta University. In 1988 he went to the Central Research Institute (CRI), Kasauli for training in Rabies and the Management of Animal Bites. From 1989 onwards he worked elaborately in the field of Rabies and the Management of Animal Bites, in addition to other vaccines, and traveled to different countries where rabies was endemic, including a visit to the Thai Red Cross Society in Bangkok, which was renowned for the Intra Dermal [ID] Schedule of Anti-Rabies vaccination. He set up the 1st non-government anti-rabies centre in Kolkata, "BITE", in 1989. He had also worked as the Staff Editor of the Journal of the Indian Medical Association (JIMA), the highest circulated Medical Journal of the country for 12 years. Finally, he joined the Institute of Child Health [ICH], Calcutta as its Scientific Coordinator and Development Officer. He looked after the various scientific programs of the students and the faculty of the Institute and was also responsible for its academic development. This was his job till the time of his death.

A symposium was held at Bali in Indonesia on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1993, named "Prevention of Rabies in the Indian Sub-Continent". After the end of that meeting doctors from India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri

Lanka met in the same venue and discussed about the need to form a professional association for exchange of information and increasing the professional knowledge of its members. **An Association was formed on that day, mainly at the initiative of Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh and others. It was named the "Association for the Prevention and Control of Rabies in Asia [APCRA].** This activity did not bear any fruit.

In April 1998 a group of 17 doctors working in the field of "The Treatment of Animal Bite Victims" were attending a workshop on the "Management of Animal Bites" at the Thai Red Cross Society Center at Bangkok. They were very impressed with the work of Dr. Henri Wilde and his team of Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics working there. **This group included many who were a part of the group which led to the formation of the APCRA, including Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh.**

This group of 17 doctors, all from India, met on the evening of Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1998 in an Indian Restaurant in Bangkok for a very informal dinner, and the impromptu discussions there led to the formation of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India [APCRI]. **This group of committed and dedicated professionals were the founders of the APCRI. The main proposal was mooted by Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh and seconded by Dr. Anil Dutta and Dr. Amlan Goswami.**

**Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh was the Organising Secretary of the First National Conference of APCRI called APCRICON.** It was held on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1999. The first conference was a small but very successful and well organized event.

**At the time of the first meeting of the General Body of APCRI**, held during the APCRICON2000 at Bangalore, it was felt that the presence of many members of the executive committee was essential at the same time and place, when and where APCRI had to be registered. **To help the process of registration of APCRI, Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh and Dr. Amlan Goswami offered to step down from the post of Secretary and Treasurer respectively.**

**Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh was one of the Founders of APCRI and organized the first National Conference of APCRI, named**

**APCRICON1999, and participated in APCRICONs held in 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2004. He was a member of the Editorial Board of APCRI from 2005 to 2009.**

As Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh was a pediatrician, his involvement with the Indian Academy of Pediatrics [IAP] and the Institute of Child Health, Kolkata, where he worked increased, he was less seen at APCRI activities.

Dr. Tapan Kumar Ghosh was the Scientific Coordinator at the Institute of Child health, Kolkata. His passion for constant work benefited the institute to develop the academics, and create state of the art infrastructural facilities, to provide quality healthcare facilities to the children at affordable costs.

He was the Chairperson, IAP Infectious Diseases Chapter 2006-2007, The President, Indian Academy of Pediatrics, West Bengal Branch, 2007, The Past President, IAP East Zone Coordination Committee, 2005, The Joint. Secretary IAP Central Committee, 2004, The National Coordinator for PP Quiz. He took initiative in developing journals like; the Indian Journal of Growth, Development and Behavioral Pediatrics, where he was the Editor-in-Chief.

He was a member of the IAP committee of immunization. He conducted many CME/workshop/conferences on vaccine, infectious disease throughout his tenure.

He had edited and authored many text books, monographs and articles, on various infectious

diseases and vaccines. These had a wide acceptance amongst practicing pediatricians and post graduates.

A great academician and very dynamic personality, very kind hearted human being. His extensive work in IAP has made a permanent imprint in the heart of pediatricians across the country. He was the strength of the pillar for IAP WB and IAP East zone and united the IAP East zone under one umbrella. He sacrificed his life for the IAP activities, a true selfless IAP member, rare to find nowadays.

He had devoted his entire career for the development of child care delivery service through the academic body IAP and the post graduate teaching institute, ICH, in Kolkata.

The cordial and loving nature of Dr Tapan Kumar Ghosh has developed a good unity amongst the pediatricians across different states of India and the neighboring countries, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, etc.

He has left behind his wife and two daughters and elder son-in-law and many friends and well wishers and the IAP and the APCRI.

We, the members of the Association for Prevention and Control of Rabies in India [APCRI] and everyone who came to be associated with him in the field of "Rabies Prevention" deeply mourn the extremely sad and untimely demise of our beloved Dr Tapan Kumar Ghosh [or Tapan da, as he is affectionately called by many]. **Tapan Da really lived a life for all of us and our last salute to him is through this Obituary.**

### **The APCRI Journal is published twice a year. Once in January and again in July.**

The APCRI Journal invites Contributions from the Scientific Community, in the form of Original Articles and Review Articles, Brief Reports, Case Reports, Personal Viewpoint, Letters to the Editor, Notes and News, Your Questions and Book Review.

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