



BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE

Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell

on the occasion of the receipt of the
AWARD OF OFFICIER DE L'ORDRE NATIONAL DU MERITE 2008
conferred by the
President of the French Republic, Mr Nicolas Sarkozy





* CITATION FROM THE AWARD OF OFFICIER DE L'ORDRE NATIONAL DU MERITE 2008
CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, MR NICOLAS SARKOZY

"THIS AWARD ACKNOWLEDGES YOUR GREAT MERITS AS A PROMINENT FIGURE IN THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD AND IN THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP OF YOUR COUNTRY, AS THE CREATOR OF AVESTHAGEN, A MAJOR COMPANY IN INDIA IN THE AREA OF BIOTECHNOLOGIES. IT IS ALSO A TRIBUTE TO YOUR COOPERATION WITH FRENCH SCIENTISTS, YOUR NUMEROUS AND FRUITFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH MAJOR FRENCH INDUSTRIAL FIRMS, AND TO THE AFFECTION YOU HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS EXPRESSED FOR OUR COUNTRY." *

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Viloo Morawala-Patell | Founder, Chairperson & Managing Director, AVESTHAGEN LIMITED

Educational Qualifications: B.Sc. Osmania University, Hyderabad; M.Sc. Bombay University, Mumbai
Ph.D. University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France; Post Doc. University of Ghent, Belgium

AVESTHAGEN is globally recognized as a leading systems biology company with a unique model focused on the convergence of food, pharma and population genetics. A convergence that leads to continuous and path-breaking innovations in predictive, preventive, personalised healthcare.

Dr. Patell started her professional career at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) at Hyderabad in 1978. She worked on projects on the biochemistry of nitrogen fixation in legumes, standardizing a screening technique for drought tolerance, and on Heat Shock Proteins in Millet and Sorghum, amongst other projects.

Dr. Patell's Ph.D. studies in plant molecular biology at University Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France, on Fundamental aspects of the plant mitochondrial genome, coming face to face with the role of each nucleotide and its importance in cis-, trans-, splicing and RNA editing, ignited a passion to learn and manage this information and develop new products. The Ph.D. was followed by 9 months as a post-doc at the Ghent University, Belgium, working with scientists from all around the world, that really sparked off her entrepreneurial spirit. She then returned to India with an idea rooted in her mind – to create a platform that would bridge Academia and Industry. Thus was the seed sown that would give birth, a few years later, to Avesthagen.

On her return to India, she established herself as an independent scientist and principal investigator working from the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS) with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation and subsequently at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) in Bangalore with a grant from IFCPAR, the Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research.

Dr. Viloo Morawala-Patell experimented with different models on how best to create a sustainable innovation platform for the nation. In 1998, she registered Avesthagen as a public-private model as perhaps the best way to build an innovation model. The public-private model found few takers from Academia, Industry, and Financial Institutions. The need for speed in gearing for the 2005 opening up of India to WTO, was the trigger to go solo and to create a full private entity, Avestha Gengraine Technologies Pvt. Ltd in early 2000.

A year later, ICICI Ventures, Global Trust Bank and Tata Industries invested 8 crores in the company, which had now settled in its new laboratories in the International Technology Park at Whitefield. This was only the beginning. Since then Viloo has ceaselessly worked to build the company and raised significant international funding, attracting foreign investors and partners who saw a potential in the young Indian biotech sector and particularly in this fast growing company with its promise of innovation in predictive, preventive, personalized healthcare and environment-adjusted crops and nutritionally-enhanced seeds for agriculture. Avesthagen now has 650 employees. Foreign investment stands at 31% today. Investors recognized that Avesthagen was unique.

Most Indian biotech companies survive by doing reverse engineering or contract work. Dr. Patell set out to give Avesthagen a strong focus in innovative R&D in diverse areas such as bioAgriculture, bioNutrition, bioPharmaceuticals. Today, the company has a portfolio of 350 patents filed, it continues to build and intensify its intellectual property through product commercialization. Dr. Patell has built a "Business of Science" and developed a new model of "Science of Business" to deliver products from ideas. Collaborating with several giants of global industry has also been one of Dr. Patell's far-sighted endeavours. Avesthagen has fruitful partnerships for co-development and research, with Cipla for bioPharma development and manufacture, a tie-up with France's Groupe Limagrain (the largest seed company in Europe) to create new varieties of seeds, with bioMerieux for diagnostics and alliances with Groupe Danone, and Nestle Nutrition and Godrej Industries. Dr. Patell is a much sought after speaker at national and international events and conferences, and has given presentations at The Harvard University, at Stanford University and the The Kellogg Business School.

