

## OBITUARY

### PROFESSOR MAN MOHAN SINGH



Professor Man Mohan Singh, who passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2010, just two days before his birthday, was a father figure to many respiratory physicians in India. Dr Singh was born on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1928 at Lucknow. He passed his M.B.B.S. with honours from the famed King George's Medical College, Lucknow in 1951. He opted to specialise in tuberculosis and chest diseases and passed his D.T.C.D. and M.D. (Tuberculosis) also from the same institution. In fact, he was the first M.D. in Tuberculosis from King George's Medical College. Although, he was brought up in Lucknow, he chose to make Delhi the arena for his life-long battle against the scourge of tuberculosis. He first worked as a Senior Medical Officer at the Tuberculosis Clinic, S.P. Marg, better known as "Pili Kothi" and subsequently in 1959, was appointed as the first State Tuberculosis Officer of Delhi. In 1969, he assumed charge as the Medical Superintendent and Senior Consultant in Chest Diseases of the Rajan Babu Tuberculosis Hospital (RBTB), Kingsway Camp, which is the largest tuberculosis hospital in Asia. He took voluntary retirement in 1985 to take charge as the Director of the renowned New

Delhi Tuberculosis Centre (NDTB), managed by the Tuberculosis Association of India. He formally retired from the NDTB Centre in 1989.

Dr Singh was a well known figure in the academic world. The RBTB Hospital was a part of the training programme for the DTCD students of the University of Delhi who were allotted to the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute. When the Institute started the MD (Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases) of the University of Delhi in the late 70s Dr Singh and RBTB Hospital played an important role. He was also appointed as Honorary Professor by the University of Delhi. He was a much sought after examiner and was appointed in several universities. He was honoured by academic bodies with their orations which included the prestigious Raman Viswanathan Oration of the National College of Chest Physicians (India) [NCCP (I)]. He was the recipient of fellowships under the Colombo Plan as well as from the World Health Organization. He authored scientific articles which were published in esteemed journals and also presented many papers in conferences in India as well as abroad.

Dr Singh played a central role in the NCCP (I) where he was the Secretary for several years and was also the President. He looked after the Finance Committee and the North Zone. In 1999, he was instrumental in getting together the two academic bodies of respiratory medicine in India which resulted in the joint conference of the NCCP (I) and the Indian Chest Society (ICS) known as NAPCON.

Dr Singh was the force behind the Delhi TB Association as well as the Tuberculosis Association of India (TAI). He was deeply involved with the Delhi TB Association for nearly half-a-century and was the Vice-Chairman of the TAI. He played a key role in planning the annual conference of the TAI and was a familiar face at conferences until very recently.

For many years, Dr Singh was an Editorial Board Member of the *Indian Journal of Chest Diseases and Allied Sciences* published by Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi. When he took over the editorship of the *Indian Journal of Tuberculosis*, he made it his mission to get the journal indexed with Index Medicus/Medline. He succeeded in getting the more than 50-year-old Journal indexed which was a major feather in his cap. He remained the Editor until his demise.

In 1965, Dr Singh received training in tuberculosis control under the Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA), Japan. He spent 6 months in Kekkaku Kenkyo Jo, Kiyoshi Shi, Tokyo. On return, he established the OTCA Alumni Association and was the Founder Secretary of the Association. He headed the re-named JICA Alumni Association of India (JAAI) as the President for two terms. For his distinguished contribution towards furthering Indo-Japan relations, Dr Singh was honoured by the Government of Japan with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. It is the second most prestigious Japanese decoration after the Order of the Chrysanthemum. The honour was presented to Dr Singh by H.E. Mr Yasukuni Enoki, the Ambassador of Japan to India, on behalf of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Dr M.M. Singh was a doyen in the field of tuberculosis to which he devoted more than half-a-century of his life. He will be remembered and missed by all those associated with the speciality of pulmonology in India.

**Ashok Shah**  
Editor

