



**NATIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
GKVK, BELLARY ROAD, BANGALORE**

SPECIAL LECTURE

***“Language of the senses
and the
scientific theory of Ayurveda:
Understanding Ayurveda in its own terms”***

By

**Indudharan Menon
Visiting Scholar, NCBS**

Friday, December 9, 2011

at 4:00 p.m.

in the Ground Floor Lecture Hall (LH1)

Host: Soumya James

ALL ARE WELCOME

Note: Vehicle leaves for NCBS at 3.15 pm from the parking bay in front of the main library in IISc and at 5.45 pm from NCBS to IISc.

Abstract

The objective of this talk is to contribute to a better understanding of traditional Ayurveda's universe of discourse and its theories regarding health and the mechanism of disease. The observation and understanding of natural phenomena since prehistoric times have played an important role in the emergence of Ayurveda as a system of medicine. The talk will focus on Ayurveda's use of the language of the senses to construct a theory of disease and pharmacology. Ayurveda's explanation of the functioning of the complex system that is the human body will also be elaborated. Some of the concepts in Ayurveda that can be relevant to modern life sciences and medicine such as the influence of emotional states, food, environment and biorhythms on disease, convalescence and well being will be discussed. Since the last century significant modifications have taken place in Ayurveda's methodology, medicines and educational system. Traditional physicians think that its original frames of reference are being neglected and its practices reduced to simplified versions. So issues related to modern Ayurvedic practice and scientific standards will be touched upon.

About the speaker

Indudharan Menon has studied Indian philosophy and sciences with traditional scholars and practitioners in various parts of India and Nepal for the past 35 years. He has studied with the Ashtavaidyas of Kerala and practiced with different kinds of traditional healers. He has extensively researched Indian manuscripts in private and public collections and analyzed Indic manuscripts for the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies project. He has initiated ethnobotanical research projects involving Vaidyas and European scientists. He is also the author of a study on Buddhist yoga. He is a member of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta and delivered the 3rd N.C.Lahiri Memorial lecture on Indian astronomy and sciences. Since 2009 he has been a visiting scholar at NCBS researching and documenting Indian healing traditions for its Science and Society program.