



**EMERITUS DIR. PROF. DR. K. C. MOHANTY**

*(18<sup>th</sup> June 1940 – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017)*

Dr. K. C. Mohanty was a towering multi-talented figure who actively fought against Tuberculosis in his lifetime, a doyen of and a leading light to many of the TB workers in India. Originally hailing from Orissa, he graduated from S.C.B. medical college, Cuttack in 1962 and came to Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1964 to continue his studies where he was awarded Diploma in Radiology and Diploma in Tubercular Diseases from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1966 and 1968 respectively and M.D. (Tuberculosis) from the University of Bombay in 1970, following which he was appointed as Honorary TB specialist at the Group of TB hospitals, Sewri and Professor at the department of TB & Chest diseases at Grant medical college and Sir J. J. Group of hospitals in 1972. He became Professor and Head of the department at Grant medical college in 1977, Director Professor in 1989 and continued to head the department till 1999. During this period, he was examiner and inspector of TB and Chest diseases at several universities and institutions across the country, including the University of Bombay and Delhi and the National Board of Examinations, besides being a mentor, guide and examiner to four generations of medical students, many of whom went on to head the departments of TB & Chest at medical colleges and institutes across the nation. After his retirement from Grant medical college, he joined the department of TB & Chest diseases at the K. J. Somaiya medical college, Mumbai as Director Professor & Head in 1999 and continued to serve till 2014. It was here that he established the first TB ward and DOT centre under RNTCP in a private medical college.

He founded the Mumbai district anti-TB society and the TB clinics under the Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi and Muslim ambulance society trusts, Mumbai offering free TB treatment services with second line anti-TB drugs since 1972. He was President of the Maharashtra state anti-TB association and organised several state conferences on TB. He was a pillar of strength to the TB association of India for decades and served it in various capacities, being its President, Standing technical committee Chairman and Organising President of NATCONs. He was also former Scientific Advisor to National Tuberculosis institute, Bengaluru and the Tuberculosis research centre (now N.I.R.T.), Chennai. In 1980, he organised the first large-scale comprehensive educational programme on TB at Grant Medical college, Mumbai where 32 speakers, the who-is-who in India in Tuberculosis & Chest diseases at that time delivered lectures which were published and released by the late Dr. S. P. Pamra. He designed & prepared panels for 20 point health education programme on TB and was recognised by WHO as one of the intensive workers to propagate TB Control on World TB Day 1977. As early as 1983, he submitted a comprehensive plan for TB control in India to the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi which was subsequently implemented in phases.

In the battle against TB, he was a General who led from the front for five decades and treated and cured more than 25 lakh patients of Tuberculosis in his lifetime. His most pioneering contributions were the introduction of Ciprofloxacin (1989) and Meropenem with clavulanic acid (2010) as anti-TB drugs, the efficacy of immunomodulators, especially levamisole and immunoglobulins in TB, the efficacy of partially supervised TB treatment and the integration of TB-HIV health services. He also scripted and produced a 35 minute film on “TB- The number one killer”. He participated at the first TB shibir (camp) under his teacher the late Prof. Dr. M. D. Deshmukh in 1969 and since then organised more than 5000 shibirs. Aware that Tuberculosis was slowly losing importance in the advancing field of Respiratory medicine, he championed the cause of TB, always encouraging his students and several young Chest Physicians to work for TB control. He was the recipient of several awards, including the “Par-excellence achievement award for extraordinary contribution for TB control in India” (1995), “TAI-Dr. R. C. Jain lifetime achievement award” (2014) and “Bhishma-Pitamah of TB control in India” (2015) by the Tuberculosis association of India,

“Prof. M. M. Singh lifetime achievement award” of National College of Chest Physicians-India (2010), “Lifetime achievement awards” of People’s health organisation (2012) and the AIDS society of India (2014), “Gifted teacher award” of Association of Physicians of India (2015) and the “Son of India award” (1994). In acknowledgement of his pioneering contributions, the TB association of India instituted the “TAI- Dr. K. C. Mohanty award” for the best research paper in Non-tubercular Respiratory diseases and the “TAI-Dr. K. C. Mohanty shield” for the best performing state in RNTCP in India at national and zonal levels, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bombay instituted the “Prof. K. C. Mohanty award” for the best performing candidate in Diploma in Tubercular diseases examinations, the National College of Chest Physicians (India) instituted “Prof. P.S. Shankar-Prof. K. C. Mohanty oration” and the Geriatric Society of India instituted the “Dr. K. C. Mohanty oration”.

He was one of the founder -members of the Indian Chest Society in 1980 and its President in 1987. He was also President of the National College of Chest Physicians (India) in 1994. He was Organising Chairman & President of several conferences, including NATCON (1990, 1992 & 2002), the first international congress on HIV-AIDS & TB & Respiratory diseases (1994) at which 50 national and 33 international faculty including the then WHO Director for HIV-AIDS Dr. Micheal Marson also participated and the NAPCON (2016) which a record of more than 2700 delegates including 66 foreign delegates from 16 different nations attended. He was awarded and delivered 25 orations at national conferences, including the O.A. Sarma oration award of TAI and the NCCP(I) - Prof. Raman Vishwanathan memorial oration. Always interested in research, he published and presented 189 studies, a majority of them being on Tuberculosis. He also contributed the chapters on Tuberculosis and Bioterrorism in the Textbook of Medicine published by the Association of Physicians of India and edited the book “Indian Experience on Tuberculosis”.

Apart from leading the campaign against TB, he was also a dedicated environmentalist, educationist, social reformer and nationalist to the core. He founded and presided over the Environmental medical association in 1983 to campaign for environmental upliftment and preservation of ecological balance and the Academy of Respiratory medicine in 2010 to promote national integration through medical education, through which he organised 20 national conferences on Environmental sciences and Respiratory diseases and published 17 books on various aspects of Respiratory medicine, including 3 volumes of the Pulmonary clinics of India until his demise. He was invited for a special personal audience by the former President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for advice regarding the prevention of environmental and food pollution. He championed the upliftment of tribals and adivasis through educational and social reform and through his untiring efforts adopted and transformed the village Pathraj in Raigad district, Maharashtra from an extremely backward drought prone village to one which received the social and developed village award from the Government of Maharashtra three times. He was an ardent nationalist who realised the need to integrate areas like Kashmir and the North East with the nation through education. He travelled 29 times to the North-East to promote national integration and helped to establish the TB associations of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the North-East TB association for 8 states and organised several conferences, including the state TB conferences of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh and North-East regional conferences on TB & Respiratory diseases at Itanagar and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh and Shillong in Meghalaya apart from being the first to organise a multi-disciplinary national conference at Dimapur in Nagaland on health problems specific to the North-East.

Dr. K. C. Mohanty was a towering icon, a great personality, a living legend and a great source of strength and inspiration to four generations of medical students and TB workers. His untimely demise left behind a great void which cannot be filled.