

Alumni Newsletter

Department of Physiology and Biophysics

University of Illinois at Chicago

July, 2007

On July 18, 2007 the Department held a reception for Dr. Rao. As I have written before she is now the Vice President for Faculty Affairs for the University of Illinois. We are not losing her as a colleague as she plans to keep her active research program going. I have attached the program to the e-mail. I did take some pictures and have posted them at this URL:

http://www.uic.edu/depts/mcpb/Pictures/Meena's_reception/

I do have some very sad news to convey. Tanja Andric died suddenly this June. She was a Masters student of Dr. Popov's receiving her degree in 2004. The family set up a web site which contains the general information and a place to write you thoughts.

<http://tanja.andric.us/>

The family also asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to a fund they set up in her honor at the University of Illinois:

- Tanja Andric Memorial Fund
- c/o Joe Horvath
- Office of Advancement (MC792)
- 1747 West Roosevelt Road, 302 WROB
- Chicago, IL 60608

Randal C. Jaffe, Ph.D.
Department of Physiology and Biophysics (M/C901)
University of Illinois at Chicago
835 S. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60612

Mazel Tov Meena

It was in nineteen eighty four,
That colleagues we became.
We were quite wet behind the ears,
In matters, academe.

We struggled to start up our labs,
With funds that were quite small.
We tried to teach about the lungs,
We knew not much at all.

We tried to shape the program that
Grad students did endure.
We were rebuffed and told that we
Just needed to mature.

As an aside I should point out,
The system in use now,
Is the one we felt would work,
Back then it caused a row.

Eventually, you realized,
You had some other skills.
And a Dean you did become,
To heal the graduate ills.

We loved you there and always found,
Both kindness and compliance.
It was your able statesmanship,
That brought us Neuroscience.

But soon your skills were needed to
Run faculty affairs.
So to the post of vice provost,
You were then kicked upstairs.

Again you managed skillfully.
Tenure and promotion,
Were fair and kind and absent of
Negative commotion.

Do a job well and just rewards,
Are sure to come your way.
And that dear is precisely why
We've gathered here today.

You're moving on and moving up,
Becoming a VP.
Chicago AND Urbana now
Will be the base for thee.

Now this verse ends not with adieu,
Farewell, Godspeed or Ciao
Rather, we extend congrats,
And want you to know how

Thrilled we are with your new job
We know you will excel.
And with your new ascension, dear,
The U of I fares well.

Love from all of us.
Mark M Rasenick, 18 July, 2007

University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Physiology and Biophysics

Congratulations Mrinalini Chatta Rao, PhD Vice President for Faculty Affairs



Wednesday, July 18, 2007

3:00 - 5:00

Faculty Alumni Center

Mrinalini Chatta Rao trained for the BSc and MSc at the University of Delhi and for the MS and PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Michigan. After post-doctoral training at the University of Chicago, she joined the UIC faculty in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in 1984. Meena was appointed Professor in 1996 and holds a joint appointment as Professor in the Department of Medicine. In 1999 Meena was appointed Associate Dean (part time); and, in 2001 Executive Associate Dean (part time) in the UIC Graduate College. Since 2002, she has been UIC Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and this year she will begin her position as Vice President for Faculty Affairs in the University of Illinois System.

Meena has outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and service as indicated by her long list of honors. She was named a UIC University Scholar, and was winner of the UIC Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2004 she received the Woman of the Year Award. Students have honored her as a three time recipient of our departmental Hawley Distinguished Faculty Award and as the Honors College Fellow of the Year. She has served on numerous review panels at the national and international level. Her work on the physiology and patho-physiology of the gastro-intestinal system has been published in high impact journals and has long been supported by grants from the NIH. Meena is also principal investigator on a 3.5 million dollar 5 year grant from the National Science Foundation - ADVANCE program known as WISEST (Women in Science and Engineering System Transformation Initiative).

While accomplishing all these wonderful things, Meena and her husband Ralph Strohl also brought two special people into the world, Rahula and Katya. Meena is also a purveyor of fabulous Indian cuisine.

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| Opening Remarks: | R. John Solaro, PhD
Distinguished University Professor and Head
Department of Physiology and Biophysics |
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| Former Trainee: | Jayashree Venkatasubramanian, Ph.D.
Adjunct Faculty, Biology
Waubensee Community College |
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| Colleague: | Primal de Lanerolle, PhD
Professor
Department of Physiology and Biophysics |
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| Colleague: | Geula Gibori, PhD
UIC Distinguished Professor
Department of Physiology and Biophysics |
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| Colleague and "Poet" | Mark M. Rasenick, PhD
UIC Distinguished Professor
Department of Physiology and Biophysics |
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| Introduction of Guest of Honor | R. John Solaro, PhD |
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