

Editorial

S Mahadevan, Chief Editor

Starting last year, several changes were introduced in the publication of *Resonance*, including the collaboration with Springer to co-publish the journal. While the impact of these changes is being assessed, this year also we are introducing several new initiatives to enhance the journal's appeal to students and teachers. In a novel section Face to Face, *Resonance* will feature conversations with personalities in science, which will attempt to highlight the factors and circumstances that motivated them to take up science as a career. These discussions will provide the reader with a first hand account of the thrill and excitement of doing science. In the first article of this series, C Ramakrishnan, the colleague of the legendary G N Ramachandran, discusses with Sujata Varadarajan, the background to some of GNR's great discoveries and his own role in them. Another new series entitled Snippets of Physics by T Padmanabhan will discuss different conceptual issues in physics. The aim of both series is to take the readers beyond text book facts and we hope that they complement the other popular features of the journal. Though every effort is made to improve publication standards, a serious problem faced by the journal during recent days is a paucity of good articles. As this is the lifeline of the journal, I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to all those who are interested in pedagogy, both from India and abroad, to contribute articles to *Resonance*.



The scientist featured in this issue is David Perkins, a geneticist belonging to the same class of legendary greats such as Morgan, Dobzhansky, and McClintock, who passed away in January last year. Perkins along with his wife Dorothy Newmeyer and colleagues carried on the landmark work of Beadle and Tatum in *Neurospora*, which firmly established the link between genetics and biochemistry. With his death and that of Dorothy Newmeyer four days later, the world lost two of the last great classical geneticists. A true *karmayogi*, Perkins epitomized openness, simplicity and single-minded devotion to science. In the words of his colleague Maheshwari, Perkins worked with the conviction that the pursuit of knowledge is a community enterprise and regularly provided the *Neurospora* community with a variety of tools in the form of strains and methodologies. Most fungal geneticists considered a visit to his laboratory a pilgrimage. In this issue, Raju and Maheshwari share their experiences and impressions of their Guru. In a scientific world marked by competition and jostling for credit, Perkins was a remarkable exception, a true Gandhian in many ways.