It is with great pleasure that I present to you this citation for Professor Ruby Pawankar who is one of the world's outstanding leaders in the field of allergy and allied disorders. A clinical scientist with extraordinary enthusiasm and commitment to her discipline on the world stage, she has worked tirelessly to drive forward high quality evidenced-based care in a field of increasing trends worldwide. Ruby Pawankar was born of a Syrian Christian family in Kerala that runs one of the leading publishing houses in India. Her grandaunt, Dr. Mary Punnen Lukose (1886-1976) studied medicine in Aberdeen, was the first lady surgeon of India and the first woman to be appointed surgeon general of an Indian state.

Ruby Pawankar received her medical training from India’s premier medical school- The Armed Forces Medical College, Pune India and completed her residency and post graduation at BJ Medical College in Pune. In 1991, with the help of a Rotary Fellowship, she moved to the Nippon Medical School and Juntendo University School of Medicine in Tokyo, Japan where she earned her doctorate and postgraduate training in Allergy & Clinical Immunology. She has remained in Japan for the last 22 years and is a permanent resident of that country. She is currently Professor of Allergy in the Department of Paediatrics.

Throughout her career Ruby has pursued the cellular and mediator mechanisms of allergic disease with a particular interest in allergic rhinitis and asthma especially the role of mast cells and, more recently, the epithelium in sustain the allergic inflammatory response. In 1997 she was among the first to show that mast cells in perennial allergic rhinitis exhibit increased expression of the IgE receptor as well as being a major source of the obligatory pro-allergic Th2 cytokines interleukin IL-4, and IL-13 capable of driving local allergen-specific IgE synthesis by B lymphocytes and has formed the basis of the successful therapeutic targeting of these cytokines with biological therapeutics. Her research and educational activities have been strongly translational including epidemiology, health economics, comorbidity, quality of life, severe allergy, immunotherapy and treatment adherence. With over 200 peer reviewed publications and an h index of 34; her research is at the forefront of the specialty. Of special significance is her leadership in the 6 volume book Allergy Frontiers. However, it is her leadership in the World Allergy Organisation (formerly the International Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology) that stands out as being truly outstanding. After many years as a Board of Director, Treasurer, and President Elect, Ruby has been President of WAO since January 2012. During this time she has transformed the image of allergy with many activities and conferences too numerous to mention. Under her leadership WAO is a thriving international federation of 93 regional allergy societies with the public health impact of allergy at the forefront as described in the second edition of the WAO White Book on Allergy.
An Indian woman who has achieved such academic and clinical status in a Japanese University is an achievement in itself. However, in addition to many prizes and awards she has received in Japan, Ruby’s achievements have been recognised by the International Award of Japanese Association of University Women, International Distinguished Fellow Award of the American College Allergy Asthma Immunology, as well as Honorary Lifetime Recognition Awards from Thailand, Poland, Argentina and Canada. In 2010 she received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, the highest honour conferred to overseas Indians, conferred upon her by the President of India exceptional contributions to medicine.

Our College is justly proud of the role it plays in the advancement of new knowledge in the medical specialities and its translation into patient benefit worldwide. Ruby Pawankar has displayed extraordinary energy, resilience and commitment to advancing her speciality of allergy. She represents a beacon of excellence in India, Japan and across the world. President and Fellows, it is an honour and a privilege to present Professor Pawankar for Fellowship of our Royal College.