



The Kshanika Oration Award was instituted in 1977 by Dr.K.N.Sen, former Professor of Medicine, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata to be given to eminent women scientists for their meritorious work carried out in any of the branches of Biomedical Sciences.

The award for the year 2006 was Dr. Molly Jacob, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Christian Medical College, Vellore for her work on “Pathogenesis of small intestinal & renal toxicities due to Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)”. Dr. Molly Jacob’s work represents advances in the field of NSAID induced enteropathy and nephropathy, well recognised entities that occur in response to this group of drugs. The work done by Dr. Jacob and her group has shown that in addition to the effects on enzyme cyclooxygenase, NSAID-induced uncoupling and inhibition of mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation occurs in the small intestine and the kidney. It has been postulated that oxidative stress and mitochondrial dysfunction are important in the pathogenesis of the adverse effects produced by these drugs in these organs. Hence inhibition of cyclo-oxygenase by NSAIDs is not the sole mechanism by which these drugs cause adverse effects. In addition, she has also studied the role played by bacteria in NSAID-induced enteropathy. Therefore, the improvement of understanding of the mechanisms of adverse effects of NSAIDs and strategies to reduce damage would help improving patient’s compliance in the use of these drugs.