

Professor M. Krishnan Nair (1933-2023) Passes Away



Prof. M. Krishnan Nair (90) was an eminent Veterinary Pathologist, researcher, educationist, author, research administrator, and one of the founder pillars of IAVP. Mr Krishnan Nair was born on 25th July, 1933, at Nagarcoil, Tamil Nadu. He did his BSc in Zoology and later worked as a school teacher for a short period before joining the Government Veterinary College of Travancore-Cochin State located at Mannuthy, Thrissur in the year 1955 as a student of the First Batch of BVSc. As an undergraduate student, he was the Speaker of the College Union and Captain of the College Cricket Team. After completing BVSc in 1959 with a meritorious rank, he joined as Lecturer in the then Kerala Veterinary College, Mannuthy. Later he joined MVSc in the discipline of Veterinary Pathology at the Madras Veterinary College in 1964 under the guidance of Dr K.P. Chandrasekharan Nair and completed post-graduation with first rank in the year 1966. He then went to Royal Veterinary College, Stockholm, Sweden for doing FRVCS. Due to his excellence in studies, Dr Nair was admitted there for PhD programme under eminent Veterinary Pathologist, Professor Carlson Rubarth. in 1969 and obtained doctorate degree in 1973. After higher studies he joined back the Kerala Veterinary College, Mannuthy and later became the Head of the Department. The Department came to lime light through a Kerala State Science and Technology Award for a study on pollution in water streams in Kerala and fish mortality. His contribution in elucidating the ultrastructural pathology of 'Bovine Ethmoid Carcinoma' and 'Mycotoxocosis in farm animals' is worth remembering. He also played a significant role in elevating the status of the Department along with Prof. A. Rajan in upgrading its status to a 'Centre of Excellence in Veterinary Pathology' under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Prof. Krishnan Nair served as the Dean of College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy for a term from 1980 till 1985. After completing the five-year term of Deanship, he preferred not to continue and Kerala Agricultural University created the post of Director, Veterinary Research and Education. He continued in that position until superannuation in the year 1993. Subsequent to retirement, Prof. Nair was re-employed by the University as Research Professor in fish diseases for 2 more years.

Prof. Krishnan Nair was a gentle and knowledgeable person, a wonderful teacher, outstanding researcher and a widely respected Veterinary Pathologist. He was a role model for the veterinarians at large and Veterinary Pathologist in particular. His role in strengthening Indian Association of Veterinary Pathologists during the early years is well known. He served as President, IAVP during 1987-1993. The virtuous advices given by Prof. Krishnan Nair to many pathologists of his time, especially young budding pathologists and students throughout India. Indeed, he was duly acknowledged and recognised by many in various spheres. He was awarded Fellowship of IAVP. From their memoirs, we could understand the realm of influence and the aura Prof. Krishnan Nair has created among his students as well as fellow Veterinary Pathologists of the country.

Prof. Krishnan Nair was an internationally renowned pathologist who unveiled several intricacies of avian inflammation and was a doyen in the field of avian diseases. He had led several studies in Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome in fishes and was an expert oncologist too. He was the trailblazer of electron microscopy in the field of veterinary science in India. He was instrumental in establishing Electron Microscopy Facility in the Department

of Veterinary Pathology, Veterinary College, Mannuthy, Kerala. Prof. Krishnan Nair's passion towards the subject of pathology was countless which he pursued until a few months prior to his passing away. It was on 14th June 2023 on the occasion of 13th institution day of KVASU a monograph entitled "The Chicken Heterophil-Structure and Function" authored by Prof. M. Krishnan Nair was released by the University. His passion towards pathology, in his own words was engendered around the book "Text book of Pathology" written by the human physician and pathologist William Boyd to the extent that he had said to his family "Whenever I die, bury the book along with me". The great luminary, Prof. Krishnan Nair, in his last days was in USA with his son and family, succumbed to the malady of prostate cancer. Being a proficient oncologist, probably he was well aware of the consequences of his disease and said "no to all conventional treatment protocols except palliative care". Professor M. Krishnan Nair passed away on 31st July 2023 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter in law and two grandchildren.

The IAVP expresses deepest condolences and pray the Almighty to give strength to the family, friends and students to bear the great loss caused by his demise. Even though the veterinary fraternity has lost one of its finest personalities, the legacy that Prof. Krishnan Nair left behind will always live in hearts of Veterinary Pathologists.

NB: Prepared by Dr R. Somvanshi, Web Manager, IAVP on the basis of matter received from Dr K.S. Prasanna, Head, Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy, Kerala. Inputs provided by Dr T.V. Anilkumar, Scientist-G, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram is also appreciated.