

In memoriam



Prof (Smt) Vidya N. Acharya
1938-2014

The Indian nephrology community became poorer on the 5th of May 2014 with the passing of Dr (Smt) Vidya N Acharya, known fondly as “Madam”, “Mother of Nephrology” and other terms of endearment by her countless patients, students, colleagues and admirers.

Dr. Acharya completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Medicine at the Seth GS Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai. She then trained in Nephrology at the University of Leeds and returned to her Alma Mater to nurture Nephrology. She had at one time written that she was a reluctant entrant into the field of Nephrology and had considered Gastroenterology as her first love. But the lady whom we all knew and admired for her strength and commitment, refused to be despondent and instead focused all her energy to make her department a sought-after one.

She had many firsts to her credit, having established the first Department of Nephrology with dialysis and transplant facilities in Western India at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, the first postgraduate course in Nephrology in Western India and the first deceased donor transplant in India. She held the distinction of being the first lady nephrologist of India. She retired as Professor and Head of the Department of Nephrology in 1996. However, as was expected of her, she jumped right back into the fray, not letting grass grow under her feet. She joined the Muljibhai Patel

Urological Hospital as Senior Consultant and Director of Postgraduate Studies.

Teaching was her obsession, be it to undergraduate or postgraduate students in Medicine and Nephrology, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy students, nurses, technicians and nutritionists. She had been one of the pioneering Nephrology researchers, with a number of high quality publications in journals and book chapters.

Her contributions to the development of nephrology and nephrologists in India have been immense. She helped in the formation of Indian Society of Nephrology, Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and consistently worked for their progress having held the post of president of both societies. She was also a founder member and past President of Hypertension Society of India, and an active member of the Education Committee and Hypertension and Kidney Disease Detection Committee of the International Federation of Kidney Foundation [IFKF]. In recent years, much of her energy was devoted to the prevention of CKD. Despite facing a number of health issues in recent years, her commitment to education remained undiminished till the very end.

Her contributions to the development of Nephrology in the region, the country and in the international arena are well known. In recognition of her contributions, the Indian Society of Nephrology and International

Society of Nephrology conferred on her the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Pioneer Award respectively.

For those who knew her more closely, she was 'The Iron Lady' with a reputation for discipline, a tough taskmaster and able administrator, a strong motivator in whose vocabulary the word 'impossible' did not exist. She maneuvered through the elephantine bureaucracy of public hospital to set up a model unit, giving evidence to the saying "Tough times do not last, tough people do".

A teacher of nephrology but an exponent of philosophy, teaching not only the science of nephrology but the Art of Living, instilling qualities like courage, integrity, punctuality, meticulousness, compassion, humanity and simplicity, she touched the lives of people around her. Her love for others knew no boundaries, encompassing all around her. Her students and their families felt her

motherly protection, her patients experienced her humane touch.

She dreamt the Impossible Dream and made it a reality.

A. F. Almeida,

Sr. Consultant Nephrologist, Hinduja Hospital,
Mumbai, India.
E-mail: almeidaa@gmail.com

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.indianjnephrol.org
	

Author Help: Online submission of the manuscripts

Articles can be submitted online from <http://www.journalonweb.com>. For online submission, the articles should be prepared in two files (first page file and article file). Images should be submitted separately.

- 1) **First Page File:**
Prepare the title page, covering letter, acknowledgement etc. using a word processor program. All information related to your identity should be included here. Use text/rtf/doc/pdf files. Do not zip the files.
- 2) **Article File:**
The main text of the article, beginning with the Abstract to References (including tables) should be in this file. Do not include any information (such as acknowledgement, your names in page headers etc.) in this file. Use text/rtf/doc/pdf files. Do not zip the files. Limit the file size to 1024 kb. Do not incorporate images in the file. If file size is large, graphs can be submitted separately as images, without their being incorporated in the article file. This will reduce the size of the file.
- 3) **Images:**
Submit good quality color images. Each image should be less than **4096 kb (4 MB)** in size. The size of the image can be reduced by decreasing the actual height and width of the images (keep up to about 6 inches and up to about 1800 x 1200 pixels). JPEG is the most suitable file format. The image quality should be good enough to judge the scientific value of the image. For the purpose of printing, always retain a good quality, high resolution image. This high resolution image should be sent to the editorial office at the time of sending a revised article.
- 4) **Legends:**
Legends for the figures/images should be included at the end of the article file.