



Obituary

In memoriam of Dr. P.S. Ramanathan



Dr. P.S. Ramanathan, a senior officer of the Chromatographic Society of India (CSI) and Editor of the CSI Newsletter, was a principal player at PBA2009 in Agra. He was a figurehead for young Indian delegates, he delivered his invited lecture on "Measurement of Uncertainties in Analytical Chemistry", he was instrumental in securing a return to India in 2012 for the PBA series and was assigned to be a Guest Editor of this volume of JPBA. Unfortunately Dr. Ramanathan was not able to carry out the editorial duties that would have been a joy and honour for him because of his untimely sudden death shortly after the PBA symposium. Typically of the man, in his seventies and still very active, he died of a heart attack on April 21st, 2009 shortly after having conducted a PhD oral examination in Mumbai.

Dr. Ramanathan (often affectionately known as PSR) enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Garda Chemicals Ltd., Mumbai working principally as an environmental analyst and in quality assurance. However, throughout India he was renowned as a distinguished scholar of and teacher in separation science. He published more than 170 papers and authored six books. These contributions and the high regard in which his efforts on training and knowledge transfer were held were recognized by his appointment as an Honorary Fellow to the Institute of Chemical Technology (UICT),

Mumbai one of the most prestigious academic institutions in India which has a reputation for producing many eminent scientists and technologists for the Indian chemical industry over the years.

In what were to be Ramanathan's final years, he developed what was almost another career for him as the main driving force behind CSI publications. His GC primer and work for the CSI quarterly newsletter, which frequently contained his troubleshooting guides, were major factors in the renaissance of CSI. His passing away was marked by a condolence meeting held at UICT on June 12th, 2009 where many tributes were paid by his friends and colleagues. PSR's death was a great loss to the Indian separation science community and to CSI in particular. It is to be hoped that this group is fortunate enough to be blessed with future officers with the energy and vision of Ramanathan and will go on to stage a memorable PBA2012 in his honour.

