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Indian Contribution to Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Dr. R. D. Pandit

Dr. R. D. Pandit was a living legend of FOGSI, who donned many hats at the same time. He was the 24th President of Mumbai Obstetric and Gynecological Society, Founder President of the Association of Maharashtra State Obstetrics and Gynecological societies, and the Editor, of

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the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India, among his other notable contributions in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. R. D. Pandit was born in Baroda, Gujarat on August 1, 1925. Both his father and grandfather were civil surgeons in that state. Right from a young age, he had intense desire to study medicine. After his early schooling in Baroda, he came to Mumbai to study Interscience. Even though he could not get admission in any medical college as he had hailed from some other state, he did his B.Sc in Chemistry and Botany and later joined G.S. Medical College and completed his MBBS in 1949. He went on to do his MD in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1953. Although he was planning to go to Edinburgh for his FRCS in General Surgery, he was offered a teaching post as Honorary Assistant Professor and Honorary Assistant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at S.S.G. Hospital and Medical College in Baroda. As he always wanted to practice in his hometown, he joined that college and worked in Baroda from 1953 to 1963.

With his teaching experience of 10 years, he returned to Bombay in 1964 and joined K.E.M. Hospital and later Seth G.S. Medical College as Honorary Assistant Professor and Honorary Assistant Obstetrician and Gynecologist. After 3 years, he joined The Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital and later Seth G.S. Medical College as Honorary Professor and Obstetrician and Gynecologist and continued teaching for 32 years in all.

For 46 years, he practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology. He was the most dignified and meticulous surgeon, and was very involved in patient care. He is remembered for his

innovations in operative procedures such as Dr. Pandit's technique for Teflon graft for genital fistulae, for female sterilization, cerclage operations for incompetent Os, and for genital prolapse.

Dr. Pandit is a member of Bombay Obstetrical and Gynecological society from 1949, but he really got involved in its activities only from 1964. He favored giving medical help to people living in urban slums and rural people. So he sought help from the State Government in setting up the Primary Health Centers and organized the visits by the society members to these health centers and extend medical help and health care to the poor.

He became the President of the Bombay Obstetrics and Gynecological Society in 1977. It was during his tenure that he started publishing the newsletter to communicate with all the members. He strongly stressed on professional and personal camaraderie and bonding and organized a moonlight cruise for members along with their families around the Bombay harbor. The annual conference during

his tenure was held in a college auditorium as the economics worked out to be cheaper.

He was devoted to The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology of India and was responsible for having moulded the journal to its present form. After being on the Editorial Board, he served as its Associate Editor from 1974 to 1996. He was holding the position of Editor from 1997 to 2003.

Dr. R. D. Pandit was the President of Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Societies of India (FOGSI) in 1982 and also served as an Executive Board member of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Dr. Pandit was also the founder President of the Association of Maharashtra state Obstetric and Gynecological Society (AMOGS). The society was founded in 1987, and Dr. Pandit was its President for the first 12 years.

He passed away peacefully on April 9, 2010, and, alas, an era has thus come to an end.