


The Professor M. V. George Memorial Endowment Lecture 2021



24th December 2021

11:00 am - 12:30 pm 

Instituted by

Professor C.N. R. Rao and Mrs. Indumati Rao, in fond remembrance of their enduring friendship and recognition of the contributions of Professor M. V. George to Chemical Sciences



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The Director and IISER Thiruvananthapuram fraternity

invite you to

**The Professor M. V. George Memorial
Endowment Lecture 2021**

by

Prof. Srinivasan Chandrasekaran

Honorary Professor, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

on

***Organic Chemistry Research in India: A Glorious Past,
A Vibrant Present and A Promising Future***


Date and Time: 24th December 2021 and 11:00 AM

Join Zoom:

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IISER Thiruvananthapuram



Professor Manapurathu Verghese George, a renowned organic chemist who holds a unique place in the growth of photochemistry research in India, was born (1928) in Kollam. He obtained his B. Sc. and M. Sc. degrees in Chemistry from Union Christian College, Alwaye, and Ph.D. (organic chemistry) from St. John's College, Agra. He did his postdoctoral research with some of the most renowned organic chemists of that time, namely, George F Wright (University of Toronto), Henry Gilman (Iowa State University), Melvin S Newman (Ohio State University), Sir Derek Barton (Imperial College, London), and Rolf Huisgen (University of München). He then returned to India to be appointed at the Department of Chemistry of IIT Kanpur in April 1963, where he joined Profs. C. N. R. Rao, P. T. Narasimhan and many others to establish one of the best departments of chemistry in India. It's a well-known fact that the department of Chemistry at IITK produced several outstanding chemists over the years and continues to be one of the leading centres for research and teaching in chemistry in India. Working in the area of photochemistry, Professor George published more than 200 landmark research publications in various international journals of high repute and guided many Ph. D. students and postdocs. After his superannuation from IIT Kanpur in 1988, he moved to Trivandrum to work as Professor Emeritus at the National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST). The Photochemistry Research Unit that he set up has become one of the leading centres in India for research on photosciences in a short time.



Bharat Ratna, Professor C. N. R. Rao and Professor M. V. George shared a strong bond of friendship and a common vision to see our country become an international leader in the field of scientific education and research. Together they have established several activities to promote science and research in this part of the country. CSIR-NIIST becoming a leading centre for research in Chemistry and Materials was possible through the support and encouragement that they provided. They also established the "Foundation for Capacity Building in Science (FCBS)" for popularizing science among the youth and to attract them to science. Through its annual meetings, seminars and workshops targeting students and teachers, FCBS has had a significant role in promoting a number of bright young students of Kerala to pursue their careers in science. Many young beneficiaries of this program are renowned scientists themselves today. When Professor Rao convinced the government of India to establish several IISERs in the country, Professor George could convince Professor Rao in turn to establish one in Thiruvananthapuram. Since its inception, the ardent support of both for IISER TVM is well recognized. Professor Rao continues to support IISER Thiruvananthapuram in many ways.



About the Speaker

Professor Srinivasan Chandrasekaran, an Honorary Professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), is a distinguished synthetic organic and organometallic chemist. He was born in Mayavaram, Tamil Nadu (1945). He completed his B. Sc. (1965), M. Sc. in Chemistry (1967) and Ph. D. (1972) from Madras University. His doctoral study was on oxy-Cope rearrangement and on the synthesis of novel norbornane derivatives under the guidance of Professor S. Swaminathan. He subsequently moved to USA for his postdoctoral studies where he worked with Prof. E. J. Corey (Nobel Laureate, 1990) at Harvard University (1973-75), following which he worked as a scientist at Syntex Research Laboratories during 1975-76. He resumed his postdoctoral research at Corey's laboratory before returning to India in 1977 to join IIT, Kanpur as a lecturer in Chemistry. After a stint of 12 years at IIT Kanpur, he moved to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) as a Professor in the Department of Chemistry. At IISc, he held several positions including those of the chair of Department of Organic Chemistry and the Division of Chemical Sciences as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Science. He holds many visiting professorships at various universities across the globe. He has published more than 300 research articles and contributed Chapters to several books. He was involved with the functioning of many science societies, including executive committee membership and chair of International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC), chair of the national committee of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), secretaryship of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS) and the presidency of the Chemical Research Society of India (CRSI). Professor Chandrasekharan is a recipient of the Basudeb Banerjee Memorial Medal of the Indian Chemical Society in 1988 and prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in 1989. He was elected as Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences (1989), the Indian National Science Academy (1992) and The World Academy of Sciences (1999). He has received several other awards some of which include the Silver Medal of the Chemical Research Society of India, Golden Jubilee Commemoration Medal of Indian National Science Academy and the Alumni Award of Excellence of Indian Institute of Science. He has also held the J. C. Bose National Fellowship of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Distinguished Fellowship of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).

