

## Obituary

### Prof Ghanshyam N. Pandey – A Stalwart Passes Away



**July 5, 1937 - October 15, 2022**

Prof. Ghanshyam Pandey was born on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1937, in Balia, Uttar Pradesh, India. His birth brought joy for the family, but no one was aware that the child would grow into a neuroscientist of international fame and repute who would contribute immensely to the field of mood disorders and suicide.

Prof. G N Pandey completed his Masters in 1960 and PhD in 1968 from University of Rajasthan, India. In 1981, Prof. Pandey was appointed as Professor of Pharmacology in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and he served as Director of the Mood Disorders and Suicide Research Program until his death on October 15, 2022. Prof Pandey's main research interests were in the neurobiology of mood disorders (bipolar illness and depression), schizophrenia and suicide. Prof. Pandey gathered respect both nationally and internationally for his immense contributions to understanding the biochemical abnormalities associated with mood disorders and suicide, particularly in teens. To address this mental health issue, Prof. Pandey studied the role of monoamine receptors and receptor-linked signalling systems in the post-mortem brain obtained from teenage and adult suicide victims and age-matched normal control subjects. His research was highly relevant and had a direct connect with problems of depression and mood disorders. His research showed that subjects with suicidal behaviour exhibit changes in the expression of PKC, PKA, PLC, CREB and BDNF. Further, his research led to identification of specific abnormal sites in brains of subjects that may aid in development of therapeutic agents targeting

these particular sites. On several occasions, his cutting edge research was featured in the press and on various social media platforms. Prof. Pandey's research was supported by several NIMH grants. Prof. Pandey's studies were published in high-impact, international journals, and in total, he had over 250 research publications. He was a highly published author in hundreds of medical and scientific journals, and he served on several journal editorial boards and NIH study sections in his field. He was a mentor to many Indian scientists and students at various stages of their career, and many of his students and postdoctoral fellows are now successful independent Principal Investigators around the world.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Prof. Pandey was conferred with the coveted B. K. Bachhawat Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 by the Indian Academy of Neurosciences. He was conferred with several prestigious awards and honours in the USA, including a Distinguished Professorship Award from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2020. Prof. Pandey's dedication and passion towards research and neuroscience was exemplary and unparalleled. Prof. Pandey was working until his last day at his Institute, his "Karam Bhumi," and he submitted an NIH grant application just one day before his death. He passed away peacefully on October 15, 2022.

Prof. Pandey is survived by his loving wife Mrs. Leela Pandey and three caring and affectionate daughters Meena, Medha, and Deepa and caring son-in-law, all settled in Chicago. On behalf of all members of Indian Academy of Neurosciences and the neuroscience community, the Academy deeply mourns this irreparable loss to the neuroscience community. Prof. Pandey will always be alive in our hearts with memories of his witty remarks, loud laughter and humane personality.