

PROF. J.S. BAJAJ

**M.D., F.R.C.P.(Lond.),F.R.C.P.(Ed.),F.A.M.S., D.M.(h.c. Karolinska)
Hon. D.Sc.(B.H.U.); D.Sc. (h.c. MGR Med. Univ.);D.Sc.(h.c. GND Univ.)
Hon. D.Sc. (Madras); Hon. D.Sc. (Punjabi Univ.), D.Sc. (h.c. Univ. Health Sc; Andhra)**

**Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board, Punjab
Former Member, Planning Commission, Government of India
Emeritus Professor & Chairman, Academic Council,
National Academy of Medical Sciences
Honorary President, International Diabetes Federation**

BIODATA RESUME

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D.M. (h.c., Karolinska), F.I.C.P., F.A.M.S.
D.Sc.(h.c., Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Univ.)
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Hon. D.Sc. (Banaras Hindu University)
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Professor J.S. Bajaj is presently Vice-Chairman, State Planning Board in the rank of Cabinet Minister. Earlier, he had served as Member (Health), Planning Commission, Government of India, in the rank of Minister of State (1991-98) and steered the development of national policy and plans for population stabilization, environmental and public health, nutrition and medical education. He joined the Faculty of the AIIMS in 1966, and subsequently occupied the Chair as Professor (1979) and Head of Medicine. Recognized as a physician and diabetologist of exceptional merit, he was appointed Honorary Physician to the President of India (1977-1982) and again from 1987-92. He also served the Prime Minister of India as Consultant Physician from 1991-96. He was the first biomedical scientist ever to have been appointed as Member, Planning Commission in 1991, and had the unique distinction of serving the Commission for a long duration of more than 7 years, with the privilege to serve three Prime Ministers, who Chaired the Planning Commission during his tenure as Member.

Professor Bajaj has been recipient of many distinctions, awards and honours, national and international. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London as well as of Edinburgh, and of the National Academy of Medical Sciences. He is a Founder Fellow of the Indian College of Physicians. **In recognition of his outstanding contributions, he was decorated with Padma Shri by President of India in 1981, and with the coveted Padma Bhushan in 1982.** Indeed, he is the first diabetologist and endocrinologist of India to be so honoured. The citation at the award of Padma Shri recognized his contribution to innovative approaches to health planning and stated : *“....Prof. Bajaj has played a pioneering role in the conceptual planning and development of an alternate model of health care delivery system in Jammu and Kashmir which has made a discernible impact on the health and welfare of the people. His interactions with the health authorities in Paraguay, resulted in the initiation of a similar health care programme in that country.....”*. The citation at the award of Padma Bhushan recognized his professional excellence as well as his contributions to medical education and biomedical research : *“....Prof. J.S. Bajaj is an eminent physician, diabetologist and medical scientist of international repute. A leading research investigator in the field of diabetes, he has made original and outstanding contributions regarding the role of specific areas of the brain in the regulation of insulin release and glucose metabolism. His original research contributions, coupled with organizational leadership and conceptual planning of diabetes health care delivery systems, have won him several national and international awards.....”*.

Professor Bajaj was honoured by the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden when, at the time of its 175th anniversary celebration in 1985, Doctorate in Medicine (honoris causa) was conferred upon him. The citation presented on the occasion recognized Prof. Bajaj as **'a leading research investigator in diabetes'** and made a special mention of **'his most outstanding work concerning the role of central nervous system in insulin secretion, insulin dynamics in health and disease, and endocrinal and metabolic profile of malnutrition'**. The citation also recognized **'Prof. Bajaj as a leading exponent in the field of health manpower development for diabetes health care and advocate for the incorporation of diabetes in the newly emerging models of primary health care'**. He is presently the only biomedical scientist who has been so honoured.

