

## OBITUARY

Dr. Gurdip Singh Rawla was born on 11.11.1934 at Amritsar. He passed his B. Sc. (Hons. School) and M. Sc. (Hons. School) in 1956 and 1958, respectively from Department of Botany, Panjab University, located at Khalsa College Amritsar. He earned his Ph. D. (1962) under the guidance of Late Professor K. S. Thind and did an excellent work on the trace element nutrition of *Helminthosporium* spp. and also erected *Duosporium*, a new genus of mitosporic fungi which was published in American Journal of Botany. There after he served as an Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology for a brief stint at Punjab Agriculture University Ludhiana. His keen desire to work with Professor Thind and the passion to explore the Himalayas for fungi compelled him to relinquish his first assignment and join as Lecturer in Botany at Panjab University Chandigarh in 1965, where he served for 29 years and retired as Professor (Mycology and Plant pathology) and during this tenure he also remained Chairperson of the Botany Department. Throughout his service period he explored Himalayas for different groups of fungi particularly Agaricales and mitosporic fungi. He was a popular and helpful teacher and a straight forward person who always stood for the cause of the students. He also was a very active member of Botanical Society of the Department. He had been actively engaged in research with significant contribution in the field of taxonomy of Basidiomycetes and mitosporic fungi and nutrition physiology of fungi. Besides having written two books, he had authored over 125 research publications in the Journals of International repute, which include American journal of Botany, Transactions of the British mycological Society, New Phytologist, Nova Hedwigia, Mycotaxon and Feddes Reportorium. An awardee of young scientist's exchange fellowship to U. K. (1970), Professor Rawla was a fellow of The Indian Phytopathological Society, Indian Botanical Society and was Vice-President Indian Botanical Society (1994), besides being a member of several other prestigious scientific societies. He had guided more than fifteen Ph. D students. Some of his Doctorate students who occupied highest academic positions included Prof. S. S. Chahal (Vice Chancellor,



**Professor G. S. Rawla**  
(11.11.1934- 14.07.2014)

Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology) and Dr. S. Arya (Vice Chancellor, Kurushetra University and H. A. U. Hissar). Dr. G.S. Rawla left to his heavenly abode on 14-07-2014 and with this the mycology fraternity lost a devoted researcher and a guide. May his soul rest in peace. Prof. Rawla is survived by his wife (Dr. Mrs. K. Rawla, also a botanist), a son who is working as physician in USA and two married daughters who graduated in medicine and dentistry and are well settled.

**I. B. Prasher**  
Professor  
Department of Botany  
Panjab University Chandigarh