

# *Editorial*

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## A PAINFUL YEAR-ENDING

On December 21, 2004 we lost one of the finest physiologists of the world, Autar Singh Paintal. On behalf of the Association, we stand up and solemnly offer our reverential parting salute to this doyen of modern Indian Science. On this occasion, let us take a pledge in the name of A.S. Paintal that we shall remain uncompromising in our commitment to the betterment of science, scientific ethos and values of science for the sake of the society and our future. We sincerely believe that this is the surest way of paying a fitting homage to such a fine experimentalist, passionate scientist, profound perfectionist, and towering personality as Autar Paintal was. In the present issue of IJPP, there is an obituary on Autar Singh Paintal highlighting different aspects of his career and thoughts in science. The Editorial group of IJPP thankfully acknowledges the resource materials kindly provided by Dr. Ashima Anand, colleague and wife of Professor A.S. Paintal and also by Professor R.L. Bijlani.

Then, on December 26, a devastating tsunami hit South Asia affecting Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. As a consequence of this unprecedented strike of the Indian Ocean tsunami, there occurred an unfathomable loss of life, men and material. Additionally, there are real threats of all kinds from the wide spread environmental problems stalking the survivors. We convey our deepest sympathy to those affected by this natural calamity.

Again, on December 29, Julius Axelrod - who was an outstanding neuroscientist, and one of the three winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1970 - died at his home in Rockville, USA. This issue carries also an obituary on Julius Axelrod.