

Ali H. Rajput, O.C., S.O.M., M.B.B.S., FRCPC

Professor Emeritus Neurology, University of Saskatchewan

Room 1663, Royal University Hospital

103 Hospital Drive, Saskatoon SK S7N 0W8 Canada

Dr. Rajput graduated at the top of his medical class from University of Sind, Pakistan and did neurology training at the University of Michigan. He also earned Masters of Sciences in Neurology at the University of Michigan. He joined the University of Saskatchewan in 1967. He has pursued clinical practice, teaching, and research since then.

He spent one year sabbatical leave at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota studying epidemiology of movement disorders. During that year he established that Parkinson's disease would not come to a natural end after the population exposed to von Economo encephalitis passed away. He pursued several other epidemiological studies including early life environmental exposure and Parkinson's disease beginning at young age in Saskatchewan. He discovered that these patients were born and raised in rural setting and consumed well water during he first 15 years of life. In 1968, he established Saskatchewan Parkinson's disease clinic. It is the longest continuous running clinic in Canada and is regarded as one of the best in the country. The clinic focuses on longitudinal follow up, detailed assessment including movies and studies of brains from the patients to understand the underlying nature of disease and its various ramifications. One half of the brain is frozen for further studies. Because of this unique resource he has been able to attract leading international authorities to join to answer major questions on movement disorders. He has published extensively on his clinical, pathological, biochemical and genetic studies. He has published approximately 200 scientific papers. In addition to Parkinson's disease he has reported pathology on the largest number of cases with Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and largest number of essential tremor patients seen at one institution. The resource that he has built is widely recognized as the best in the world. Dr. Rajput is co-founder of Movement Disorder Group of Canada, Saskatchewan Parkinson's Disease Foundation, and was instrumental in development of annual TeleMiracle Program run by Kinsmen Foundation Saskatchewan.

He has received several professional and civic honours. He became the first clinician to receive Distinguished Researcher Award, University of Saskatchewan. He was awarded Distinguished Canadian Award by the University of Regina. He received Morton Shulman Award of Parkinson Society Canada for excellence in medical care and compassion for patients. Saskatchewan Medical Association identified four most important medical developments in the province during 100 years. One of those was the work of Dr. Ali H. Rajput. He was awarded Saskatchewan Physician of the Year for his leadership by example. He received honorary membership of Movement Disorder Society (International) for his scientific contribution to Movement Disorders and honorary member of Canadian Medical Association.

He has received several civic awards including the highest provincial and national awards – The Saskatchewan Order of Merit and Officer of the Order of Canada. He was chosen 2006 Saskatoon Citizen of the Year for his role as physician and community leader.

Dr. Rajput retired in 2002 from his University appointment but continues to pursue his clinical practice and research.