

## OBITUARY: PROF BR THAPA



**Feb 10, 2021:** It was indeed a very sad day for all of us in the ISPGHAN fraternity. The passing of Dr. Thapa has touched and grieved the hearts of all, those who knew him well as well as those who were admirers at a distance.

Everyone has to die. It is an inevitable fact. It is only the details of how one lives and dies that distinguishes people from one another. The heartache everyone is going through stems from the fact that we all feel that Dr. Thapa has left the mortal world too early. He was just 68. However, from another perspective: don't you think, life is like a movie? It is the quality not the length that matters! Dr Thapa was born on March 13, 1953, did his medical schooling from Jammu Medical College and joined Paediatrics at PGI as a resident. He became a faculty in Paediatric Gastroenterology on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1981, rose to the Head, Department of Paediatric Gastroenterology in 1998 and even served as Head of Gastroenterology from 2015 to 2018 before superannuating.

His contribution to the field of Paediatric Gastroenterology is immense and is hidden from none; We all have been witness to his enthusiastic participation in conferences as well as his numerous publications. But that is not what set him apart. It was his humility which was striking. So unassuming and mild was his demeanour.

His real strength was his patients. He had the rare quality of making an instant connect with them. The sense of service was ingrained in his blood. He would have arranged for the treatment of hundreds and thousands of patients using the resources of the elite known to him. He was a Radha Swami follower and implemented the teaching of the seat, to the letter, in his day to day life. More than 80% of our ward used to be poor free at any given time and he would manage to convince the administrators of the correctness of his policies.

Another facet was his eagerness to teach. He would literally have held the hands of hundreds of residents teaching them to feel that elusive spleen or discern a doughy abdomen from a normal one. He was rewarded by a remarkable fan following from amongst them. Their heartfelt posts upon his demise truly reflect their love for him. It is awe inspiring indeed. I salute him.

He remains a winner in life as well as after life!! It is not the years in your life but the life in your years that is important! And he lived a full life! As they say the song has ended but the melody lingers on.

I am sure he is happy and content wherever he is because I believe there is only one aim in life; to love and be loved: and he achieved that to the hilt. Life I believe is eternal and death is only a horizon. And a horizon is nothing but the limit of your vision.

He leaves a legacy for all of us to live by and to emulate. May he have eternal bliss. Let us celebrate his life by inculcating some of his inimitable qualities, his humility and his passion to serve!

Om Shanti.

**Dr Sadhna B Lal**

*On behalf of the Division of Paediatric Gastroenterology  
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