

On Superannuation.....



Dr. S. P. Padha

On 30-05-1999, Dr. S. P. Padha retired as a Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Jammu after putting in a fine innings in the active government service. He expresses his view points in an interview with JK Science.

JK Science : *Sir, could you tell us about your education and your induction into Govt. service ?*

Dr. S. P. Padha : I did my medical graduation from GMC Srinagar in 1966 and completed my internship from there only. There was no post-graduation facility in the State and so most of us went outside the state for P.G. There never use to be any restriction for admission in P.G. courses for candidates from other states (as it is today), we could get admission comfortably.

I landed in CMC, Ludhiana for house job and later was taken up as a resident for post-graduation. I did my DOMS and later MS (Ophth.) while working as a registrar. I returned to the state in early 1972 and joined as an Asstt. Surgeon. Soon I was posted as an 'Eye Specialist' in a remote Distt. Hospital and was then confirmed as a B Grade Specialist. I worked there for about two years. I joined GMC, Jammu as an Asstt. Prof. in 1974.

JK Science : *Is the standard achieved by the Ophthalmology department of Govt. Medical College, Jammu, at par with the other good ophthalmic centres in the country ?*

Dr. S. P. Padha : The standard achieved by the department is good and even better as compared to many Govt. Medical Colleges around. However, I will not label it at par with good ophthalmic centres especially the few in private sector and in autonomous Govt. Institutions. I doubt, if it can ever reach that level because of so many factors well known to all of us.

JK Science : *On the verge of retirement, how do you rate your achievements and the tenure as H.O.D. Ophthalmology, Govt. Medical College, Jammu ?*

Dr. S. P. Padha : I have no regrets about my professional career. Under the given circumstances, I have been able to contribute maximum for my patients as well as students. However, I have nothing to boast of as regards my achievements as H.O.D. My only effort of inculcating a professional approach in teaching and patient care, I feel has been a total failure.

JK Science : *Your plans for the days ahead ?*

Dr. S. P. Padha : I do not have any ambitious plans for the future. I firmly believe that the future belongs to the younger generation. I am looking forward to low-profile professional engagements and want to spend time to sharpen my hobbies.

JK Science : *The publication of the first ever medical journal JK Science from Jammu, J&K is an endeavour to promote medical education. Your comments, please ?*

Dr. S. P. Padha : I have all praise for the young medicos who have started the JK Science journal. My only suggestion is – Please, do not compromise on the standard. Help and guide the talent to flourish. This will raise the standard of medical profession.

I have no doubt, the young seedling which you have started nurturing will soon blossom into a beautiful shady tree spreading its fragrance all around.

