
PRESIDENTIAL PROFILE

Premashis Kar – President, Indian Society of Gastroenterology 2008– 2009



It is a pleasure to introduce Professor Premashis Kar as the President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology. Most people already know Premashis from his numerous scientific presentations at National and International meetings. These meetings have showcased his expertise in different fields of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He fully deserves this position.

Premashis was born on 20th October 1950 at Gauhati to late Dr Gouri Kar who was a lecturer at Handique Girls College at Gauhati, and late Professor B.C Kar who was Head, Department of Education at Gauhati University. He completed his post graduate training from Gauhati Medical College in 1978, and then joined the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi for DM training in Gastroenterology in 1979. I joined the DM training program in 1980, and have grown to love and respect him over the last 29 years. During our training, we recognized and appreciated his warm heartedness and honesty. His concern for the welfare of his patients made him dear not only to his colleagues, but also to his patients and whoever came in contact with him. He truly has a magnetic personality.

After his DM training, Premashis worked as a junior faculty member at AIIMS, before joining as Assistant Professor Medicine at the prestigious Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi in 1985; he is presently the Director Professor of Medicine there since 2007.

Over the years Premashis has achieved many awards and positions in recognition of his excellent scientific and professional contributions. He has been honored with Parke Davis Oration, Kamla Menon ICMR award, Ranbaxy Oration, Dr KL Wig Oration Abbot Oration, Dr AK Banerjee Oration, Dr DK Bannerjee Oration, Dr OP Goel Oration and Dr Jagdish Bose award, to name a few. He has also been awarded the Dr SR Naik memorial award for the best published work in the field of Gastroenterology and Liver. He has received innumerable awards at National and Interna-

tional forums for his investigational work in liver diseases. He had also handled with ease the sensitive post of Dean, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi for a number of years.

He is the Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, American College Gastroenterology and Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He is also the President of the Indian National Association for the Study of Liver currently a rare distinction of being President of 2 societies simultaneously. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of "Hepatology International", a journal published by the Asia-Pacific Association for Liver Disease. He has received research grants for a number of projects from ICMR, UGC, and DST; these grants have helped him develop an excellent liver laboratory at his institute.

He has an impressive contribution in liver diseases especially HEV and its influence in pregnancy, including the pathogenesis of FHF in this group of patients. He has worked on HAV genotypes, role of HCV core antigen, HGV, TTV, HBV genotypes to name a few, all of which are important in the Indian context.

Premashis has amazing oratory skills. He speaks with such a passion and energy that it is convincing. Not surprisingly, he is an extremely sought after speaker, and is invited to deliver lectures almost every weekend throughout the year. He takes great joy in cultivating successful careers for students he mentors. Mentoring provides him the greatest personal and professional satisfaction. It is his transparent dealing that has won him loyalty of many staunch supporters and friends. He maintains close ties with his alma mater at Gauhati and AIIMS, New Delhi.

Following the footsteps of his father, who had been an eminent educationist, he has been able to guide and supervise many science students for pursuing PhD programme in the field of basic sciences related to Hepatology in the University of Delhi, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi including

Gauhati University. The University environment in Assam in which he spent his childhood has always served as a source of inspiration to pursue academic research besides professional commitments.

The Indian Society of Gastroenterology is definitely going to benefit from his strong leadership, vision and intellect. Success would not have been possible without patience, humility, honesty and commitment. Indian Society of Gastroenterology has a secure journey

ahead under his able guidance. I have no doubt in his capabilities.

Yogesh Chawla

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Indian Journal of Gastroenterology J Mitra Memorial Award

The Editorial Board announces the award for the best original scientific contribution published in the Journal during the year 2008

Perumal Vivekanandan, Sara Bissett, Samreen Ijaz, Chong Gee Teo, Gopalan Sridharan, Sukanya Raghuraman, Hubert Darius Daniel, Manohar L Kavitha, Dolly Daniel, George M Chandy, Priya Abraham

(Departments of Clinical Virology, Biostatistics, Clinical Pathology and Blood Bank, and Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India; and Specialist and Reference Microbiology Division, Health Protection Agency, London, UK).

Correlation between hepatitis B genotypes, 1896 precore mutation, virus loads and liver dysfunction in an Indian population.

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This award is bestowed every year to the department(s) submitting the best paper, selected by a scientific committee appointed by the Editor, from among the Original Articles published in the Journal during the year

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