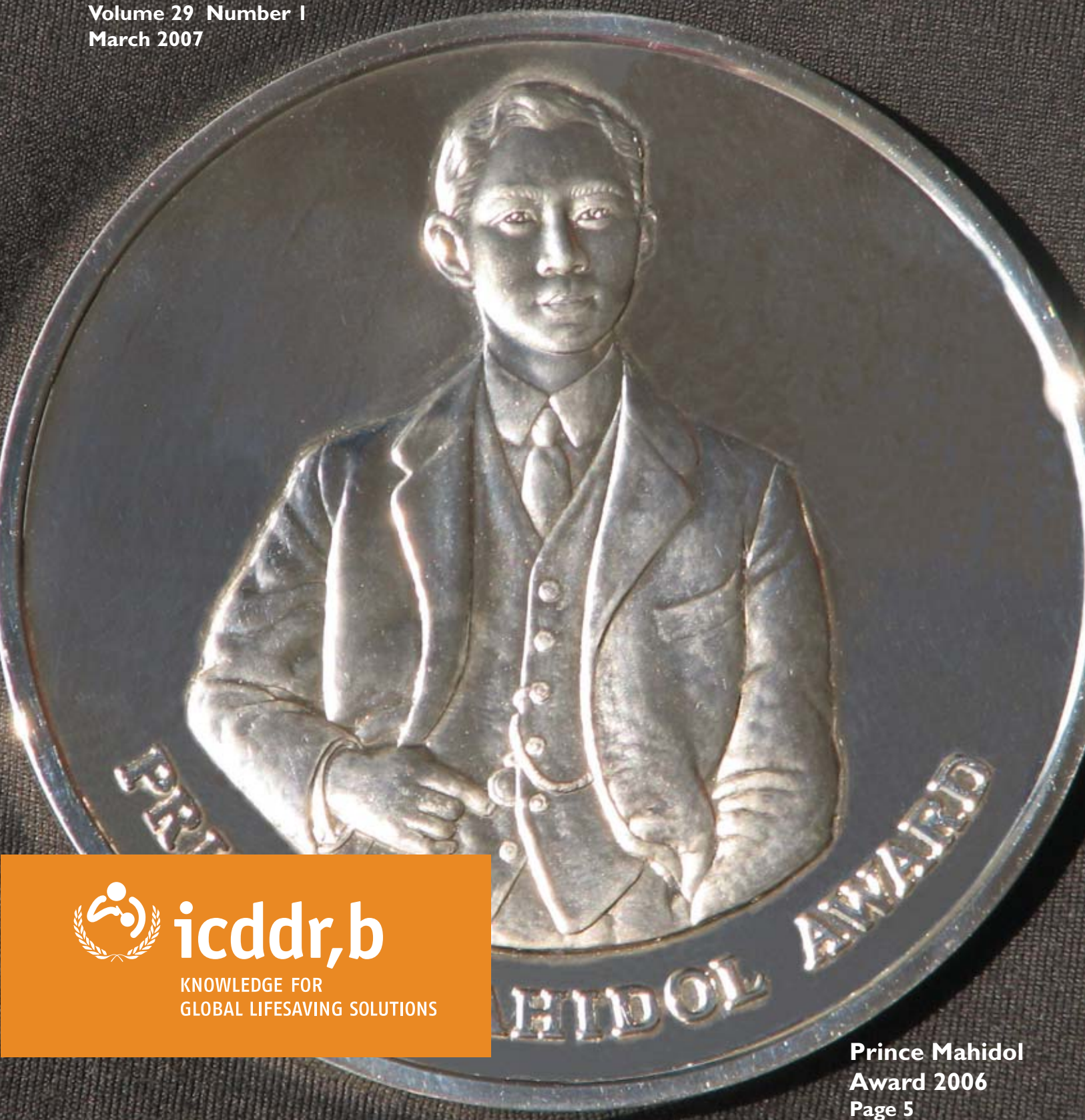


GLIMPSE

Volume 29 Number 1
March 2007



icddr,b

KNOWLEDGE FOR
GLOBAL LIFESAVING SOLUTIONS

Prince Mahidol
Award 2006
Page 5

Editorial Board

Asem Ansari, M Shamsul Islam Khan,
MA Rahim, David A Sack,
Peter Thorpe

Editor-in-Chief : Peter Thorpe
Editor : MA Rahim

Design, Desktop,
and Layout : Asem Ansari

Photography : Asem Ansari
Fakrul Alam
Rabiul Hasan

Printing and
Publication : Asem Ansari
MA Rahim

Publisher

International Centre for Diarrhoeal
Disease Research, Bangladesh
Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh
Telephone: (880-2) 8860523-32
Fax: 880-2-881 9133
882 6050, and 881 1686
Email: msik@icddr.org
Website: <http://www.icddr.org>

