



Dear Members,

As I am about to write my column for Pharma Times for the month of October, I received the shocking news from IPA office in Mumbai that IPA's Past President, Mr. Devinder Pal is no more! IPA has lost a great leader, an iconic personality, and a dedicated supporter. Mr. Devinder Pal was not keeping well for a few months now and was hospitalized. IPA CEC meetings in the past few months lacked the usual vigor and vibrancy due to the absence of Mr. Devinder Pal, whose presence used to make a huge difference to IPA meetings due to his great wisdom and a wonderful sense of humor. I wish to write a few lines about him for the benefit of many young IPA members who have not had the fortune of meeting and interacting with him. Mr. Devinder Pal graduated from the prestigious Banaras Hindu University with masters in pharmacy standing first in the university. He then served the pharmaceutical industry for nearly four decades in leadership positions in Roussel Uclaf, Parke Davis-Warner Lambert, and Elder Pharmaceuticals. He was the founder CEO of Catalyst Pharma Consultants through which continued to serve the pharmaceutical industry for more than 15 years.

Parallel to his successful stint in the pharma industry, he played a major role in the development of the pharmacy profession through the Indian Pharmaceutical Association. He served as the Vice President of IPA during 1988-90 and as the President of IPA for the term 1990-92. He also served as the Vice President of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association (CPA) during the 90s. He received the Fellowship of IPA in 1994 and the same year he became the President of IPCA and presided over the 46th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress in Chandigarh. For his contributions to the profession, he received the Eminent Pharmacist Award of IPA in 2003 and the IPA-Ramanbhai Foundation Lifetime Achievement award in 2016. Mr. Devinder Pal instituted through IPA, scholarships for one B. Pharm student each studying in four institutes of his choice and also financially supported the National Elocution Competition due to which the competition is currently referred to as IPA-Devinder Pal National Elocution Competition.

On a personal note, I would like to add further here that my interactions with him all these years have helped me to grow professionally within the organization. He used to offer well-judged and constructive comments on the way the Indian Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences was faring both financially and technically when I was the editor of the journal, which immensely helped me to run the journal effectively. He then one day told me that it is time for me to leave the journal and step up to handle much wider responsibilities in the organization. I still regard that comment as the single most important motivating factor that made me contest for the President position of the organization. After I became President, I acknowledged and thanked him for his advice without which I would have remained contended being the editor of IJPS. His passing is an irreplaceable loss to IPA as well as to the pharmaceutical profession. May his noble soul rest in peace.

The World Pharmacists Day was celebrated on September 25, 2017, with the theme 'From Research and Healthcare: Your Pharmacist is at Your Service', at various places in India and all around the world. On Sept 23, just a couple of days before the World Pharmacists Day, the Indian pharmaceutical fraternity lost another highly accomplished professional, Prof. B. D. Miglani. Prof. Miglani contributed immensely to pharmaceutical education. He served as the principal of the Delhi College of Pharmacy, played a stellar role in introducing the field of hospital pharmacy and was the founder of the Indian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy. May God the Almighty rest his soul in peace.

V. S. V. Vadlamudi Rao

Rao V. S. V. Vadlamudi, Ph. D.,

Our Mission

The Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) is the national professional body of pharmacists engaged in various facets of the profession of Pharmacy. The IPA is committed to promote the highest professional and ethical standards of pharmacy, focus the image of pharmacists as competent healthcare professionals, sensitize the community, government and other on vital professional issues and support pharmaceuticals education and sciences in all aspects.

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