Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira
Belur Math :: Howrah – 711 202
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Sub: Passing away of Prof. Ananda Mohan Chakraborty

With deepest sorrow we report the sudden demise of Prof. Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty, one of the most illustrious alumni of our institution at Illinois, Chicago on 10th July 2020. Prof. Chakrabarty studied in Vidyamandira from 1954 to 1956 and received his Ph.D in biochemistry from University of Calcutta in 1965.

After completing Ph.D., he moved to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Chicago College of Medicine and earned international acclaim for fundamental research. He was associated to innumerable scientific advisory boards of academic institutions like the Michigan Biotechnology Institute, the Montana State University Center for Biofilm Engineering, the Centre for Microbial Ecology at the Michigan State University, and the Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Dr. Chakrabarty has also served as a member of the NATO Industrial Advisory Group based in Brussels, Belgium. He was a member of the board of directors of Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts, where he participated in judicial education. For his extraordinary contribution to Genetic Engineering, he was awarded the civilian Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2007.

Ananda Mohan found out a way of genetic cross-linking that fixed all four plasmid genes in place and produced a new, stable, bacterial strain (presently known as *Pseudomonas putida*) which is good in consuming oil one or two orders of magnitude faster than the four strains of oil-eating microbes known earlier. The new bacterium, which Chakrabarty designated as "multiplasmid hydrocarbon-degrading *Pseudomonas*," was able to digest about two-thirds of the hydrocarbons found usually in a typical oil spill. However, this could draw the attention of the international Science community when he applied for a patent, perhaps the first U.S. patent for a genetically engineered organism, in 1980. Eventually this led to the landmark United States Supreme Court case *Diamond v. Chakrabarty* and finally a live, human-made micro-organism became patentable. Prof. Chakrabarty’s research paved the way for many patents on genetically modified micro-organisms and other forms of life thereafter, and brought him to international spotlight. He had totally 19 such patents on his credit. He further focussed on elaborating the role of bacterial cupredoxins and cytochromes in cancer regression and arresting cell cycle progression.

With all his glorious recognitions, both in India and abroad, Prof. Chakrabarty was always eager to remain in close contact with his alma mater, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira. He had visited this campus many times since last six decades on various occasions. During the Platinum Jubilee Celebration of this institution, on January 14, 2017, he shared the stage with Prof. Harvey Lodish, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, MIT, in our Vivekananda Sabha griha and delivered an illuminating presentation on his area of research. Vidyamandira family conveys heartfelt condolence to the family members of Prof. Ananda Mohan Chakrabarty and prays sincerely to the Holy Trio for the transcendence of his departed soul to the eternally peaceful realm.

Principal (Offg.)