



# UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

*Eleventh (11th)*

## Hasi Majumdar Memorial Lecture

to be delivered by

**Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis**

Director, Society for Applied Studies

on

**Oral Rehydration Therapy, a 'Simple Solution' :  
History and Global Application**

on

**Friday, February 28, 2014  
at 3.00 p.m.**

at the auditorium, Centre for Social Science and Humanities (CSSH)  
10th Floor, Sahid Khudiram Bose Siksha Prangan (Alipore Campus)  
1, Reformatory Street, Kolkata - 700 027

Senate House  
Kolkata - 700 073  
14.02.2013

**Sri Anjan K Dan**  
Estate and Trust Officer



## Hasi Majumdar



Hasi Majumdar was an intelligent, sharp and caring housewife from a feudal conservative benevolent upper middle class family in East Bengal (Dhamrai, Dacca). The annual endowment, "Hasi Majumdar Memorial Oration on History and Philosophy of Medicine and Science" has been established in the University of Calcutta by a generous donation of her eldest living son, Dr. Sisir K Majumdar (at present residing in London), an alumnus. The donor lost his mother at the age of eight.

## Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis

Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, a pediatrician and a clinician scientist was born in 1934 in East Bengal, now Bangladesh. After obtaining his degree in Medicine in 1959 from the Calcutta University, he took training in Pediatrics at Medical College, Calcutta, Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children, London and Johns Hopkins University, USA. On his return, he joined the team of researchers from the Johns Hopkins University International Center for Medical Research & Training in Calcutta which was responsible for the early seminal work on Oral Rehydration Therapy for diarrhoeal diseases. He conducted the first definitive field trial of Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) under the most difficult field situation during a massive outbreak of cholera among the millions of Bangladesh refugees taking shelter in India in 1971. This work formed an important basis for the Global Programme of Diarrhoeal Diseases Control of WHO and UNICEF with ORT as the entry point to save lives and promote prevention measures which saves millions of lives among children globally. He joined WHO (Headquarters) in Geneva as a Staff member in 1983 and was responsible for promoting ORT globally, particularly for its acceptance by both the profession (Pediatricians) and the people. In 1988, he joined ICDDR,B in Dhaka, an International Health and Population Research Centre, as the head of Clinical Sciences Division and led a large research division for 7 years and provided leadership to a team of scientists conducting clinical and nutrition research on topics of public health importance. In 1994 he was elected a member of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** which is directly responsible for awarding three of the five Nobel Prizes. He was awarded **Pollin Prize in Pediatric Research** in 2002 by the University of Columbia and Cornell, USA, and **Prince Mahidol Award in 2006** in the field of Public Health for his contribution on the development and implementation of Oral Rehydration Therapy. He was awarded **D.Sc. (Honoris Causa)** by the **Vidyasagar University, India in 2012**. He has established a Research Institute (Society for Applied Studies) now designated as a **WHO Collaborating Centre for Child Health**. Recently, this Institute has developed Purulia Model of Sick Newborn Care to reduce neonatal mortality rate in developing countries which is being replicated in several countries by UNICEF.

