

Write up on LATE DR. SAROJ GUPTA



Born: Calcutta, December 5, 1929.

Passed Away: Calcutta, 21st May, 2010

His parents Mr Satya Charan Gupta & Mrs Patita Pabani Devi resided in North Calcutta as a middle class family. He later resided in ancestral land at Behala Sakherbazar, South Calcutta.

Academic Qualifications :

- * MBBS - University of Calcutta, 1955
- * DMRE - University of Calcutta, 1961
- * DMRT - Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons, England, 1963
- * DMRD - Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons, England, 1964
- * FRCR - Royal College of Radiologists, England, 1965.

Professional and Academic Attachments :

1. **Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital :** Joined in 1956. Took voluntary retirement in 1980 while serving as Consultant Radiotherapist.
2. **Ramakrishna Mission Seva Prathisthan :** Joined in 1965 as a Consultant Radiation Oncologist.

3. **Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences** : Professor & Head of the Dept of Radiation Oncology and Radiology.
4. **Calcutta Medical Research Institute** : Consultant Oncologist.
5. **Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute, Thakurpukur** : Founder, Director, Hony Secretary and Head Dept. of Radiation Oncology & Nuclear Medicine. This is a philanthropic organization with comprehensive facilities of Cancer Diagnosis & treatment for all classes of people, with focus on underprivileged patients. It is now a 311 bedded one of the leading Modern Cancer Hospitals of India recognized by UICC & WHO & after his passing away has been renamed after him as `Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre & Research Institute`.
6. **University of Calcutta** : Ex-Reader, Examiner, Convenor and Guide for PhD Thesis for MD Examination in Radiotherapy.
7. **University of Dibrugarh, Assam** : Paper setter, Examiner & Adjudicator of Thesis for MD & PhD in Oncology.
8. **University of Bombay** : External Examiner for MD (Radiotherapy) Examination.
9. **Diplomate National Board, Delhi**: Examiner and paper-setter for various years in Radiotherapy
10. Visiting Radiotherapists at many hospitals including CMRI, Kothari Medical Centre, Belle Vue Clinic, Woodlands Hospital, St Mary`s Nursing Home

Thesis and Fellowship Works done under Dr. S. Gupta :

1. Clinical evaluation of Ewing`s Sarcoma treated by Radiotherapy : by Dr. Abhijit Basu, MD, (Radiotherapy) Thesis submitted to the University of Caclutta in December 1981.
2. Clinical studies in Bronchogenic Carcinoma : by Dr. Shyamal Sarkar, MD(Radiotherapy) Thesis submitted to the University of Calcutta in December 1982
3. Early detection of bony metastases in Breast Cancer by Gamma Scintiscan and the assessment of the degree of palliation by Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy by Dr. G. Bhattacharjee, MBBS, DMRT. This project won a Senior Fellowship of Lady Tata Memorial Trust Scholarship Scheme in 1984.

4. Screening Programme for Early Detection of Gynaecological Malignancies with special reference to Carcinoma of Cervix in the Rural Population of SE 24 Pargs. By Dr. M.N.Bandyopadhyay. This Project has subsequently won an ICMR Grant.
5. A Study on Proteolytic Activity and protease Inhibitors associated with malignancy- by Mrs. Julie Bhattacharya MSc. This work has also won ICMR grant.
6. Efficacy of EEG-alpha feedback, GSR feedback and Progressive Muscle relaxation Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy by Sri Subir Bandyopadhyay of the Dept. of Psychology, University of Calcutta. This project is also supported by an ICMR grant.

Achievement Awards & Honours :

Recipient of several awards, some of which are-

1. **“The Man of Calcutta”**-(1979) Awarded by the “Young Men Welfare Society” at the exposure “Just World”.
2. **“Padmasree”** (1987) by the PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA.
3. **“Rathindra Puraskar”** Visva Bharati University (1987-1988).
4. **“Sheriff”** of Calcutta, 1989.
5. **Hony DSc** from Burdwan University- **1993**
6. **Service above Self Award** from Rotary International, **1995**.
7. **Life time Achievement award** from Nehru Children`s Museum, Kolkata, 2004.

Recipient of several Awards and Orations- Felicitations from several Authorities. A few are mentioned below :

- a) Bengal Obstetric & Gynaecological Society (1984)
- b) Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal (Dr. S.K. Biswas Memorial Oration) 1987.
- c) Bengal Radiological Association.
- d) Durgapur Gynaecological & Obstetric Society (1988) (Sm Jayanti Banerjee Memorial Oration)
- e) Indian Medical Association, Howrah (Dr. B.N. Sett Memorial Oration) (1987)

- f) Indian Medical Association, Garia (1987).
- g) R.G. Kar Medical College (Dr. H.K. Chatterjee Memorial Oration) (1987).**
- h) South Calcutta Doctors Club (Dr. C.R.Dasgupta Oration) (1987).
- i) Indian Medical Association, Silchar (1988).
- j) S.E. Railway Doctors Club (Dr. C.R. Dasgupta Oration) (1988).
- k) All India Annual Convention of I.M.A (Sir Nilratan Sarkar Memorial Oration) (1990).**
- l) Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Oration, 1991.**
- m) Guest lecture at Cromwell Hospital, London in 1997.**
- n) Guest lecture at Oxford University in 1997.**
- o) Sir Ronal Ross Oration, IPGMER, 1999.**
- p) Oration at 1st SAARC Conference on Clinical Oncology, Dhaka (2001).**
- q) L N Banerjee Oration at SASICON, Kolkata (2005).**

