

## **To Sir, With Love.**

Extremely saddened by the demise of our beloved teacher, mentor and guide Prof. AK Banerjee Sir. He was the first MD post-graduate of our department (joined the department in 1963 as a resident and later continued as faculty). Sir was instrumental in building the department and giving our department, its, so many 'firsts'. Sir was the person behind introducing coloured photography for gross organ pictures and later the digital format in our department. I had the fortune of being a junior resident under his tenure close to his retirement.

He was a teacher par excellence, known for his intellectual prowess, his sharp memory and astute diagnostic skills. Above all he was a great human being, full of humility and straightforwardness.

He was a doyen of Neuropathology, and could well be called as one of Fathers of Neuropathology in India. He is from pre-molecular era of neuropathology when morphology reigned supreme and I believe his love for non-neoplastic neuropathology far outweighed the neoplastic topics. And I remember that gleam of uneasiness in his eyes, when the molecular markers got introduced and later integrated with morphology.

Over the years I found behind his stern exterior a kind and helpful heart. He had an unusual charm and charisma, that we all residents idolized him, wanted to follow and emulate. A keen follower of current affairs he was very tech savvy and his memory both for academic and non-academic subjects was phenomenal. He led a very disciplined life and had impeccable punctuality that often used to put us to shame.

His ability and sincere efforts to keep in touch with generations of residents graduating from the institute was remarkable and was reciprocated with reverence by his students all over the world.

His desire to learn was so inspiring, that even after his retirement he would keep track of the CPC cases discussed in our LT1, every Wednesday. He would often call me to discuss the pathology findings post these sessions, and would share his experience with similar or somewhat similar case. Sir and I shared this passion for photography and our conversations would often drift into 'how to take picture of this organ/brain/finding better and more presentable'!! and I would wonder would anyone else think it that way....well Sir simply loved his subject.

And as others describe him- "he symbolized a 'Gharaana' in Pathology as we use the term for musicians". And its an end of an era !! There is so much to learn from him and the list is endless.

**He leaves behind such a rich legacy and will always be remembered for his professionalism, ethics and values that he always swore by. He will live on forever in our memories and our hearts. We miss you Dear Sir !**

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