Printed at: Parallel Printers

Contents



Prince Mahidol Award to ICDDR,B alumni

Three former ICDDR,B scientists: Dr Richard A Cash, Dr Dilip Mahalanabis, and Dr David R Nalin, have been recently honoured for their important work on the development of ORS...

Page 5



ICDDR,B scientists awarded BAS Gold Medal and fellowship

We congratulate both Dr Firdausi Qadri and Dr SM Faruque and echo the voice of BAS Council: keep your spirit of hard work high and make more significant contribution...

Page 6



Black and White Ball 2007

Since 1992, the Black and White Ball has been an annual event of ICDDR,B to strengthen the Hospital Endowment Fund....

Page 7



Tribute to Dr. Stan D'Souza

ICDDR,B alumnus Dr Stanislaus D'Souza, an internationally-renowned demographer, statistician, and population researcher, expired in Belgium on 8 September 2006 at the age of 72...

Page 8



Major General Dr ASM Matiur Rahman (Rtd), Hon'ble Adviser to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, presenting his inaugural speech at the 11th ASCON

11th ASCON HELD

The 11th Annual Scientific Conference (11th ASCON) was held from 4 to 6 March at ICDDR,B, followed by the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Matlab Health and Demographic Surveillance System (HDSS). The Conference was co-sponsored by the Government of Bangladesh, the Royal Danish Embassy in Bangladesh, and the Mainstreaming Nutrition Initiative funded by the World Bank.

This conference is an opportunity to bring together scientists, researchers, health professionals, and other stakeholders from around the world to exchange their experiences, research findings, inferences, and suggestions on specific subjects of health and population research. This year the theme of the Conference was "Partnerships in Achieving the Millennium

Development Goals" and emphasized the research and interventions undertaken to achieve the goals of reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; controlling HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; and reducing gender inequality and empowering women by 2015.

In his message, Professor Terence H Hull, Chair of the ICDDR,B Board of Trustees, said, "the theme of the Conference could not have been more appropriate and relevant for these times.

While ICDDR,B is working towards achieving these goals as per the Centre's Strategic Plan, which encompasses a full spectrum prioritized in the MDGs, it is extremely important

to share our experience with others about where we are and where we plan to go..."

The inauguration ceremony of the 11th ASCON was held on 3 March 2007 at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel, Dhaka. Chief Guest Major General Dr ASM Matiur Rahman (Rtd), Honourable Adviser to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, said, "ICDDR,B is continuing their effort to disseminate their research findings to various stakeholders in Bangladesh health sector." He re-iterated that the Bangladesh Government is an active partner with ICDDR,B in its research to improve public health in the country." He was pleased that the 11th ASCON focused on issues relating to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.



Dr William Henry Mosley, Professor of the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, presenting the keynote speech

He also highlighted his Government's efforts towards achieving these goals within the targeted timeframe.

Dr Richard Cash, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, USA and His Excellency Mr Einer H Jensen, Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh were present as Special Guests.

ICDDR,B's Executive Director Professor David A Sack, Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 11th ASCON, welcomed the participants, and Dr Alejandro Cravioto, as Chair of the Scientific Committee, made the opening remarks at the inauguration ceremony.

Dr William Henry Mosley, Professor of the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA, presented the Keynote Speech on the occasion. In his speech, Dr Mosley presented a new idea on the 'production of health' in devel-

oping countries. He said, households and communities are the primary 'producers' of health, and not the hospitals, clinics, or doctors and other health facilities. Especially women, as caregivers to the household members, are the key persons for the production of health. All health-related research and interventions should be re-oriented keeping this fact in mind. Also, a re-orientation of the health system is necessary to link households and communities with care providers and managers of health facilities effectively so that resource allocation can truly benefit the health producers. Learning and awareness-raising programmes should reach the household and community levels, where nurturing of leadership through research, monitoring, and evaluation is important.

Other dignitaries who made their presentations at the plenary and special sessions include: Dr Michel Thieren, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; Dr Abdullah Hel Baqui,

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA; Dr Halida Hanum Akhter, Family Planning Association of Bangladesh; Dr Faruque Ahmed, BRAC; and Dr Sajeda Amin, Population Council, USA.