Dr. Viloo Morawala-Patell was born on 18 June, 1955 in Navsari, Gujarat and grew up with her parents Dara Dinshaw Morawala and Daulat Sorabji Kasad, brother Mahiyar, and sister, Bakhtawar in Nizamabad, Telangana District. She went to boarding school at age 6. In 1978, she married Zareer, a jazz pianist, son of Dr. Rashida Reporter and Mino Patell, and has two daughters Farah, aged 26, and Sanaya, aged 24. They are both Ph.D. students at the University of Cambridge, UK and have recently joined Avesthagen as Board Members.

HONORS and AWARDS

AVESTHAGEN LIMITED has received awards from:

Institute of Economic Studies (IES) 2005 – Excellence Award

Red Herring 100 Asia Winner 2006 for Disruptive Innovation

DR. VILLOO MORAWALA-PATELL has received the following:

AWARDS

Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell was felicitated with the prestigious 'Karmaveer Puraskar' as a 'Corporate Citizen' for her contribution in the field of agriculture and healthcare in Nov 2009 by iCONGO for Citizen Action and Social Justice.

Outstanding Zarathushti Entrepreneur Award from World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce 2009

Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell has been recognised by the Adolfo Ibanez University for her achievements in innovation and creation of value. This award was conferred upon her at the opening of VentureL@b by the president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet. Nov 2008

Award for being a Parsi Entrepreneur par Excellence by the Mumbai Parsi Punchayet – Aug 2008

Astitva Award' for Excellence in Science and Technology presented by the 'Zee-Archana Astitva Awards – Aug 2008

Awarded the 'Officer of the National Order of Merit' by the President of the French Republic – Feb 2008

Kerana Tuhan Untuk Manusia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Indian Council For Small and Medium Exporters (ICSME)

The BioSpectrum Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2006

The Outstanding Women Entrepreneur for the year 2005-06 from FICCI

The GR8! Women Award for Science & Technology by The Indian Television Academy – 2005

The Ojaswini Udyamita Alankaran Award by Ojaswini – 2004

L'Oreal of France Award for 'Women in Science' in 2004 (pour les Femmes et la Science)

MEMBERSHIPS

Advisory Board Member of the Global Health working group for the Clinton

Global Initiative 2008

Part of International effort to sequence Rice Genome

Member of the New York Academy of Sciences

Member of the Plant Protein Club, York, UK

Member of The Greater Mysore Chamber of Commerce

Member of Association of Seed Industry

Member of American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS)

American Society for Plant Biologists (ASPB)

Member of the Advisory Board for Biotechnology at Mysore University

Key Member of Task Force & Vision group of Biotechnology instituted by

Government of Karnataka

Founding Member of ABLE

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

USAID, Grant, 2005

New Millennium Technology Leadership Initiative, Grant, CSIR, Govt. of India, 2004

SPREAD, World Bank-ICICI Bank Grant, 2004 DFID Grant, UK, 1998

Indo-French Grant from CEFIPRA, France, 1998

The Rockefeller Foundation Grants (4 Grants), 1995-1999

Post-Doc Fellowship from the University of Ghent, Belgium, 1994

Fellowship from CSIR, Govt. of India, 1993

The TATA Merit Fellowship, India, 1990

Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France, 1989

*“I’ll continue to derive
from history, leverage
geography and use
technology to deliver
business.”*

Dr. Viloo Morawala-Patell
Founder, Chairperson & Managing Director
AVESTHAGEN LIMITED

FORBES ASIA, November 2007

Whether she's wooing investors, building a patent portfolio, critiquing multinational pharmaceutical firms or tackling hereditary diseases in her native community, Avesthagen Founder, Chairperson and Managing Director, Viloo Morawala-Patell brings a unique mix of dynamism and intellectual verve to the table.

Nature Biotechnology, Volume 25, Number 7, July 2007



A scientist's place is in the fields! – Villoo Patell.

Viloo Patell is Technical Assistant to Tetsuo Matsumoto and is working on an interesting project – allantoin and nitrogen fixation in groundnut as well as pigeonpea and chickpea. She enjoys field work as she learns more but confesses that 'sometimes the heat gets you.' She has her M.Sc. in Microbiology and plans to continue to a Ph.D.

“In school, I used to sit on a chair and push it behind to find the tipping point where it would topple.

In life, I always push myself to find the tipping point.”

Dr. Villoo Morawala-Patell
Founder, Chairperson & Managing Director
AVESTHAGEN LIMITED

A Treasury of Quotations, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management



A TIMELINE of Key Events in the last Seven Years





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