

Editorial

The Leader is 75

Dr. B.K. Anand, born on 19 September 1917, graduated from King Edward Medical College, Lahore. He had an outstanding scholastic career, and soon after doing his M.D. he occupied the chair of Physiology at Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi in 1949. His research career acquired a definitive direction as a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in 1950 at Yale University under Prof. John Fulton. Dr. Anand was Fulton's first Indian student, which was lucky for India's image in Prof. Fulton's mind. At Yale, Dr. Anand's work with Prof. John Brobeck led to the discovery and description of "feeding and satiety centres" in the hypothalamus. With characteristic modesty, he terms this epoch-making discovery as a case of serendipity. On his return to India in 1952, he established the first Neurophysiology Research Unit in the country at LHMC. While still at LHMC, he played a leading role in launching the Association of Physiologists and Pharmacologists of India (APPI) in 1955. His qualities of leadership came to the fore, however, in 1956 when he was selected for the chair in Physiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He had a key role in guiding the destiny of this prestigious institute right since its infancy. As Vice-Dean, and later as Dean of AIIMS he contributed greatly to establishing norms of academic administration and giving an innovative orientation to educational programmes at AIIMS. In 1972, he moved to the international arena, and took charge of the Health Manpower Development Division at the South East Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organization. After his retirement from WHO in 1977, he was welcomed back to AIIMS as Emeritus Professor. From 1977 to 1982, he also served the country in a field of immense national importance as the Director (Biomedical) of the Family Planning Foundation. In 1982, he took over as Director of the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences at Srinagar, and was responsible for putting on rails an institution that had been dormant for a long time. He is now back to Delhi and continues to enliven postgraduate seminars in the Department of Physiology at AIIMS with his freshness of approach and irrepressible curiosity. He also takes a few lectures for undergraduates which are a great source of inspiration for them. He also spends long hours weeding out ambiguities and inconsistencies from articles accepted for publication in the IJPP.

The XXVI International Congress of Physiological Sciences which he organized as President of the Congress in 1974 was the first international congress on a medical subject to be held in India. It gave the confidence to many Indian scientists that they could do it. Prof. Anand has won several national and international awards including the Padma Shri, Col. Amir Chand Award, Watumull Memorial Award, Sir S.S. Bhatnagar Award, Medical Council of India Silver Jubilee Research Award, and the Major General S.L. Bhatia Oration.

On the occasion of his attaining the ripe age of 75, a series of activities have been organized in New Delhi from September through December 1992. It is hoped that his students and admirers, who are scattered all over the world, would enjoy the pleasantly nostalgic and academically enriching experience of participating in these activities. It will also be an appropriate gesture of gratitude to a man who has been one of the notable architects of post-independence development of science in India.