

## **Doyen of Veterinary Pathology: Prof. P.K.R. Iyer (1929-2017)**



**Dr P. K. R. Iyer**, (88) BSc, BVSc, MRCVS (Edinburgh), eminent teacher, Veterinary Pathologist and animal disease diagnostician, former Professor and Head, Division of Pathology, IVRI, Ex Programme Coordinator and Dean, Animal Science Faculty, Agra University and Rohilkhand University has passed away on 20-8-2017 at New Delhi. He was founder life member, Vice President, Secretary, Patron of IAVP and first Editor of Indian Journal of Veterinary Pathology. He significantly contributed in histopathological interpretation of slides, diagnosis of rare type of animal cancers and mycotic diseases.

Rama Chandran was born on 29 January, 1929 at IVRI, Mukteswar. His father Dr PRK Iyer was an eminent animal disease diagnostician and was posted at Research Officer at IVRI Mukteswar. After early school education at Chittor and Palaghat, he did BSc. from Bareilly College, Bareilly and B.V.Sc. from Madras Veterinary College in 1952. He went abroad for higher studies in 1955 to Royal Veterinary College (Dick), Edinburgh, UK for doing MRCVS.

Dr Ramachandran started his career by joining as Research Assistant at IVRI, Mukteswar in 1952-53. After return from UK in 1956-57 he served as Assistant Professor at Department of Pathology, Veterinary College, Mathura. He worked as ADIO (Path) during 1957-63 at IVRI, Izatnagar. In 1963, he was selected Professor of Pathology by UPSC and worked up to 1984 at IVRI, Izatnagar. In 1984, he was selected as Head, Division of Pathology in same Division and served till his superannuation from services in 1989. During this period he also served as Programme Coordinator and Dean, Faculty of Animal Sciences of Agra and Rohilkhand Universities as those days IVRI was affiliated with these Universities.

Professor Ramchandran had in-depth knowledge of interpretation of histopathological slides. Professors from different parts of country visiting IVRI were bringing slides for

consultation with him. During 1960-90, certain Physicians of Bareilly were sending human biopsies and blood samples for testing as during this period plenty expertise and facilities for human biopsy diagnosis were not available in city. He was engaged in postgraduate teaching and guiding M.V.Sc. students in discipline of Veterinary Pathology. He published 165 research papers in National and International Journals of repute. His several papers have been quoted in reviews, textbooks and reference literature. He diagnosed a number of rare disease conditions viz. mammary cancer in buffalo, sheep and goat, goat as natural host of protozoa *Nosema quiniculi* parasite infection, hemochromatosis in buffaloes, melanosis in Khadaknath breed of poultry, rare mycotic diseases of skin and lungs of goats and buffaloes, green algae infection in sheep and rare cancers of laboratory animals and poultry. Professor Iyer had special interest in pathology of diseases of laboratory animals, He also developed a modified method for PAS staining and his research replaced cedar wood oil from turpentine oil as clearing agent in processing of tissues for histopathological examination. Dr P.K.R. Iyer was appointed as an independent panel member to examine tissues of animals and man exposed to Methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas poisoning occurred at Bhopal in 1986. He submitted his report to GOI,

He published monographs on Mycotic Diseases and Serositis (Hemochromatosis) in Indian Buffaloes. He was invited to attend several International and National Conferences, Workshops and meetings in different countries of world and India. He was awarded Ganti Sastri Memorial Medal of The Indian Veterinary Journal in 1991 and IAVP Fellowship in 1993. On 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1990, he was honoured with Appreciation Certificate for outstanding contributions in veterinary science on occasion of Centenary Celebration of IVRI by Shri Devi Lal, Union Minister of Agriculture and Deputy Prime Minister of India. He sponsored two awards in The Indian Veterinary Journal in name of his father Dr P.R.K. Iyer Memorial Award and second in name of his wife Ramani Ramachandran Memorial Award.

Professor Iyer is survived by his sons Kumar and Venkatesh and a daughter Chitra and a number of granddaughters /sons. His demise is a great loss to veterinary profession and in particular to Veterinary Pathology and Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists. His contributions and services to Veterinary Profession will be always remembered.