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS :

Many presentations and Publications both National and International, some notable are-

1. Roll of Mitomycin C in advanced carcinoma (1974) Majumder A P & Gupta S. :
Proc.XI International Cancer Congress, Florence, p.370.
2. Malignant tumours in children – a study of 365 cases. (1974) Gupta S.: Ibid p.458.
3. Role of High Dose Rate Brachytherapy in developing countries (1985) Gupta S.:
Proc.VIII International Congress in Gynaecological Malignancies, Pattaya.
4. Screening in rural areas of India for early detection of Carcinoma of Cervix : Ibid (1985).
5. High dose rate Intracavitary irradiation for the treatment of Carcinoma of Cervix at
Cancer Centre and Welfare Home, Calcutta (1987) : Int'l Strategies for the Eradication of

Carcinoma of Cervix in Developing areas, Eds Mould And Bose, Adam Hilger, Bristol and Philadelphia. P.63-64.

6. Post operative application of HDR Selectron for Carcinoma of the Cervix. (1987) : Ibid, p.65-66.
7. Radical Radiation for Stage III Carcinoma of Cervix – A preliminary Review (1987) Ibid. p. 77-78.
8. **Board of Editor and contributed an article on Tumour Immunology in the book `Clinical Immunology`, pg 1355- 1358, published by Oxford University in 2003.**

OTHERS:

1. Founder, Director & Hony Secy, Cancer Centre Welfare Home & Research Institute, Thakurpukur, Calcutta. This is a voluntary organization which runs mainly on public donations, providing cancer care to all strata of the society at nominal cost. There are 20% free beds, 50% General beds for underprivileged people and all consultations in the OPD are free. It is now considered as one of the leading, fully comprehensive cancer hospitals in India with 280 beds. Also the Director, Secretary and Head of the Dept. of Radiation Oncology of this centre. Dept. of Atomic Energy, Government of India, has recognized this centre and has established its second Regional Radiation Medicine Centre here. In 1991, this hospital received the National Award of “**Best Managed Hospital in India**”.
2. Pioneering a movement for establishment of various Cancer Detection Centres in Eastern India. Such centres in the following places are already operational : Tarakeswar, Silchar, Barasat, Barrackpore, Durgapur, Uluberia, Asansol, Raniganj and Ghoshapur. Other centres are cropping up fast. The National Cancer Control Board, Dept. of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India, have extended their co-operation in this effort.
3. Member, National Cancer Control Board, Govt. of West Bengal.
4. Member of the Management Committee, Indian Cancer Society, Eastern Zone.
5. Faculty Member, M.D.(Radiotherapy) and DMRT, University of Calcutta.

6. Member of the PhD Committee on Cancer Research , University of Calcutta.
7. Member, Editorial Board, Indian Journal of Cancer.
8. Vice- President, Indian Association of Cancer Chemotherapy.
9. President, Association of Radiation Oncologist of India (National and State chapters).
10. Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Vivekananda Institute of Medical Sciences, Calcutta.
11. Past President, Bengal Radiological Association.
12. Member, Board of Directors, East India Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
13. Member, Board of Directors, Peerless Hospitals Trust.
14. Past President of Rotary Club of Behala.

Life Membership:

- Association of Radiation Oncologists of India
- Indian Society of Clinical Oncologists
- Rehabilitation Centre for Children
- Association of Voluntary Blood Donors

Other Interests:

Vocal Music, Music composition, Film Direction, Table Tennis, Story writing.

Actively involved in the creation of documentary films on cancer based on his stories. Five documentary films on cancer were produced by WHO under his guidance. Two of these were sponsored by National Cancer Control Board, Dept. of Health & Family Welfare. Govt. of India. The notable directors were Sri Gautam Ghosh & Sri Raja Sen.

A compilation of 10 of his short stories and dramas was released posthumously on 21st May, 2017 (his 7th anniversary) in Nandan by eminent Artist Sri Soumitra Chattopadhyay.

A great human being with a fine sense of humour, down to earth always ready to help. He had helped innumerable people in different ways silently. So many awards and accolades had never touched him. He was a great clinician and was one of the first few to give Cancer treatment a great boost in early 1970s.

Moved by the plight of poor cancer patients who didn't get space in the only cancer hospital Chittaranjan Cancer Hospital, he decided to build up a small cancer hospital in the middle of nature at the suburbs of Calcutta in 1971. His dream came true when one of his patients donated

him a piece of marshy land in Thakurprukur. He formed a society with a group of likeminded philanthropists. The first fund came through a drama `Karkat Lagna` which was written by him where he himself acted as a poor patient from a remote village who failed to get a bed in the city hospital. His tears brought tears to all the people present there, and helps started trickling in. Since then many people from school children to sportspersons and celebrities had helped this organization in different ways, moved by the tremendous efforts of Dr Saroj Gupta to do something for the society especially the under-privileged cancer patients. Under his leadership this centre gradually became a 280 bedded fully comprehensive modern cancer hospital and Research centre set in wonderful ambience to soothe the minds of the suffering patients and their relatives.

With his sad demise a great era in the field of Oncology, and a wonderful human-being come to an end, although his legacy will perpetuate through his creations and his Vision and Mission of serving God by serving the suffering Humanity especially the underprivileged.