OBITUARY

Dr. Burjor A. Bharucha, Professor of Paediatrics and In-charge, Genetic Clinic at the Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital, Mumbai died of massive myocardial infarction on October 11, 1998.

Dr. Bharucha was born in Mumbai on 21st September, 1935. He had an illustrious undergraduate and postgraduate medical career securing distinctions in various subjects and winning several prizes, awards and gold-medals. After securing his M.D. in Pediatrics, he opted for full-time career at Seth G.S. Medical College and K.E.M. Hospital and remained a committed teacher till the end.

He was the backbone of Genetic Clinic and Pediatric Research Laboratory of the hospital. The clinic is one of the prominent centres in Asia dealing with genetic and inherited metabolic disorders and degenerative diseases. His opinion on such matters was sought by many pediatricians and specialists all over the country. He was the co-convenor of the Genetics chapter of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics from 1988 to 1991.

He presented several papers at various conferences and had over 75 publications in national and international journals. He authored chapters in textbooks and was referee for Indian Pediatrics. He was an excellent reviewer of several of the articles referred to him by Indian Journal of Pediatrics. He was invited for delivering lectures at various symposia, conferences and workshops. He assisted various voluntary bodies like the Spastics Society of India and Commonwealth Association for Mental Handicap and Development Disabilities (CAMHADD) in an advisory capacity. He organised the first National Seminar on Wilson's disease at the K.E.M. Hospital in June, 1996 and was a member of the steering committee of the National Centre of Wilson's disease, observation and management (WISDOM).

He was also actively involved in breast-feeding promotion. He was a founder member of Breast-feeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) and was a National Assessor and Trainer for Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI).

He was a member of the Executive Committee of Mumbai Branch of Indian Academy of Pediatrics for five years. He also served as the Electoral Officer of Indian Academy of Pediatrics for many years. He was a prominent figure at the National Conferences of Indian Academy of Pediatrics. He will be remembered for the unique manner in which he conducted the finals of the undergraduate IAP Pediatric Quiz at these conferences.

He was always ready to help his students with their problems, academic or personal. His students respected him for his commitment, dedication and knowledge and his peers and gurus valued his opinion. Everyone will miss the warmth and affection with which he greeted them.

May his soul rest in peace.

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