More than 500 participants from 15 countries attended the Conference. In total, 184 presentations were made in 4 plenary, 12 scientific and one special sessions. Dr Vani Sethi, Department of Foods and Nutrition, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, India, was rewarded for the best oral presentation and Dr Md. Sirajul Islam, Head of the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory of ICDDR,B, was rewarded for the best poster presentation.

The 11th ASCON opened a new horizon of interactions and sharing of knowledge among organizations and individuals concerned about multi-dimensional issues of development in the less-developed countries of the world. ■

ICDDR,B alumni awarded Prince Mahidol Medal for Public Health



Three former ICDDR,B scientists: Dr Richard A Cash, Dr Dilip Mahalanabis, and Dr David R Nalin, were recently honoured for their important work on the development of lifesaving oral rehydration solution (ORS) in the late sixties and the early seventies. Each of them individually received the 2006 Prince Mahidol Award from Thailand. This is one of the most prestigious awards that the Centre and its scientists have received in the recent past, including the first-ever Gates Award for Global Health in May 2001.

In addition to the award for public health, a separate 'award for medicine' was presented to Professor Stanley George Schultz in recognition of his research on sodium absorption, which provided an important basis for the discovery of ORS.

The medals were presented to the recipients in a ceremony presided over by His Majesty King Bhumipol Adulyadej of Thailand on 31 January 2007 at the Chakri Throne Hall in Bangkok, Thailand.

The award is named in honour of His Royal Highness Prince Mahidol of Songkla, who earned his Certificate of Public Health and his Doctorate in Medicine from Harvard University, and whose subsequent efforts to improve public health and medicine in Thailand earned him the title of

"Father of Modern Medicine and Public Health of Thailand."

The Prince Mahidol Award (for public health and medicine) is given annually to individuals, groups, or institutions that have demonstrated "outstanding and exemplary contributions to the advancement of medical and public health services for humanity throughout the world." The award is sometimes referred to as the "Nobel Prize for Public Health."

In his acceptance speech, Dr Cash thanked ICDDR,B for its "leadership and support" and expressed his gratitude to his Bangladeshi colleagues for their part in his early ORS research. Dr Cash also recognized the important continuing work of ICDDR,B in public health, stating, "the lab continues to this day to do excellent research in child health, family planning, and in other areas of global health."

ORS is estimated to have saved the lives of more than 40 million people around the world suffering from the dehydrating effects of diarrhoea since its first large-scale application in 1971.

Dr Cash and Dr Nalin worked together at ICDDR,B (then known as the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory) conducting clinical research demonstrating the effectiveness of ORS in

rehydrating diarrhoeal patients—their work forming an important basis for further development of ORS worldwide. While working at the Johns Hopkins International Center for Medical Research and Training unit in Kolkata, India, Dr Dilip Mahalanabis carried out the first field trial on ORS among millions of refugees taking shelter in India during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. Twenty years later, Dr Mahalanabis headed the Clinical Sciences Division of ICDDR,B in Dhaka.

Dr Cash is currently Senior Lecturer in International Health, Department of Population and International Health and Director of the Program on Ethical Issues in International Health Research, Harvard School of Public Health and is also on the faculty of the BRAC University James P Grant School of Public Health, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr Mahalanabis is currently a paediatrician in Kolkata specializing



Recipients of the Prince Mahidol Award 2006; three of them are ICDDR,B alumni

in gastroenterology and nutrition. Dr Nalin is the former director of the Vaccine Scientific Affairs, Merck & Co, Inc, USA. ■

BAS Gold Medal to Dr Firdausi Qadri and a fellowship to Dr SM Faruque

Dr Firdausi Qadri, Senior Scientist and Head of the Immunology Laboratory of ICDDR,B has been awarded the 2005 Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) Gold Medal for her research in biological sciences and for her excellent internationally-recognized research work and contribution to the well-being of people, especially in Bangladesh.



