

A Tribute to Professor Bassappa B. Kaliwal (1954-2021)



Professor Bassappa B. Kaliwal, a distinguished academician, an able administrator and a compassionate gentleman, was born in 1954, at Narayanpur, Shiggaon Taluk of Haveri District, Karnataka, India. After completing school-education, he qualified for B.Sc. (1974), M.Sc. (1976) and Ph.D. (1981) in Zoology from Karnatak University, Dharwad. His fields of research were Reproductive Biology, Reproductive Toxicology, Physiology, Microbiology and Biotechnology.

Dr. Kaliwal began his academic journey as a Lecturer in Zoology in Karnatak Science College, Dharwad (1979-88), became Senior Lecturer, (1988-90), Reader (1990-99) and Professor (1999-2002) in the Department of Zoology, Karnatak University. Prof. Kaliwal used to accept challenges readily with the usual smiling face. He proved his leadership quality in academic and administrative fronts and proved his mettle through his successful accomplishments. The Departments of Microbiology (1999) and Biotechnology (2001), Karnatak University, established and nurtured by him through funds from the Government of India, attest his dynamic leadership quality. He had served as Chairman of these departments for 12 years, until he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Davanagere University. Thus, a major part

of his career was at Karnatak University, Dharwad, and the culmination was as Vice Chancellor of Davanagere University, Davanagere, during 2013-17.

He guided more than 30 scholars for Ph.D. and 34 for M.Phil. degree. With 36 years of research and teaching experience, Dr B. B. Kaliwal contributed significantly to scientific research. He showed for the first time that co-localisation of Fos-containing neurons within SON of the hypothalamus also expresses nNOS. The progesterone-induced implantation delay and nidation model shown by Prof. Kaliwal's team has been used to understand the mechanisms of anti-implantation activity in rats. His group conducted exhaustive experiments and revealed the antigonadotrophic, antiestrogenic or antiandrogenic activities of pesticides in rodents.

Prof. Kaliwal published more than 175 research papers in National and International journals of repute. He completed 15 research projects funded by UGC, DST, DBT, etc. and received Special Grant of Rs.12 Crores from Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi. He was awarded the prestigious Post-doctoral Commonwealth Fellowship to work with Dr. David Murphy, Professor of Experimental Medicine at the University of Bristol, UK (2003-2004). Besides academic distinction, he was

president of Research Forum for 4 years, President of Karnatak University Post Graduate Teachers' Association for 6 years and President of Council of University Teachers' Association in Karnataka State for 13 years. He held many important positions in Karnatak University such as Chairman, Boards of Studies in Zoology, Applied Genetics, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology and Microbiology and of different universities in Karnataka and other States. He conducted several short-term courses in Photobiology, Biological Sciences, Chronobiology, Zoology, Bioscience, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Bioinformatics, etc.

Prof. Kaliwal excelled as the Vice Chancellor of Davanagere University by drawing the path for the growth of the young University in academic and research activities by creating the state-of-the-art infrastructure and motivating the young faculty members. Prof. Kaliwal was Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology (SRBCE), one of the most vibrant Scientific Societies in India since 1992. He was

elected as the Vice-President of the Society in 2016, became the President in 2019 and efficiently served in that coveted position from 1st April 2019 till his departure to the Heavenly Abode on 9th December 2021. He was conferred the prestigious Fellowship in Reproduction and Endocrinology (FRE) and Prof. Pera Govindarajulu Gold Medal Oration by SRBCE in recognition of his excellent contribution to the field of Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology. Prof. Kaliwal organized two annual meetings of SRBCE and national conferences at Dharwad (2013) and at Davanagere(2015), respectively. He was the President for the Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Science Section of the 104th Indian Science Congress held at Tirupati during 3rd to 7th January 2017.

A visionary leaves behind his valuable contributions to be remembered and cherished by the contemporary and future beneficiaries– Prof. Kaliwal, who began his journey from a village and excelled in academic, research and administration is one such a great soul.

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