

Honouring scholars in Physiology and allied sciences: The PSI way (2022)

The Physiological Society of India (PSI), established on 13th July 1934, is registered under Act XXI of 1860. The society adheres to the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). The society is also a member Society of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Sciences (FAOPS), the Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) and the newly formed South Asian Association of Physiologists (SAAP). Initially, the society started its activities in Kolkata and with time became a pan-India organization of physiologists, biochemists, and allied medical and non-medical scientists. Since its inception, this well-known organization has been promoting and also trying to disseminate knowledge of physiology and health sciences to the common people. In the process, PSI introduced the 'Indian Journal of Physiology and Allied Sciences (IJPAS) in January 1947. For the publication of scientific communications, IJPAS is the second medical journal in the country.

PSI instituted many Orations, Awards and Fellowships to honor and encourage deserved researchers in the field of physiology and allied sciences. The society also promotes meritorious students by providing many Prizes and Awards for academic achievements in their Master's degree. Every year, the society offers thirteen Orations (details about the Oration Awards are available <https://physiologicalsocietyofindia.org/memorial-orations>); a few are in the process and the number of PSI Orations will be increasing soon. Being the official journal of PSI, an effort from IJPAS is introduced since its revamp in 2021 by having a dedicated 'Oration Issue' each year. This issue presents the scholastic works of the Oration Awardees for the year. Orations, being the most prestigious awards of PSI, the society office receives a good number of nominations from top-notch scientists every year. On invitation, within the due date, life members of PSI nominate suitable scientists for the announced Oration Awards along with curriculum vitae and consent of the persons being nominated for a particular Oration Award. Then, the Executive Committee of PSI selects a panel of experts to evaluate each candidate's suitability for the nominated Oration Award. With the affirmation of the PSI Executive Committee, the Awardees list for the year is announced.

This year 36 nominations from different parts of India reached the PSI office within the due date. The Executive Committee approved the following learned experts as this year's selection committee members.

Prof. Manjuri Bal, Former Professor, Department of Physiology, University of Calcutta.

Prof. Somenath Roy, Former Professor, Department of Human Physiology, Vidyasagar University,

Prof. Prakash Ch Dhara, Former Professor of the Department of Human Physiology and Former Director of the Directorate of Distance Education, Vidyasagar University,

Prof. Krishna Roy, Former Principal, Bethune College, Kolkata.

Prof. Prabir K Mukherjee, Professor and Head, Department of Life Sciences, Presidency University,

Prof. K K Deepak, Professor and Head, Department of Physiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

Prof. Amar K Chandra, President, PSI (Ex-Officio Member).

Dr. Rajen Haldar, Hony. General Secretary, PSI (Ex-Officio Member).

For the selection of deserved candidates for the Orations of this year, the Committee meeting was held in hybrid mode for hours long. Choosing one from most potential candidates was tough for the Selection Committee. This year, the selection committee happily recommended candidates for all thirteen Oration. Later, the Executive Committee of PSI approved all the candidates as recommended by the selection committee.

Usually, all recipients are requested to deliver their Oration Lectures at the venue of the forthcoming annual conference of the society. This year the society was delighted that all the recipients of Orations, 2022 have delivered their lectures at the requested venue of XXXIIIrd Annual Conference of The Physiological Society of India, held at Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, West Bengal. Before delivering the lecture, the society presents every recipient with a medal and an Oration Certificate.

The PSI awarded three Young Scientist Research Awards (details available at https://physiologicalsocietyofindia.org/young_scientist_awards) which were also selected from the applicants (as per prescribed rules and regulations (<https://physiologicalsocietyofindia.org/rules-and-regulations>)) through the same rigorous process.

This year PSI has encouraged the MSc students of University of Calcutta with six PG students Awards as instituted by different Life Members for the toppers of the batch or specific Special papers in MSc Physiology course of University of Calcutta.

As it is mentioned earlier, few more awards in the form of Orations, Research Awards, are in the process of instituting in the current year. Proposals for new PG Prizes for different Universities or any other awards are welcome.

On behalf of The Physiological Society of India, I congratulate all the recipients of the Awards of the Society, 2022. I am also delighted to share the office experience for the Oration Issue (Issue No. 2), Volume 75 of the Indian Journal of Physiology and Allied Sciences.

Rajen Haldar
Hony. General Secretary, PSI.