

Dr. Debraj Shome has been chosen for Colonel Rangachari Gold Medal Award and Hanumantha Reddy Award

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Dr. Debraj Shome is the Consultant Facial Plastic surgeon and Head, Institute for Aesthetic Surgery, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad

Dr. Debraj Shome has been chosen for the esteemed Colonel Rangachari Gold Medal Award and the Hanumantha Reddy Award for the year 2010 at the Annual Conference of the All India Ophthalmological Society, held in Kolkata. Dr. Shome will receive the award for his revolutionary paper "Non albumin containing nano molecule of Carboplatin in an adjunctive role in Retinoblastoma." Dr Debraj Shome is one of the youngest ever recipients of this award which bears testimony to the exceptional work being done by him.

Expressing his delight on being conferred these awards, Dr Debraj Shome, Consultant Facial Plastic surgeon and facial cancer expert, Apollo Hospitals, said "I am pleased, honoured, extremely humbled and grateful to my peers for choosing us for two of the most prestigious awards i.e. the Colonel Rangachari and the Hanumantha Reddy awards. Our multi-centric trials conducted during our research prove the excellence of Indian doctors and scientists. The findings of the research on the basis of which the awards have been incurred will help treat not only eye cancers but also brain cancers and other paediatric and facial cancers. "

Retinoblastoma (RB) is the commonest primary eye cancer with an incidence of 1 in 20,000 live births. "Approximately 1500 children in India get afflicted with this deadly cancer every year", said Dr. Shome. Most of the patients are younger than 2 years and rarely tumors presenting at birth with systemic metastasis (tumor spread all over the body) have also been described. RB may involve both eyes and involvement is usually asymmetrical in bilateral cases. Patients with bilateral retinoblastoma have historically been treated with eye removal. Dr Shome's research conducted by leading a multi centric trial of the best possible talent in India promises to shift paradigms in the treatment of this child killer.

In a landmark series of experiments, the group led by Dr Debraj Shome has come closer to treating neural and facial cancers better. "The rationale for using local (around the eye) injections of the carboplatin nano-particle developed by Dr. Jayesh Bellare from our team (Dr. Bellare currently works at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai) was to increase the concentration of the drug within the eye without incurring additional body toxicity from increasing intra - venous (blood) dosages. This was extremely successful and more than 60% of the children currently treated for the cancer may benefit from this new molecule. "

"These are the benefits of specialization in medicine and science which India is reaping the benefits of, currently. As science and medicine keeps getting more specialized, the individuals concerned are then able to push the frontiers further." said Dr. Shome. Dr. Shome is a Facial Plastic Surgeon, a small but a rapidly expanding specialty which deals with exclusively with all reconstructive and cosmetic surgeries for the face, including therapy for facial cancers, facial fractures or cosmetic surgery for people who want to look better. Dr.

*Shome also deals with non-surgical facial therapies including BOTOX and Juvederm injections and lasers for facial wrinkles and other state-of-the-art techniques for facial aesthetics.