

**Padma Shri Professor Mahdi Hasan Award
-for clinical research**

Recipient (2014) : Prof. Lalit Kumar



Padma Shri Professor Mahdi Hasan (*March 21, 1936 – January 12, 2013*)



EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION:

Professor Mahdi Hasan (born in Gadayan village, Akbarpur, then in Faizabad, now Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh) was formerly Principal and Chief Medical Superintendent (1983– 87), Dean (1991–93) and Head of the Department of Anatomy, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh. He was an internationally renowned anatomist, a pioneering brain researcher and a reputed expert of medical education.

Prof. Hasan had many firsts to his credit: he was the first in India to have obtained an M.S. with honours in Anatomy; the first anatomist to be selected by the Government of India for the German Academic Exchange Fellowship (DAAD) in 1965; the only Indian anatomist to be chosen Fellow of Alexander von-Humboldt Foundation (Germany); the first Indian anatomist to be elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (FNA) and to be awarded the Padma Shri.

Professor Hasan's initial education was in Akbarpur (Faizabad). Thereafter he did his Intermediate from Christian College, Lucknow and B.Sc. I year from Lucknow University. In 1953, he was selected for M.B.B.S. at King George's Medical College (KGMC), Lucknow. He latter on obtained his post-graduation in anatomy from the same institution. He obtained Ph.D. and D.Sc. from the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH CAREER

Prof. Hasan joined the anatomy department, KGMC, Lucknow, as a demonstrator in 1958 and after briefly working as a lecturer, in 1963 he moved to Aligarh as a Reader in Anatomy. Continuing his pursuit of knowledge, he went to Germany in 1965. He not only learnt electron microscopy and worked on ageing with the renowned Professor (Dr) Paul Glees at the University of Gottingen, but also got an opportunity to learn German. Although in 1972 he was offered the citizenship of Germany, he politely declined and came back to India and established India's first Interdisciplinary Brain Research Centre (IBRC) at Aligarh in 1978.

Prof. Hasan's persistent endeavour was to pursue basic medical research, often linked with clinical applications. The main thrust was to study problems of national relevance, such as environmental pollution, pesticide and metal neurotoxicity, hydrocephalus and brain ageing. His research group proposed a new hypothesis for the genesis of lipofuscin (age-pigment) in 1972. He also discovered a new technique for demonstrating zinc in brain sections. His more than 150 original research papers, in reputed indexed journals, have received over 2500 citations in journals of international repute and books, including Gray's Anatomy. He has also published 6 books and contributed chapters in 8 books. His commitment and dedication to acquire and disseminate knowledge can also be judged from the fact that during the last 6 months of his life, when he was very seriously ill, he worked earnestly to complete a book on Treacher Collins Syndrome. Fortunately, the book was published a few days before his death when he was in the intensive care unit.

RECOGNITION

He was a recipient of the prestigious Dr B.C. Roy National Award in the category of “Eminent Medical Teacher” (1991), Hari Om Ashram Alembic Award of Medical Council of India (1979), Dr S.S. Misra Medal of National Academy of Medical Sciences (India), Dr Dharam Narayan Gold Medal of the Anatomical Society of India (1977), Ati Vishisht Chikitsa Medal of College of Chest Physicians of India (1995), Sushruta Award of World Academy of Integrated Medicine (WAIM) 2002, Dr Bachawat Life-Time Achievement Award of Indian Academy of Neurosciences (2004), Dr. Tirumurti Award of Indian National Science Academy (2010) and Life Time Achievement Award of Anatomical Society of India (2013). He has been the President of three national bodies, Anatomical Society of India, Indian Academy of Neurosciences & Association of Gerontology of India.

Seldom does one find a nucleus around which an institution is build, but it goes to the credit of Professor Mahdi Hasan that at least three premier medical institutions of North India will always fondly cherish his memory. KGMC will always remember him as its illustrious student and teacher; Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh will always remember him as an excellent dedicated and devoted teacher; and Era's Lucknow Medical College, Lucknow (a medical institution founded around him) will find it difficult to overlook its founder Director-Principal and Trustee.

PASSING AWAY

He breathed his last at 6 p.m. on 12 January 2013 after fighting a relentless battle against cancer of the prostate. His wife, **Mrs Abida Mahdi** died soon after on 24 February 2013.

Dr. Lalit Kumar is presently working as Professor and Head of the Department of Medical Oncology at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi). He has contributed immensely in the fields of Bone marrow/Stem cell transplantation, treatment of blood-related malignant disorders and treatment of cancer in women.



Prof. Lalit Kumar

- Born on June 30, 1957, Dr. Kumar studied medicine from the S.N. Medical College, Agra and later did D.M. in Medical Oncology from the Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai in 1988. He undertook a post-doctoral fellowship in 'Bone marrow Transplantation' in 1991-92 at the Leukemia Unit of Hammersmith Hospital (Royal Post-Graduate Medical School), London, U.K.
- Dr. Kumar and his team have developed a highly cost effective stem cell transplant program at the AIIMS for the treatment of malignant and non-malignant diseases. His team has already performed more than 600 allogeneic and autologous stem cell transplants with results comparable to International standards. His group has contributed immensely on the use of chemotherapy for the treatment of advanced cancer of cervix and ovary. His 'Manual of Gynecologic Oncology' is followed widely at cancer centers in India and neighboring countries.
- Dr. Kumar has published more than 325 research papers in reputed International and National medical journals. In addition, he has edited two books, three residents' manuals. He has been a guide to a number of PhD, DM and MD students.
- Dr. Kumar is the recipient of numerous awards and honors namely Dr. B.C. Roy National Award in Medicine, Ranbaxy Research Award for Clinical Research, I.C.M.R. award for research in Cancer, Fulbright Nehru Visiting Lecturer ship and Commonwealth scholarship. For his contributions, he was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences (F.A.Sc.) and National Academy of Medical Sciences (F.A.M.S.).

Last year the President of India has conferred upon him Padma Shri.