Dr Firdausi Qadri

Dr Qadri has been working at the Centre since 1988. She was Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry in Dhaka University after she had completed her PhD degree in 1981 from Liverpool University in the UK. Her current work at ICDDR,B includes: overseeing more than 100 staff members in the Immunology Unit involved in laboratory and field activities on vaccine-testing and disease-burden studies relating to enteric diseases. Dr Qadri has been a pioneer in the field of mucosal immunology in response to enteric pathogens, particularly *Vibrio cholerae* and enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*. She maintains her research and her laboratory at the highest level of excellence to equal other research institutions in the developed world. She has set up immunodiagnostic assays using monoclonal antibodies prepared in the hybridoma laboratory in her unit. She has helped stimulate research and design study protocols which focus and target the needs of infants and

children in the developing world. At present, two of her main interests are to better understand the poor immune responses of this group to enteric vaccines and to train students in the field of biological sciences. She has mentored a large number of students from Bangladesh and abroad.

Dr Qadri has more than 120 papers published in outstanding peer-reviewed journals; she is widely regarded at the international level as an expert in the field of mucosal immunology, enteric vaccines, and pathogenesis of enteric diseases. Collaborative research studies in her area of interest are now being carried out with scientists in different research organizations, including Göteborg University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Dr Shah M Faruque, Scientist and Head of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory of ICDDR,B, has been recently elected a Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences. Dr Faruque began his research career at the University of Reading in England, and conducted basic research in hormonal regulation of gene expression. He worked in the Department of Biochemistry, University of Dhaka, as an Assistant professor and later moved to ICDDR,B to head the Molecular Genetics Laboratory.

Dr Faruque's research focuses on addressing health problems in developing countries. His areas of interest include microbial genetics, molecular epidemiology, ecology, and evolution of bacterial pathogens, particularly those associated with diarrhoeal diseases. Although he has contributed significantly in understanding the epidemiology of *Shigella* and diarrhoeagenic *Escherichia coli* infections, his major contribution is in the epidemiology and genetics of *Vibrio cholerae*, the causative agent of cholera.

Dr Faruque has contributed extensively to the recent understanding of the epidemiology, transmission, and ecology of *V. cholerae* and has proposed models to explain the dynamics of cholera epidemics. Of more than 100 original and review papers in national and international peer-reviewed journals or book chapters, which Dr Faruque has authored, as



Dr Shah M Faruque

many as 10 have been published in PNAS, one of the top-ranking science journals. His findings have been highlighted and quoted in various scientific reviews and in important news media.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution, Dr Faruque was awarded the TWAS prize 2005 in Medical Sciences by the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World. He is also the first Bangladeshi researcher to be awarded the TWAS Award. This honour to Dr SM Faruque and more about him and his works were highlighted in the June-September 2006 Issue of Glimpse.

We congratulate both Dr Firdausi Qadri and Dr SM Faruque and echo the voice of BAS Council: keep your spirit of hard work high and make more significant contributions in the field of research. ■

Black and White Ball 2007

Since 1992, the Black and White Ball has been an annual event of ICDDR,B to strengthen the Hospital Endowment Fund (HEF). In 2007, the Ball took place at the Radisson Water Garden Hotel on 9 March.

The Dhaka Hospital of ICDDR,B, on average, treats 120,000 patients annually free of charge. Patients are mostly children with diarrhoea often associated with other complications. For

kind included: British Airways, SAGE Travels and Tours, The Travel Channel, Guide Tours Ltd., Gulf Environmental Technologies, Tarafdar & Co., Gulf Air, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Air India, GMG Airlines, Heritage Restaurant, Qatar Airways, Thai Airways, Epyllion Knitex Ltd., Grameen Phone, UNWA, UNOCAL Bangladesh, Cairn Energy Bangladesh, Contic, Partex/RC Cola, Sabir Traders, National Ware-

Events Committee, coordinated all activities and made the event a success. Dr Steve Luby, Head of the Programme on Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Sciences was Master of Ceremony for an approximately 400 guests.

In his speech, ICDDR,B's Executive Director Professor David Sack said, "ICDDR,B's lifesaving care is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at an



ICDDR,B's Executive Director Professor David A Sack, Mrs. Jean Sack, Ms Loretta Saldanha (Chair of the Events Committee), and Master of Ceremony Dr Steve Luby as key organizers of the Ball

many years, the hospital costs were met by donations from governments of the western world and other donor agencies. The Black and White Ball is one of a few initiatives to raise funds from the local businesses and individuals as well as expatriates living in Bangladesh. This year's Ball, sponsored by Standard Chartered, raised a total amount of US\$30,000. Other organizations that contributed in cash and

house, Tos Bond (Pvt) Limited, and many others. The events also included a silent auction of paintings, silver jewelry, and air tickets as well as a live auction. The Radisson Water Garden Hotel authority provided the evening's venue free of charge and arranged an exotic menu to go with theme.

