

Brief Biodata of Meera Venkatesh

Meera Venkatesh graduated in Chemistry from the Bombay University in 1976, following which she underwent one-year training in Nuclear Sciences and Technology at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), a limb of the Department of Atomic Energy, India. She then joined BARC as a researcher in the field of radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals, where she worked for 34 years until 2011.

She was engaged in the research and development in production of radioisotopes in research reactors and their applications in healthcare. She obtained her doctorate degree in Chemistry from the Bombay University in 1987 and was a post-doctoral fellow from 1992-94 at the University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri, USA. Later in 1999, she served as a visiting professor at the same University.

Over the decades of service at the Department of Atomic Energy, India, Meera grew professionally to become the Head, Radiopharmaceuticals Division at BARC and Senior General manager at the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology, the commercial wing of the DAE, India. For her outstanding contributions in radiation and radioisotopes related technologies she received awards of excellence from the Indian Nuclear Society and from the Department of Atomic Energy, India.

In 2011, Meera was selected to serve as the Director of Division of Physical and Chemical Sciences in the Department of Nuclear Applications, at the International Atomic Energy Agency. In this role, she was responsible for the programs on radioisotope production & applications, radiation technology and nuclear sciences. She had a major role to play as the Scientific Secretary in the Scientific Forum on “Industrial Applications of Nuclear Technologies” held during the General Conference in the year 2015 and in the “IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Applications” held in Nov 2018, both of which were highly commended by the member countries and participants from around the world. She retired from the IAEA in 2019.

She has authored over 180 papers in International Journals, several book chapters and is an editor in 2 International Journals. She was an honorary professor in Chemical and biological sciences at the Homi Bhabha National Institute and a guide at the Mumbai University.

She has guided 13 students to obtain PhD degrees in either Chemistry or Biological Sciences from the Homi Bhabha National Institute or Mumbai University and is passionate about promoting peaceful applications of nuclear technologies.