

crystallographers

M. A. Viswamitra

Professor **M. A. Viswamitra**, distinguished crystallographer and structural biologist, died unexpectedly at Bangalore on 10 April 2001, at the age of 68. He died soon after speaking at a condolence meeting for Professor G. N. Ramachandran.

He started his research career in 1955 as a graduate student of Professor S. Ramaseshan at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He obtained his PhD degree in 1960 and joined the faculty of the Institute in 1963. He spent his entire career at the Institute except for his extended visits to Professor Dorothy Hodgkin's laboratory at Oxford in the sixties and to Professor Olga Kennard's laboratory at Cambridge in the seventies and the early eighties.

Viswamitra has been a versatile scientist. In the early years of his illustrious career he developed instrumentation for low-temperature and high-temperature crystallography. But, he is better known for his contributions to structural biology. The path-breaking structural studies carried out by him on nucleotides and oligonucleotides are internationally recognized at the highest level and have had great impact on the understanding of DNA structure, especially its sequence dependence. He made significant contributions to protein crystallography also during the last phase of his career. His work has been well recognized through several fellowships and awards.

Viswamitra has had a very positive influence particularly on Indian science. He was a splendid human being and generously helped and supported institutions and individuals. The crystallography and structural biology community has suffered a grievous loss in Viswamitra's death.

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European Crystallography Prize

The European Crystallographic Association is to award the second European Crystallography Prize to Professor **Jochen R. Schneider** of the HASYLAB at DESY, Hamburg, Germany. Professor Schneider is being recognized for his pioneering work on the application of gamma-ray spectroscopy and his high-energy synchrotron radiation studies, as well as his more recent involvement in the development of the free-electron laser.

The European Crystallography Prize, which includes a monetary award as well as a certificate of recognition, will be presented during the Opening Ceremony of the upcoming 20th European Crystallographic Meeting to be held in Krakow, Poland,

August 25–31, at which Professor Schneider will describe the work for which he is being honoured.

Members of the European Crystallography Prize Committee, who were appointed by the Executive Committee of the European Crystallographic Association, are: Professor Ivar Olovsson (Coordinator), University of Uppsala, Sweden; Professor Roland Boese, University of Essen, Germany; Professor Michael Glazer, University of Oxford, UK; Professor Boris Kamenar, University of Zagreb, Croatia; Professor Åke Kvick, European Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Grenoble, France; Professor Xavier Solans, University of Barcelona, Spain; Professor Ada Yonath, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel.

Professor Schneider was born in Burgstädt, Saxony, Germany and studied physics in Hamburg after an education as an electrical engineer. He carried out his PhD under the direction of Professor H. Maier-Leibnitz at the Institute Laue–Langevin in Grenoble, France. His work on gamma-ray diffractometry and Compton scattering was performed at the Hahn-Meitner-Institut in Berlin, the synchrotron radiation work at DESY-HASYLAB in Hamburg, where he is now heavily involved in the development of free-electron lasers driven by linear accelerators. Professor Schneider is presently Head of HASYLAB and Director of Research for Synchrotron Radiation and Free-Electron Lasers at DESY.