

## Homage to Departed Stalwarts of Leprosy

In 2021, we lost Dr SK Noordeen and Dr Indira Nath who were great stalwarts of leprology. Both of them were directly associated with Indian Journal of Leprosy (IJL). While Dr Noordeen was Editor of IJL for seven years during 2001 to 2007, Prof Nath served as a highly active member of Editorial Board of Journal for nearly 14 years from 2008 to till her death in 2021.

### Dr SK Noordeen



Dr Shaik Khader Noordeen, passed away in August, 2021 after living 88 years (1933-2021) of highly productive and accomplished life as a medical professional. As a researcher he started publishing in early 1960s and continued to contribute till his twilight years. His works on epidemiology of leprosy are highly cited. He had a successful career in Govt of India institutions specially CLTRI, Chengalpattu before moving to WHO, Geneva. His stint as Director of WHO's action programme for elimination of leprosy in 1990s was perhaps most remarkable part of his professional life. His leadership of global leprosy programme, which ultimately led to elimination of leprosy as a public health problem in most parts of world, will always be remembered. Besides this he provided leadership to several and international professional bodies. For his contributions he was honored with Padma Shri by Govt of India. His life will continue to inspire coming generation of epidemiologists and public health professionals specially those who choose neglected diseases as their mission.

## **Prof Indira Nath**



Prof Indira Nath passed away in October, 2021 at the age of 83 years (1938-2021) after an eventful and impactful scientific career of more than 40 years. She is known as a medical scientist who was always in pursuit of originality and impact making science. Her entire work on immunology of leprosy and viability of leprosy bacillus is a testimony of her original contributions to science. She also made outstanding contributions as an administrator in India as Director of BPHRC, Hyderabad and as well as abroad such as Dean of Medicine in Malaysia. She has also left her imprint on science policy of our country. As a member of Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Leprosy she contributed immensely to the growth of journal till the end of her life. Prof Indira Nath made a great difference in every role played by her, received many coveted awards / honors including prestigious Padma Shri from Govt of India. In her entire life, she remained a symbol of excellence, commitment, fairness, frankness and courage. She was loved and admired all over the world. Even after her physical departure from this world, she will always remain an inspiration for leprologists, immunologists, other medical and biomedical scientists.

***Indian Journal of Leprosy pays homage to Dr SK Noordeen and Dr Indira Nath, great leprologists who were outstanding in all facets of their professional life. – Honorary Editor.***