Obituary

Tribute to Professor P. K. Mohanta
(1961 - 2006)

Dr. Pradeep Kumar Mohanta, Professor Radiotherapy, Maulana Azad Medical College and Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi is not with us anymore. He passed away on 3rd October, 2006. His sudden demise has left a big void, which will take years to fill. He was born on 4th February, 1961 at Nakit Simra, a village in, P. S. Raighar, District Nabarangpua, in the state of Orissa. This was a remote village with no electricity or modern facility. He overcame this handicap and become the first matriculate of the area. He graduated from S C B Medical College, Cuttack in 1987. Thereafter he joined house job in AIIMS and waded his way into MD Radiotherapy course. He was last PG student of Professor Urmil Sharma, the then Dean, AIIMS. He completed post graduation in 1991. Thereafter he continued as senior resident under Professor G. K. Rath at department of radiation oncology, IRCH, AIIMS, New Delhi. He was selected as Assistant Professor by the UPSC and joined as faculty in MAMC and LN Hospital, New Delhi on 5th October, 1994. He got promoted to his current position of Professor on 5th October, 2002.

Dr. P. K. Mohanta was well known in the academic sphere. Many students had completed thesis under him. He had to his credit a sizable number of publications. He had special interest in radiobiology. His study “Indian Ewing’s sarcoma” won award at International Congress of Radiation Oncology organized by ISRO at Melbourne, Australia. He had completed advanced course of medical statistics. He was member of courses Committee of Faculty of Medical Sciences, Delhi University. He was an examiner for Delhi University, DNB Course and many other institutions. He acted as an expert for selection of commonwealth fellowship and UPSC for selection of faculty post. He often appeared as expert on the All India Radio, Delhi for popular health programme.

He was a self-made person, with the habit of speaking his mind unambiguously. He had the uncanny ability of steering away from controversy. During his journey he has made friends only. He was a jovial man with carefree attitude; who has impressed one and all with his persona. His curious nature was reflected in the way that he always began his conversations with “Aap mujhko bataiye to sir”. Once he started pondering over a problem, he continued to pursue it, till he had full grasp on it. His keen interest in research, earned approval of a project from UGC for which he was to start work soon.

My bond with him was deeper than that of a professional relationship. We often sat across and sipped tea together. It seems only yesterday when we gathered for a function at his residence. It is an irony that a person who has helped so many patients to regain life, had to depart so early. He has left behind wife, a daughter and a son. Such persons do not go away, they survive by their deeds in the heart of colleagues, students and patients.

God may rest his soul in eternal peace and give strength to his family to overcome their grief.