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Foreword



It is a great honor for me to write the Foreword for this Special Issue of the Journal of Organometallic Chemistry that we are dedicating to Professor C.N. Ramachandra Rao, FRS, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Born in 1934, Prof. Rao received a MSc from Banaras Hindu University in 1953, a PhD from Purdue University in 1958 and DSc from Mysore in 1960. Prof. Rao joined the Indian Institute of Science in 1959, and while serving as its two-term director, added several new wings. He was the Founder Chairman of the well-known Solid State and Structural Chemistry Unit and the Molecular Research Laboratory. Currently, he is the National Professor, Honorary President and Linus Pauling Research Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore.

Prof. Rao has a sustained record of research accomplishments in one of the most significant and important fields of materials science and solid state chemistry, and he is one of the world's foremost solid state and materials chemist with nearly 1600 publications to his credit. He has been a strong supporter of scientific research in India, not only in solid state chemistry but in all science disciplines and this is evidenced by his participation in numerous schools, workshops and conferences. He is on the editorial boards of several leading science journals.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Prof. Rao has been accorded many honors; the list is too long to cite here, but the some that are particularly noteworthy include the Marlow

Medal of the Faraday Society, the Royal Society of Chemistry (London) Medal, the Centenary Lectureship and Medal of the Royal Society of Chemistry (London), the Einstein Gold Medal from UNESCO, Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques (France), the Dan David Prize and the National Honor, "Padma Vibhushan" from the President of India. Prof. Rao has received 46 honoris causa doctorate degrees from various universities around the world and is a fellow of 25 science academies, including the Royal Society, London, the National Academy of Sciences, USA, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Japan Academy as well as the Academies of Science of Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Korea, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain.

Somehow, Prof. Rao has found time to be a founding member of the Third World Academy of Sciences, of which he has also been the President. He has also been the Founder President of the Chemical Research Society of India and the Materials Research Society of India. As chairman of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister for the present government, he led the effort to create a series of new science institutions called the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). He is the only scientist to have witnessed Indian Institute of Science's golden jubilee and the centenary celebrations. His passion for science today is as strong, if not stronger, than it was 50 years ago when he first joined the institute on his return from Purdue. When asked in an interview how long he intends to continue research, Prof. Rao's answer was "till my last day", a response which is enthusiastically

welcomed by the entire solid state chemistry and materials science community.

In addition to his monumental intellectual contributions, Prof. Rao is truly blessed with extraordinary gifts in many different facets of his life. He is an avid reader of literature and is a lover of the arts and music. Throughout his scientific career, Prof. Rao has been happily married to Indumati, his wife of nearly 50 years.

I am sure that the large number of friends of Prof. Rao from around the world will join me in wishing him continued success and many more years of pushing the frontiers of science and setting higher and higher standards for others to emulate.

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