

Former Dean and Senior Professor of Neurophysiology,
National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences,
awarded the BK Bachhawat Lifetime Achievement Award



BK Bachhawat Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to a Neuroscientist for his/her scientific contributions in biochemistry/neuroscience in memory of stalwart of Indian Biochemistry & Neurochemistry, Professor B. K.

Prof TR Raju

Former Dean and Senior Professor of Neurophysiology, NIMHANS, Bangalore
Visiting Distinguished Professor, SVYASA Yoga University, Bangalore,
Member, Global Membership & Chapters Committee Society for Neurosciences, USA

Dr. T.R. Raju is a multi-faceted personality. He is at ease in any circle, discussing science, politics, cuisine, current affairs, history, culture with individuals of all backgrounds. With his vast experience, quick wit and generous spirit, he has ably served the scientific community in India and around the globe. He has worn many hats – being an expert member on the Law Commission of India, chairing the ethics committee of various institutes, serving as a mentor and expert for Neuroscience/Physiology/Neurology across the country and dealing with institutional administrative affairs as a Dean. These distinguished positions are well earned. Remarkably, Dr. Raju has played lead roles for a long time. Even when he entered the portals of NIMHANS in 1989, he already had high recommendations from his peers based on his research in the University of Sydney and the coveted Harvard Medical School. By 1992, he was the Head of the Department of Neurophysiology at NIMHANS, the youngest person to hold such a post. He later on became one of the youngest full Professors in the institute and served as Dean of NIMHANS, Dean of Basic Sciences, and a Senior Professor.

From discovering biomarkers in neurodegenerative disorders and establishing the central roles of glia and trophic factors during development, that can further our collected endeavour in the pursuit of medicine, Dr. Raju has lead by example. He has demonstrated how to march on in the face of challenges, persistence and patience to achieve results and most importantly in uniting the team, and channelizing everyone's potential. Through his incisive and provocative questions, he has inspired many a student to get out of their comfort zones and explore the myriad nuances of neurophysiology.

It is difficult to pick highlights of his time at NIMHANS – his work spans neurodevelopment, neurodegeneration, adult neural plasticity, nervous system regeneration and even use of complementary approaches such as yoga and Ayurveda for the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders. He has received numerous awards and honours in his career including being elected as a Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of Indian Academy of Neuroscience. His is a remarkable saga of achieving breadth *and* depth in scientific research. He has received the most coveted oration awards from the Association of Physiologists and Pharmacologists of India and Physiological Society of India. As a member of the Global membership and Chapters Committee of Society of Neuroscience, he plays a significant role in the promotion of Neuroscience globally.

Dr. Raju's tireless efforts with his team, has earned global recognition and his medical comprehension even caught the sights of the late and beloved President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam who was fascinated by his thoughts on brain studies. Dr. Raju has contributed immensely to the scientific literature through his publications in peer reviewed journals, books and book chapters. His work continues to be highly cited.

Out of the office too, Dr. T. R. Raju is jovial and the life of the party - always the first on the dance floor. His passion for cars is unmissable. His team was his extended family and he always stepped in times of need, ready to help.