

## NILOUFER JAMSHED CHINOY — OUR CHERISHED PRESIDENT 1939 – 2006

Dr Niloufer Jamshed Chinoy, Professor Emerita at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, India, passed away on May 8, 2006, at age 67, after a lengthy battle with cancer. At the time of her death she was President of the International Society for Fluoride Research, Chairman of its Advisory Board, and an Associate Editor of *Fluoride*, to which she was a frequent contributor. She was highly regarded for her dedication to teaching and research in the Department of Zoology at the university.

Dr Chinoy was born on October 17, 1939 in a Parsee family at Baroda, Gujarat, India. Her father, Prof JJ Chinoy, was a renowned Professor of Botany at Gujarat University and her mother was a school teacher. She is survived by two brothers and one sister.

Dr Chinoy completed her undergraduate studies in 1959 and undertook her postgraduate work in 1961 in Zoology at Delhi University, India. In 1966 she received her PhD degree from Maharaja Sayajirao University, Baroda, India, under the guidance of the esteemed physiologist Prof JC George.

Dr Chinoy began her teaching career in 1965 as an Assistant Professor at Maharaja Sayajirao University and retired on October 31, 2001 as Professor and Head of the Zoology Department and Director, University School of Sciences at Gujarat University. During her tenure she initiated a very popular MSc studies program in Biomedical Technology that continues to the present.

At the university Dr Chinoy guided 42 PhD dissertations in biological sciences, 32 MPhil, and 50 MSc students. She conducted numerous research projects for national and international agencies and published more than 300 research and review articles in national and international scientific journals. She was the author of ten books and made many educational video films. As well as her positions and responsibilities with the ISFR and *Fluoride*, she served on the editorial boards of a number of journals and was a member of various scientific advisory committees. She also held membership and elected offices in a number of scientific societies and academies, and in the year 2000 was named to a five-year term in the National Accreditation and Assessment Council of the University Grants Commission.



Niloufer Jamshed Chinoy  
October 17, 1939 – May 8, 2006

Over the years she was invited to present her research in many countries and received awards from numerous academic institutions and her Parsee community.

Dr Chinoy's scientific contributions were mainly in the field of reproductive physiology and endocrinology of mammals with special reference to epididymal physiology, post-testicular maturation of spermatozoa, and fertility regulation. She also contributed significantly in the field of aluminium, arsenic, and fluoride toxicology. Her research on fluoride toxicity is especially noteworthy. Besides investigating how fluoride affects the skeletal system, she conducted many experimental studies dealing with its effects on the liver, kidney, muscles, and the brain. These studies included fluoride disturbances of the gonads causing alteration in spermatogenesis and sterility in animals, and in this work she showed that the changes involved oxidative stress that are ameliorated by antioxidants.

In this space it is not possible to present all the highlights of Dr Chinoy's contributions to fluoride research. However, two studies stand out in the minds of her colleagues: one a monumental survey of endemic fluorosis and the other a ground breaking discovery in the relatively new field of genotoxicity. Under her leadership, a survey of 100 villages was conducted in endemic fluorosis districts of Gujarat State, India. More than 1000 cases afflicted with fluorosis were studied with important results that have led to increased understanding of the problem. What is thought to be the first report of its kind was the finding by Dr. Chinoy of the genotoxic effect of fluoride on humans exposed to high levels of fluoride in drinking water. This study revealed that sister chromatid exchange (SCE) rates in fluorotic individuals in an endemic region are significantly higher than among those living in non-endemic areas.

Our condolences go to her surviving family members and her colleagues in India and elsewhere in the world. We will all miss this pioneer scientist and contributor to our Society and its Journal.

Mandava V Rao, Head  
Ramtej J Verma  
Nayan K Jain  
Devendrasinh D Jhala

Department of Zoology  
School of Sciences  
Gujarat University  
Ahmedabad – 380 009, India

## FLUORIDE RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS OF DR CHINoy

### ARTICLES ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

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