

Message from the Patron who was the founder of SRBCE

THE BLOSSOMING OF THE SOCIETY OF REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY OVER 25 YEARS WITH FRAGRANCE AND ELEGANCE

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India is a vast country with excellent manpower potential in scientific research. The scientists have proved their worth through their original work, presentation of their research findings in conferences and publications in scientific and popular journals. Endocrinology and reproduction are potential subjects of research with great scope for application in medicine, agriculture, veterinary practice, aquaculture, environmental science, etc. Scientists in a large number of research centers / institutes / departments / divisions in Universities, public and private sectors, regional and national laboratories, hospitals and post-graduate colleges with facilities for research are actively engaged in research in endocrinology and reproduction. There are good scientific societies for various fields of research, and annual meetings are held to gather all scientists in the respective fields to meet and present and discuss their findings. However, until late 1970s there was no common platform for the scientists in the field of comparative endocrinology and reproduction to meet, and present and discuss their findings and to evolve strategies for further research. The animal species are diverse, each with unique adaptations in relation to the environment in which they live, seasonal changes in the environmental factors, availability of food, nature of food, competition and predation, stress, strain and tension, nature and availability of water, etc. These adaptations have resulted in modifications or alterations in their physiology, particularly concerned with reproduction, endocrinology and metabolism. These aspects of anatomy and physiology have resulted in interesting aspects of evolutionary trends in systems and molecules which culminate in successful survival, growth and reproduction. Finally, the human has evolved wonderful endocrine, reproductive and metabolic systems in which there are several aspects unique. It would be pertinent understand and unravel the basis and mysteries of this variety. Understanding of the interrelationships among the organisms in their respective environments and the interrelationships among the various physiological mechanisms would also be pertinent so as to comprehend the modifications that would go on in reproduction, endocrinology and metabolism as aspects of evolution. Thus, research in comparative endocrinology,

reproduction and metabolism is to be encouraged. It was felt that it would be possible if there is an exclusive forum for the scientists to meet periodically and discuss. This sparkling spirit provided the strong justification for establishing a society in the name and style as the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology.

Such a society will meet the desires, demands and requirements of all the research workers who carry out investigations on the various invertebrate, vertebrate and human species. A meeting of research workers in these subjects was called in 1980 at the Department of Endocrinology, Dr ALMPG Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Taramani Campus, University of Madras, Chennai, India. There was good response and the scientists who gathered discussed at length and breadth the modalities and requirements to launch the Society for Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology. Finally, with the support of the founding members, the Society was established and the first annual conference of the Society was held in Chennai in 1981. It was a humble but good beginning. From then on, the Society has grown in all dimensions, with large number of scientists contributing for the survival and steady growth of the Society over these years. It is really the fulfillment of cherished dreams of many a scientists. At present there are more than 500 active members from all over the Country and a few from abroad and, thus, the Society has national as well as international character and caliber.

The annual conference of the society is held every year at different places in India, with active participation from not less than 200 delegates in each. Conferences were conducted at places such as Chennai, Annamalainagar, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati, Hyderabad, Burdwan, Santiniketan, Varanasi, Ahmedabad, Pondicherry, Roorkee, Vadodara, etc, with two conferences conducted in a few of these places. Beyond control the conference was not conducted during one year, and one calendar year passed due to change of month of conference from December to January / February. Thus, this meeting at Thiruvananthapuram is the 25th and thus marks the Silver

Jubilee of the Society's conferences. The Society is also proud since it stands as a forum for national integration because scientists from all over India participate in the annual conferences wherever they are held and, thus, give opportunities for the participants to visit different places in the vast country of India and to know about the cultures and traditions of the great varieties about which India is proud of. This Society is unique since an integrated approach has provided a vast opportunity for collaboration among researchers from far and wide and they freely work together as one team, and exchange scientific thoughts and knowledge to improve the outcome of research. Researchers in some centers who do not have adequate infrastructural and instrumentation facilities with sophistication get a chance to work in good centers of research with advanced facilities, fulfilling their desire. The society provides the platform not only for meetings, presenting and sharing the knowledge but also for collaborative research with sharing of resources. This is the real merit and uniqueness of SRBCE.

The young research workers are sheltered, shaped and encouraged to present their research findings in the presence of senior scientists, wherein they get opportunity to know where they stand, how to proceed further and what to do in the future. This provides a real guidance with enlightened vision and enriched knowledge. The young research workers are honored with certificates of merit and awards based on their presentation, review of relevant literature, design and execution of the study with modalities and technology applied, presentation of data and discussions and interactions with the fellow scientists, as judged by panels of juries. This is a real recognition and encouragement for the scientists in the making so as to build up their career further. A gold medal with scroll of honor-citation is presented to scientists with established years of standing, scientific research with originality of

approach, publication of research findings in accredited journals with high citation index as judged by a panel of juries. The scientists thus identified for the award of a gold medal is required to deliver an elaborate lecture covering his/her scientific research in the field of Endocrinology and Reproduction at the annual conference. The Society is proud to honor the scientists with good standing and the scientist is also proud to be conferred such an honor. Apart from these, the senior scientists are honored with a scroll and citation for their life-time achievements in scientific research in the fields of Endocrinology and Reproduction. This scroll of honor-citation is also presented during the annual conferences of the society.

Thus, over these years, the Society of Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology (SRBCE) has grown in different dimensions with large number of devoted and trusted stalwart members who really contribute for the successful growth of the Society with vigor and vitality. The Society conceded the request of several members to publish a journal. *The Journal of Endocrinology and Reproduction*, which has also made a significant mark and tries its best to come up to the expected standards with the help of all the members of the Society. Therefore, I am really proud to record here that the Society has grown to 25 years with wonderful and unique service to the scientists in the field of Reproductive Biology and Comparative Endocrinology. This was all possible only due to the strong support, devotion with total involvement of each and every member of the Society. I am really very proud of such devoted band of scientists, their support and encouragement and I am grateful to each and every one of them. I am sure the Society will go on for ever with strong and steady growth in the years to come.

I wish the Society and the journal further more growth and many laurels.

P. Govindarajulu