His continuing contributions to medical education and research received further recognition when D.Sc. (honoris causa) was conferred upon him by the Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Madras in 1992. The citation read on this occasion mentioned **"With his outstanding professional achievements and significant research contributions, coupled with organizational leadership and conceptual planning of health manpower and health care delivery systems, Professor Bajaj can be rightly counted not only amongst the most eminent men of the country, but also as a highly reputed medical statesman with vision and courage"**. The citation presented at the conferment of D.Sc. (honoris causa) of the University of Madras in 1995 recognized **'his eminent position and attainments'**, and stated : **"For the growth and development of Indian Medical Science, Professor Bajaj has incessantly worked to bring about the axes between Medical Education and Medical Profession on the one hand and between Indian concerns and International pursuits on the other"**. In December 1996, he was awarded degree of DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (honoris causa) of University of Health Sciences, Andhra Pradesh. The citation presented made notable mention **'of his pre-eminent position amongst academic peers, of his distinguished achievements in the field of National health planning, health manpower development and health care delivery systems, of his ability to combine the national vision with international perspectives in medical science'**. The citation presented at the conferment of D.Sc. h.c. of the Banaras Hindu University in 1997 concluded : **"By conferring the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) of Banaras Hindu University on Prof. J.S. Bajaj, we are honouring an outstanding physician, and a dedicated and dynamic biomedical scientist who has done and contributed immensely in the field of medical education, clinical and experimental research, national health planning and health care delivery system"**. In 1998, the Punjabi University, Patiala conferred Doctorate in Science (honoris causa). The citation presented highlighted his most outstanding multifaceted contributions and stated : **"Prof. Bajaj is an outstanding physician, endocrinologist and diabetologist of India. His contributions in the fields of diabetes mellitus, medical education and health planning are internationally recognized. He was the main inspiration behind drafting of National Education Policy in Health Sciences. Prof. Bajaj has developed an integral approach in medical research, medical education and medical services. He has been the primal impulse behind conceptual planning, structural organization and implementation of innovative model for the delivery of primary health care programme. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of endocrinology, medical education and health care, the Punjabi University feels honoured and takes pride in conferring the Degree of Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) on Prof. J.S. Bajaj at its twenty sixth convocation....."**.

Professor Bajaj was the leader of the Indian delegation to the World Health Assembly, Geneva in 1993. He has served the World Health Organization on several occasions earlier; he was WHO Consultant to the Government of Bangladesh in 1977 and 1978, and to the Government of Sri Lanka in 1987. He was the Vice Chairman of the WHO Expert Committee on Diabetes in 1979, Co-chairman of the WHO Study Group in Diabetes in 1985, Chairman of WHO/IDF Steering Committee in 1986 and Chairman of the WHO Consultation on Efficacy and Effectiveness of Integrated Programme for Community Health in Non-communicable Diseases, Geneva, in 1987. He was Vice-Chairman of the WHO Study Group on Prevention of Diabetes, Geneva, in 1992. Prof. Bajaj was the Co-chairman of the WHO Meeting for Implementing National Diabetes Programmes held in Geneva on 30 May – 1 June, 1994. He has also served as WHO Temporary Adviser for the Special Programme in Human Reproduction, having been associated with several of its Task Forces, Steering Committees and the Scientific and Ethical Review Group. He was also Co-chairman of the Expert Meeting on Development of a Sectoral Strategy for Nuclear Medicine in Health Care in Asia and Pacific Region, Jakarta, 1-5th September, 1997, co-sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Professor Bajaj has been deeply interested in medical education since 1965. He was the first Sub-Dean of the AIIMS in 1972. He was appointed Chairman of the Expert Committee on Health Manpower Planning, Production and Management constituted by the Government of India, 1986, and served as Honorary Adviser in Medical Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from 1987-1991. As the Chairman of the Consultative Group constituted by the Government of India, he was responsible for preparing draft National Education Policy in Health Sciences which was subsequently endorsed by the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. He has served the National Board of Examinations (NBE) as Chairman of its Examination Review Committee, and subsequently as the Chairman of the Division of medicine and allied specialities. He was the President, NBE from 1994-97. He is President of the Indian Association for the Advancement of Medical Education, and was a member of the Executive Board of World Federation for Medical Education. He was the Chairman of the Expert Committee on Distance Learning in Health Sciences, Indira Gandhi National Open University; he was also the Chairman of the National Coordinating committee on Continuing Medical Education. He was elected President, National Academy of Medical Sciences in 1992, and steered the national continuing medical education programmes. He continues to serve the Academy as Chairman, Academic Council. As a tribute to his notable academic achievements, the Academy has recognized him as Academy Emeritus Professor. For his distinguished achievements as an outstanding Medical Educationist, the Management Committee of Dr. B.C. Roy National Award Fund selected him for the Senior Award under the category of '**Eminent Medicalman, for the year 1992**'. The President of India graciously conferred this Award on 4th December, 1993. The citation presented at the award ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi stated “*His most outstanding researches include the original work of Entero-Hypothalamo-Insular Axis, and Endocrinal and Metabolic Profile of Protein Calorie Malnutrition. His proposed classification of a separate category of malnutrition-related diabetes mellitus, with its two subtypes, has been accepted and incorporated in the new international classification of diabetes; the eponym of Bajaj's syndrome has been assigned to this entity by international bioscientists. The National Diabetes Control Programme is the outcome of his conceptual planning and organizational skills.....*”.

