

To be “Padhied”: A Neologism to Show the Pathos of Prof. Ajit Padhy for Nuclear Medicine

Padhied: The ability to use charm and persuasion to get someone doing something without to have either the person who asked or the other person having any personal benefit.

The word is a neologism to show one of the main and important characteristics of Prof. Ajit Kumar Padhy who died suddenly on August 22, 2013.^[1,2]

He was a person to create thing from nothing. His origin perhaps helps a lot. Innovation is the art of survival in hardship. He was born in Orisha Province in Eastern India one of the poorest states in India. “Impossible is nothing” was his motto. Knowing what he succeeded in achieving over the years - this was true.

He attended Berhampur University passing his MBBS in 1976. He went to Mumbai, India, to train in nuclear medicine and then to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi.

In 1991-1992, he went to St. Bartholomew’s Hospital to work with Prof. Keith Britton. At AIIMS went through the academic ranks to achieve a full chair in 1999 and became a co-founder of the Indian College of Nuclear Medicine. At the same time he became the head of the nuclear medicine section at International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) the start of 7 great years for Nuclear Medicine around the world. Many people were “Padhied” during this time. He has this charisma to make someone share his dreams. And, it was a very simple concept. Everything is possible to be done if you give the right spirit in the people.

In his Editorial, “when was the first time that you have done something for the first time” he wrote:^[3] “Life as a nuclear medicine professional can be very exciting and challenging. In my 33 years as a nuclear medicine physician, I have never had a dull moment. Life has not been that easy, but the dynamics of nuclear medicine

keeps you going on and on. As a specialty, nuclear medicine probably offers the possibility of “doing something for the first time,” more often than any other specialty in medicine” and further in this editorial he adds “several years ago when a young nuclear medicine physician friend of mine wrote an E-mail with just the following line: “Wah! single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) in my country - I cannot believe this,” I could realize my young friend’s happiness and excitement, the feeling of doing or experiencing something for the first time. For some this could be just another SPECT camera, but for some this is “first SPECT” camera and that makes all the difference.”

I was also “Padhied” many times and I am happy that experience this feeling. It made me a better person and add a lot in my professional life.

2002 I have been asked by Ajit to be the publisher of the new World Journal of Nuclear Medicine. “How? I asked. “You will manage” he answered. And it happens. We bought a special computer program. He send me all the material corrected and English edited by himself and I had the duty in my personal computer using this special program, that I was using for the first time, to create the pdf file to be sent to the local printer for printing the Journal.

Ajit made a lot of things for the first time. Many would say that it was impossible. Some will think is just a dream but somehow he has able to find people who share his vision helping him to make this dream reality.

There are 1000 small or big project that he did in his life. The center of his attention was always nuclear medicine and especially radionuclide therapy. In the same editorial, he wrote: For some, nuclear medicine still remains a diagnostic specialty. This is not true. Ours is a truly clinical specialty. Therapeutic nuclear medicine is growing rapidly and in many nuclear medicine departments it constitutes almost 25-30% of our workload. So what are you waiting for? It doesn’t matter, if you are young or old, junior or senior, wherever you are, if you have not started using radionuclide therapy yet, it is time to do so. It is time to do something for the first time in your life, start with the simplest things, create a small (one small room) “Thyroid Clinic” in a corner of your nuclear medicine unit or department, and treat your

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first thyrotoxicosis patient with 400 MBq of iodine-131. You will feel the difference; you will experience the ecstasy of "doing something for the first time."

Ajit gave during his unfortunately short life much to the worldwide nuclear medicine community. In his time in the IAEA, he was organizing dozen of training courses asking people that never before organized such an event to take the responsibility to their hand. Many people were Padhied and they gave their best for nuclear medicine. After he left the IAEA all of us were thinking this effort without the support of IAEA will stop. Once again all of us were wrong. He started with the International Conference on Radionuclide Therapy. Without budget without any money back in 2005 we organized together the first meeting in Cyprus. The conference then went to Goa, Ulaanbaatar, Cartagena, Ho Chi Minh City and Lapland all of them with a great success. This year in Manila he planned the seventh conference.

To increase the visibility of Nuclear Medicine in Asia he organized the nuclear medicine Updates in Singapore increasing the knowledge base of people in the area.

One of his major achievements was the creation of World Association of Radiopharmaceutical and Molecular Therapy (WARMTH). His dream was that WARMTH will be the umbrella organization for education and to facilitated studies regarding therapy,

especially in the so called developing countries. He used to talk about the headquarters of the Association in New Delhi dreaming about a big building in which all the facilities for education and research can be accommodated.

Ajit Padhy Padhied a lot of people around the world. It will be a blessing if this could continue. If each of us can with charm and persuasion to get someone else doing something without to have any personal benefit.

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