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## In memoriam: Rajiv P. Dant

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On 4 July 2015 the community of franchising scholars lost one of its most prominent leaders. Rajiv Dant left behind an unsurpassed body of work that will provide the foundation for future research in franchising and channels of distribution for many years to come, but more importantly his energetic and unselfish mentorship of so many of our colleagues will ensure that his legacy will live on with the next generation of scholars.

Rajiv had a rich and productive career as teacher, scholar and administrator. Rajiv received his BA and MA from the University of Bombay and his Ph.D. in 1986 from Virginia Tech. He served on the faculties of the University of Mississippi, Boston University, Clarkson University, the University of South Florida and most recently as The Michael F. Price Chair of Business at the University of Oklahoma, where he was director of the Marketing and Supply Chain Management Division. His research included the publication of more than 50 peer reviewed articles on franchising and channels of distribution in leading marketing, entrepreneurship and management journals. He was an excellent teacher at all levels but most loved working with his doctoral students. He served the discipline with unbounded energy, chairing conferences and serving on the editorial boards of eight major journals and as co-editor of *Journal of Retailing* from 2008.

It is hard to think of Rajiv as no longer calling with his latest idea or not being able to bounce ideas off him or to ask his help in sorting out the logistics of some upcoming conference. Rajiv was a close friend and co-author to many of us and it is bitter sweet that we had just enjoyed his company at the International Society of Franchising Conference in Oviedo only a few short weeks before his untimely passing. He died doing what he loved, working with young scholars while visiting at Griffith University in Australia. He will be sorely missed by all, and our thoughts and prayers remain with Neelam and Trisha for their terrible loss.

Patrick J. Kaufmann