Prof. Kshitish Chandra Das passed away due to massive myocardial infarction on the morning of 11th February 2015. Dr Das was born on 1st March 1933 in undivided Bengal. With him India lost one of the doyens of haematology in this country. Prof. Das was like an itinerant Indian Guru. His one remark, even though sarcastically made, did put many of his students in the right course of life. He has produced many haematologists of repute spread across India and in all continents by his inspiring lectures on haematology. He was one of the founder members of the Indian Society of Human Genetics and pioneer in establishing cytogenetics in this country.

As Head of the Department of Haematology at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, where he worked between 1965 to 1985, he made it a best centre for haematology. His students were very fond of him and liked his affectionate and aloof qualities. As a scientist he was one of the leading workers in haematology research, especially in megaloblastic anaemia. He spent a large part of his career at Kuwait University establishing a very successful and busy haematology department and developed MRCPath training programmes.

During his Commonwealth Fellowship at Royal College of Pathologists of London, London he worked with Prof. A.V. Hoffbrand on folate transport mechanism across lymphocyte membranes and the role of Vitamin B12 coenzymes in the facilitation of the process and vice versa.

Many of his 140 research papers were published in the British Journal of Haematology.

He established a simple radio assay for vitamin B12 binding proteins using haemoglobin coated charcoal, DEAE and QUSO-G32. As early as 1979 and in 1982 he strongly recommended developing a haemopoietic stem cell transplantation set up at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

He developed an animal model of tropical sprue in the rhesus monkey with Prof. S.K. Mehta from the Department of Gastroenterology.

Using ³H thymidine uptake inhibition assay he developed a chemosensitivity assay for leukaemic cells. He established factor VIII assay techniques.

In his family life Prof. Das was a happy man. His wife (our Boudi) worked as Professor of Sanskrit language in Govt. College at Chandigarh and his two daughters Dr. Monalisa and Dr. Monisha are well-established doctors at Canada and USA.

He has mentored us like a real Indian Guru and always relished the success of his students. India has lost a great haematologist and we have lost our great guru. May his soul rest in peace.

Kanjaksha Ghosh, MD FRCP FRCPath
National Institute of Immunohaematology, 13th Floor, KEM Hospital, Parel, Mumbai -400012, IN DIA
e-mail: kanjakshaghosh@hotmail.com