

Death of Professor N. Raghuveer Moudgal

Obituary

Prof. N. R. Moudgal, an eminent reproductive biologist and endocrinologist from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, passed away on Sunday, May 8th, 2011, in San Francisco, California, USA. He was battling cancer for the last few months.

Prof. Moudgal's first scientific publication was in *Science* in 1955 from India; since then, in a career spanning more than 40 years, he made seminal contributions in reproductive biology, hormone action, immunology, and primate research. Following his earning a Ph.D. from the University of Madras, Prof. Moudgal conducted postdoctoral research, first with Prof. Li at the University of California, Berkeley, and then with Prof. Porter, University of London, UK. Prof. Moudgal joined the Department of Biochemistry at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in 1965, and developed a vibrant group working on gonadotropins and gonadal function. During his tenure there, he held several important positions at the Institute such as Chair of the Biochemistry Department and the Dean of the Science Faculty. In the early 1970s, he spent a sabbatical with Prof. Roy Greep at Harvard Medical School in Boston. He was a very celebrated scientist receiving many awards and honors and fellowships in scientific academies in India, including the Bhatnagar Award. He also trained several Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows during his career.

Prof Moudgal, or Raghu as he was fondly called by his friends and family, was an exceptionally imaginative scientist. His laboratory generated classical data on corpus luteum regulation during pregnancy and used highly specific antibodies to understand physiological, cellular, and molecular mechanisms of gonadotropin actions and define their roles in follicular maturation and ovulation. Later on, his laboratory established, using highly specific antibodies, the role of FSH in spermatogenesis in primates. These studies led to the concept of immunocontraception. While carrying out these studies, Prof Moudgal established the bonnet monkey as a model for studies in reproduction; he developed an excellent primate research facility, one of its kind in India and Asia. He also served as a task force member for several years in the WHO special program for research in human reproduction.

Prof. Moudgal was not only a great scientist, but a kind-hearted human being. He will be remembered for his dedication to science and for his positive attitude towards, and to, life in general. He was a source of inspiration and brought out the best in everyone around him. He will be missed dearly.