



Notes

Presentation of second Professor S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal



Dr. N.C. Mehrotra, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany receiving the Prof. S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal and a citation from Dr. R.P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow.

The Palaeontological Society of India instituted a gold medal in 2004 to honour Professor S. N. Bhalla, a respected teacher and an internationally recognized micropalaeontologist who retired from active service in June, 2002 from the Geology Department, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Bhalla is not only a great researcher but also a gentleman gifted with an exceptionally pleasant and cultured personality which has inspired several generations of his students. A team of his students led by Dr. Rajiv Nigam decided to honour him by instituting a Gold Medal in his name to be awarded to any Indian national who has contributed significantly in the field of micropalaeontology. The PSI has taken the responsibility for awarding the medal once in two years. The first medal was awarded to Dr. S. C. Khosla of the Department of Geology, Udaipur University, Udaipur, Rajasthan for his contributions on the study of *Ostrococha* on 21st September, 2004.

The second Prof. S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal was presented to Dr. N. C. Mehrotra, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany on 1st March, 2007 in the presence of fellows of the Society and other eminent scientists and academicians by Prof. R. P. Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Lucknow. The ceremony was held in the K.P.Vimal auditorium and was presided over by Dr. B. S. Tewari, President of the Society.

Dr. Naresh Chandra Mehrotra is an alumnus of the Geology Department, University of Lucknow. After spending some time at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, he joined Oil and Natural Gas Commission in 1980 as palynologist and later worked there in different capacities. He headed the Palynology Laboratory from 1991 to February 2005 and subsequently joined the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany as Director in March, 2005. Dr. Mehrotra has successfully used

palynological information in hydrocarbon exploration. He has published a large number of papers both in national and international journals and has published four books. At present, Dr. Mehrotra is leading a very strong group of scientists and is making every effort for a meaningful contribution in the field of palynology. He was presented a gold medal and a certificate. The citation for the medal is as follows:

“Dr. Naresh Chandra Mehrotra, Director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany made valuable contributions in the field of Palynology and successfully used it in hydrocarbon exploration.

He along with his team developed dinocyst studies for establishing biostratigraphy as applied in reservoir level correlation. He integrated the pollen/spores and dinocyst data of the western off-shore and Krishna–Godavari basins with the sedimentological, well-log and seismic data to develop sequence stratigraphy. His work in the Cambay–Gulf region led to a better understanding of source, reservoir and cap rocks.

For his significant contributions in the field of palynology, Dr. N. C. Mehrotra is awarded the Dr. S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal for the year 2006”.

On receiving the award, Dr. Mehrotra thanked the Palaeontological Society of India for selecting him for this prestigious award and assured the scientific community that he will continue to strive hard to achieve excellence in his scientific pursuits.

Dr. Surendra Kumar
Convenor,

Committee for the award of Dr. S. N. Bhalla Gold Medal