

## Mazel Tov Meena

**I**t 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

**M**rinalini 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.

**M**eena 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).

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