Professor Bajaj's interest in diabetes and endocrinology spans over nearly five decades. His most outstanding researches include the original work on Entero-Hypothalamo-Insular Axis, Insulin Dynamics in health and disease, hormonal contraception in the male, and Endocrinal and Metabolic Profile of Protein Calorie Malnutrition. Prof. Bajaj believes in an integral approach in medical research, medical education and medical services. He was responsible for the conceptual planning, structural organization and co-ordinated implementation of an innovative alternate model for the delivery of primary health care in Jammu and Kashmir. Under this programme, designated the 'Rehbair-i-Sehat Model', more than 4000 primary school teachers were trained to provide primary health care to the people in the remote villages.

Professor Bajaj has held offices of distinction in several national and international speciality and research organizations. He was the Honorary President of the VI Congress Latinoamericano de Diabetes (1986), of the 8th Asia and Oceania Congress of Endocrinology, Thailand (1986), and of the IV, V and VI World Congress of Diabetes in the Tropics and Developing Countries held respectively in Bangladesh (1989), Pakistan (1990) and Bombay (1993). He was elected as the President of the VII World Congress of Diabetes in the Tropics and Developing Countries held in Mauritius, in May, 1996. He is Honorary President, Diabetic Association of India and Past President, Endocrine Society of India.

Professor Bajaj was the first scientist from outside Europe and the USA to have been elected as the President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), in which capacity he served from 1985-88. He had the singular distinction of having been unanimously elected as Honorary President (for life) of the Federation in 1988. He also had the unique honour of serving as a Voting Member of the Executive Board of the IDF for more than two decades.

Professor Bajaj has delivered several prestigious national and international academic orations and guest lectures – eminent being Banting Oration, Hodgkin-Sanger Oration, Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar Centenary Oration, JRD Tata Oration, Taro Takemi Memorial Oration, Radhakrishnan Memorial Lecture, Lilly Lecture, Sir Edward Mellanby Memorial Lecture and Sir Alister McIntyre Distinguished Award Lecture. Prof. Bajaj has been the recipient of several medals, plaques and scrolls of honour including Masaji Takeda Medal for Medical Science and Health Care achievements, Japan, the Sir Alister McIntyre Distinguished Award Medal of the University of Kingston, Jamaica, the Gifted Teacher scroll of the Association of Physicians of India, and the Master Teacher plaque of the Indian College of Physicians.

He has been Visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer at several Universities in Europe, Bangladesh, Japan, Paraguay, Peru, Singapore, Thailand, USA, USSR and West Indies. In addition, he has delivered Convocation Addresses at the Dr. MGR Medical University, Tamil Nadu, the University of Madras, the University of Health Sciences, Andhra Pradesh, the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, and the University of Mumbai.

He has edited and published a number of monographs, and has more than 250 publications and research communications to his credit; some of these have been extensively cited in the literature.

