

## Ajit Kumar Padhy, MD, 1951–2013

**A**jit Kumar Padhy, MD, the immediate past-president and cofounding member of the World Association of Radiopharmaceutical and Molecular Therapy (WARMTH) and a recent board member of the SNMMI Nuclear Oncology Council, died of cardiac arrest on August 22 in Singapore, where he was a senior consultant to the Singapore General Hospital. This unexpected news created a shock wave among his friends and colleagues throughout the world.

Ajit was blessed with a dynamic and pleasant personality that made him one of the best-known figures in the world of nuclear medicine in both developed and developing countries.

While working at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi) he was chosen in 2003 to lead the Nuclear Medicine Section of the Human Health Division of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). During his tenure, he not only nurtured IAEA's vision for nuclear medicine but also promoted it in all member states. In addition to numerous multinational coordinated research and technical cooperation projects, he initiated a multicenter study of the development and evaluation of  $^{188}\text{Re}$ -lipiodol for the much-needed treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma in developing



countries. In recognition of his outstanding performance at IAEA, he was honored with the prestigious IAEA Merit Award in 2001 and the Homi Bhabha Memorial Oration Award of the SNM, India, in 2004. To further advance the field of nuclear medicine in developing countries, he organized several annual meetings of WARMTH, for which he chose many of the most beautiful sites in developing countries that only a few nuclear medicine specialists have visited. Stretching the dollar to the largest extent became Ajit's specialty.

He published more than 150 scientific papers and edited 7 books and scores of book chapters. He was the editor-in-chief of the *World Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

Ajit's untimely demise was a great loss to the field of nuclear medicine, to his worldwide circle of friends, and, of course, to his family. He is survived by his wife and 2 sons.

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