Mrs. Jean Sack and her team, and Ms Loretta Saldanha, as Chair of the HEF

average cost of just US\$15 per patient treated. You can do the math; although the price per patient is low, the cost of running our Matlab and Dhaka hospitals is huge. We need your help to maintain this service..."

The evening was graced by a fashion show and lively music by a popular local band Parthibo. ■

Tribute to Dr Stan D'Souza

ICDDR,B alumnus Dr Stanislaus D'Souza, S.J., a Jesuit Priest and an internationally-renowned demographer, statistician, and population researcher, expired in Belgium on 8 September 2006 at the age of 72. He had worked with the Johns Hopkins International Center for Medical Research and Training in Kolkata, India and later at UNDP in Bangladesh, and then at ICDDR,B.

Dr D'Souza, was a brilliant student from his early Calcutta years, always

Belgium. He was a prolific author and contributed greatly to both science and non-science literature as well as philosophy. His last book "Ethical Approach to Population, Poverty and Conflict with Special Reference to Islam" was published in 2004.

Archbishop Henry D'Souza, younger brother of Dr D'Souza says: "Stan lived in a world of his own, which most of us never experience. It was a world of ideas, ideologies, and policies."

for recruiting him to join and then head the demography-related work at ICDDR,B in the late 1970s. Several years we worked together. I found Stan to be an outstanding statistician/demographer, always extremely careful about the scientific basis of his work. We were, as a consequence, able to co-author several papers together, especially those relating to gender balance in mortality and morbidity in Matlab....Stan had great intelligence, profound humility, and a hilarious sense of humour. He never advertised his Jesuit background but rather pursued his personal faith quietly. His tolerance of others was extremely generous....When Stan was in the Congo, Belgium, and other locations, he and I would reconnect, whenever feasible, to re-live the grand times of travelling and working in Matlab together. I am not surprised that Stan carried the burden of his illness quietly; he never made demands of others. He was a remarkable human being who led a remarkable life."



Dr Stan D' Souza (third from right) as Head of Matlab DSS (1980-1984) with the then colleagues

at the top of his class and did his Honours in Mathematics in College. He graduated from the University of Calcutta and had his PhD degree from Princeton University in 1971.

Dr D'Souza was the UN resident senior demographer in Bangladesh and consultant in many countries. While working as an Associate Director at ICDDR,B from 1980 to 1984, Dr D'Souza was involved in analyzing Matlab data with Michael Koenig, Jim Phillips, and Oona Campbell. He also worked with Dr Abbas Bhuiya, Lincoln Chen, and Susan Zimicki.

In the late 1970s, Dr D'Souza was Director of the Indian Social Institute in New Delhi. He also served on the faculty of Johns Hopkins University, was a long-term member of IUSSP, and acted as Coordinator for the Jesuit organization—International Population Concerns—based in Brussels,

Dr D'Souza lived a life of practical poverty and did not want his illness to be talked about. After his cancer was diagnosed he gave an impression that it was under control.

Professor Patrick Vaughan of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine wrote: "He [Dr D'Souza] was instrumental in my first ever visit to Bangladesh and ICDDR,B in 1979, when together we planned a two-week short course on programme evaluation to be given at ICDDR,B later that year. It was great fun and a stimulating experience....He also visited us at our home in London but was quite shy and kept his religious life quietly to himself...he was a wonderful demographer and a most humane and sympathetic Jesuit."

From Harvard University, Dr Lincoln Chen stated: "Stan and I were friends and colleagues, as I was responsible

Dr Abbas Bhuiya of ICDDR,B says, "I first met Stan in 1979 in response to his search for a research assistant while he was in his beginning year at ICDDR,B...He was a man with very strong feeling for the cause of the poor and the vulnerable. Most of his work was around poverty and disparities in health. He was a very meticulous professional; always striving for excellence. He possessed an extraordinary mentoring quality and was always helpful in finding avenues to higher training for junior colleagues. He left an enormous impact on the lives of many of us who had the opportunity to be around him."

Ms Loretta Saldanha and Sentu B Gomes who closely worked with Dr D'Souza, when he was Associate Director of ICDDR,B say: he was a man of principle and a great human being...

ICDDR,B pays a heartfelt tribute to Dr D'Souza for his humanitarian and scientific work and prays for the eternal peace of his departed soul. ■