



## Editors Note

**C**urrent Science intends to focus attention on important areas of science, where there has been a major contribution from India in recent times, by means of special issues. These issues are expected to provide a glimpse of the field as it is today, together with a perspective of earlier work. We hope to involve the international community of scientists in this endeavour. This issue, the first single topic issue in recent years, highlights the contributions of S. N. De to cholera research. In this undertaking the editors have been acutely aware of their lack of expertise in the field and have been greatly helped by published accounts of historical developments. Several people have made the publication of this posthumous tribute to De possible.

Amitabha Sen patiently answered numerous queries about De's life and work, helped us obtain much of the historical material on his illustrious colleague and co-authored with J. K. Sarkar the biographical article in this issue.

Joshua Lederberg's most gracious response to our invitation to contribute to this issue was a major factor in catalysing our activity. Unfortunately, W. E. van Heyningen, whom we would have very much liked to contribute, died late last year. We have been fortunate to be able to reprint excerpts from his book and would like to think that he would have appreciated this brief picture of cholera research and the tribute to S. N. De. We are deeply indebted to Simon van Heyningen, Richard Finkelstein, Jan Holmgren, Jyotirmoy Das and S. N. Chatterjee for their excellent contributions made in very limited time and for patiently responding to our many requests. We deeply appreciate John Craig's response to our late request for a contribution.

Jon Rohde, S. C. Pal and Hema Viswanathan accepted tight deadlines to present a perspective of current approaches to control of diarrheal diseases. Subbiah Arunachalam, Editor, *Indian Journal of Technology* (CSIR), not only supported this venture strongly, but also unearthed crucial information on attempts to honour De at the international level. Kamlesh drew the sketch of S. N. De which we have printed in many places of this issue.

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SAMBHU NATH DE (1915-1985)