Obituary

“Dr. Balswaroop Choubey, ex Professor and Head Department of Medicine and Dean Government Medical College, Nagpur, Director South-East Asia Region, Royal College, London died on 19th November 2011 at Nagpur of chest infection. He was 77 years old.

Born on 2nd June 1934, in a small township of Washim, Vidharbha, Maharashtra, he joined medical college Nagpur as an undergraduate student, in the year 1952, having topped the entrance examination. From that point there was no looking back for him. He completed the graduate studies, topping all the three medical examinations and went on to obtain MD (Internal Medicine) of Nagpur University in the year 1960. He joined the department of medicine as lecturer and steadily progressed to become head of medicine department. He ended his career as Dean of the Medical College, Nagpur from 1982-1992. He has served as dean medicine faculty of Nagpur University, the executive council and academic council member. Dr. Choubey was recipient of commonwealth scholarship in 1964 when he worked under Sir John Crofton at Guy’s hospital, London. During the same period he successfully obtained MRCP, London. In 1969 he worked with Sir de Wardener, at Edinburgh U.K. He was a recipient of FRCP in 1990, was honoured with FAMS in 2000, and Padmashri in 2009.

He has to his credit many achievements such as establishing the first nephrology unit in Central India, development of super-speciality hospital and research institute, establishment of epidemiology unit under Rockfeller foundation, USA, and successfully organizing APICON at Government Medical College Nagpur.

Gifted with a high level of intelligence, sharp mind, unparalleled clinical skill, an unlimited aptitude to read and learn, he became a clinician of unparalleled skill, a visionary, and a teacher par excellence. A strict disciplinarian, he had great devotion, dedication and passion to teach. He was fortunate to have grooming under excellent teachers like Prof. J. N. Berry, Prof. R. Nigam, Prof. P. K. Devi, and Dr. Balakrishnan who imbibed in him the culture of devotion to work, patient care, ethics, and teaching. Post retirement he continued to be the doctor of the poor, often not only waiving his fees, but also helping the patients with money for their treatment.

Dr. Choubey was not all work and no play. He loved good literature, going to movies, attending parties, and social functions. With his ready wit he would be the life of such parties.

Dr. B. J. Subhedar one of his teacher said – “He had an exceptional aptitude for any medical student. He was a topper all the time”. Daughter-in-law Smita said “He would be missed badly by his grand-children whom he dearly loved”. Dr. Abhay Bang recalled how he got an incomparable explanation about Parkinson’s disease from Dr. Choubey in ten minutes time and no other explanation he read matched his”. One can go on …..

About himself Dr. Choubey’s heartfelt wish was to be remembered more as a teacher than as a doctor.

In his death Dr. Choubey leaves behind a legion of grateful students and motivated teachers. He lives in through them.

He is survived by his wife Pramila, son Sameer and two daughters Sarika and Swati and grand children.

Dr. Surendra Suryawanshi, Dr. V.R. Joshi