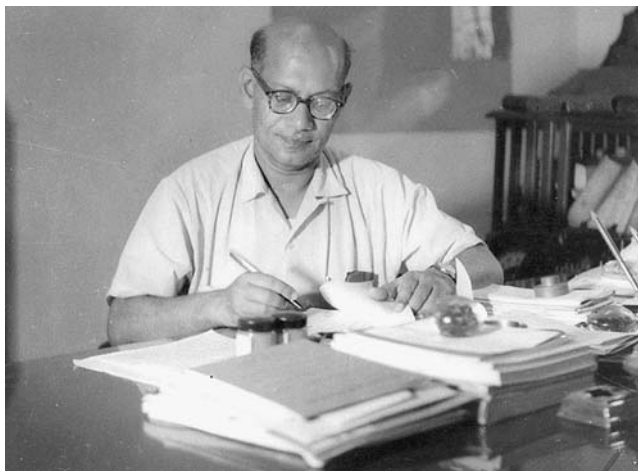


Preface—7th ICSMP-Volume-2

Subhash Basu

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The founder of this “International Cell Surface Macromolecules (ICSM)” meeting, the late Professor Bimal K. Bachhawat, was a graduate of the Calcutta University, Kolkata, India. Today hundreds of students from the Department of Biochemistry of Calcutta University are working around the world in this field. In the 7th ICSM meeting, a good number of members of this department participated who also met for the 7th ICSM meeting in the Starling resort hotel of Puri-India on January 11 to 15 in 2005. I thought it would be rational to first pay tribute to the late Professor Biresh C. Guha, founder of that Biochemistry Department which completed its 50th Golden Jubilee this year in January 2006.



S. Basu (✉)
University of Notre Dame,
Notre Dame, IN, USA
e-mail: sbasu@nd.edu

Late Professor Biresh Chandra Guha was born in Dacca, East Bengal (now Bangla Desh), in India on June 7 in 1904. He received B.Sc. degree (with chemistry Honors) in 1923 from the St. Xavier’s College, Calcutta University (CU) and an M.Sc. degree in Organic Chemistry in 1925 from the main campus of CU. He joined the laboratory of the late Professor Acharya Prafulla Roy, a father of Chemistry in India, and after a year he went to the UK with a TATA fellowship. He received his Ph.D and D.Sc. degrees in 1930 under Professor Jack Drummand (London University) and Professor F. G. Hopkins (was known as Father Hoppy, a famous Biochemist in Cambridge University), respectively. During his thesis work he was involved in the discovery and nutritional requirements of Vitamins B1 and B2. On his return to India in 1931 he became a research scientist in Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works (the first Pharmaceutical Company established by the Indian nationals) and established all the assays of Vitamins (A, B1, B2, B6 etc.). Later, when he became chairman of the Applied Chemistry Department at the Calcutta University, he initiated research in the field of Vitamin C. Researchers in his laboratory established the pathway of Vitamin-C biosynthesis and its deleted step in animals using the scorbutic guinea pigs. He became chief technical advisor, ministry of foods and nutrition, Government of India (1944–1948) and became a member and Technical Director of Damodar Valley Corporation (1948–1953), the first planned irrigation project in India. In 1956 he came back to Calcutta University as Head of the Department of Biochemistry (newly established) and Dean of the College of Science at the University, the positions he held until his premature death on March 20, 1962. In his dynamic lifetime he not only produced several inspired biochemists in India, he also inspired many more students who later came to the USA and other countries and proved to be established biochemists. Perhaps our class (1958–1960) was the last

batch that he taught in his spacious office room. I remember him as banging on his big oval table (covered with thick glass) with his closed fist and saying, “If you do not knock on the door, the door will never open.” Perhaps this inspired me to travel ten thousands mile (from Bombay to New York) by ship in September 1961 and to knock on the door of Professor Saul Roseman at the University of Michigan. The door not only opened for my graduate studies under him, it also opened my door for the Glycoconjugate research where I am still exploring in the area of Cell Apoptosis and Cell Regulation.

The theme of our 7th ICSM meeting was “Glycoconjugates and Cell Regulation” and we met in the presence of 130 invited scientists coming from at least nine different nations (Denmark, India, Italy, France, Germany, Puerto Rico, Spain, UK, and USA) around the world. Based on the talks presented at the meeting, 21 articles were submitted to

be published in these proceedings. We have published 11 articles in the May journal (vol-1) this year as a special issue on, “Glycoconjugates and Cell Regulations.” The rest of the articles will be published in this issue as the second volume on the same theme. Today if we search the Internet under this theme, perhaps not very many papers will flash on our screen. In my view almost all the articles included in these two special issues are directly related to the theme and would provide tons of information to the new investigators working in this field. I enjoyed reading and editing all these articles being a long time researcher in this field. Many of the authors in these two issues are direct scientific descendents of the late Professor B. C. Guha of the Calcutta University who was involved in the discoveries of vitamins B-1, B-2, and the biosynthetic pathway of vitamin C, known to be essential for cell regulation.





