

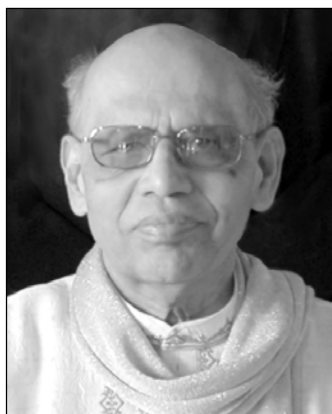
He lived his life on the basis of what he learned from his favourite book. In his letter dated 31 July 2007, he wrote: 'In the *Book of Psalms* in the Bible, wisdom is defined in Psalm 34 in these words—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." One is told what this fear of the Lord is—"Keep thy tongue from

evil and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.'" He set a sterling example by practising what the good book preached.

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S. G. Deodhare

(28 August 1926–18 April 2011)



Dr Shantinath Gopal Deodhare (MD, FCPS, FAMS, FMAS, Diploma in Pathology and Bacteriology) passed away in Bengaluru on 18 April 2011 at the age of 85. Born in Barsi, Maharashtra on 28 August 1926, he completed his MB,BS from B.J. Medical College and Poona University (now Pune). The professional career of Dr Deodhare started with his stint as a houseman in S.S.G. Hospital, Baroda (now

Vadodara). Thereafter, he rose steadily up the academic ladder in 3 medical colleges of Maharashtra—his *alma mater* B.J. Medical College, Poona; Miraj Medical College; and Grant Medical College, Bombay (now Mumbai). He became Dean, Grant Medical College and Deputy Coroner of Bombay. In his 31-year-long academic career, he groomed many medical students, who remember him as an excellent teacher and a good person.

Dr Deodhare belonged to a breed of specialists that is rapidly on the wane—specialists in pathology and bacteriology, a breed to which I too belong. The developments in medical education during the 1970s resulted in the splintering of an established specialty. The pros and cons of this division were extensively debated and it has had a lasting effect on laboratory medicine. The versatility of traditional 'pathologists' is seen in the specialization of Dr Deodhare in virology. He specialized after being trained in the famous F.M. Burnet Institute of Virus Research in Melbourne, Australia. After returning from Australia, he set up the Virology Section in the Department of Pathology at the B.J. Medical College. It was during this period that I had the opportunity to interact with him. His devotion to bench work, meticulous attention to detail and willingness to share his knowledge was apparent. Subsequently, I faced Dr Deodhare as an examiner for MD (Pathology and Bacteriology). The experience was salutary and set the tone for my future development.

The list of Dr Deodhare's achievements has many 'firsts', such as describing 'necrotizing enteritis' in Indians, suggesting a

causal association between sugarcane farming and mesothelioma, and numerous fascinating cases.

Dr Deodhare found time to undertake the onerous task of jointly writing a book, titled *General pathology and pathology of systems*, with Professors Bhende and Kelkar. The book has been used by a generation of medical students and was being revised for the ninth time at the time of his demise. It is hoped that the legacy will continue with the new author(s). He also published extensively in national and international peer-reviewed journals, including *The Lancet*, *British Medical Journal* and *British Journal of Surgery*. His total tally of publications was 88. He had been active in many professional associations and served on their executive boards. He was president-elect of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists in 1983, having been its treasurer for 5 years from 1969.

Professor Deodhare served as Consultant Pathologist at Riyadh Medical Center, Saudi Arabia for 18 years after his superannuation from Maharashtra government service—a measure of the high esteem he was held in. It was natural that his competence and versatility would be recognized in professional bodies and universities all over the country, and he was invited by them as examiner at the postgraduate level. He features in the major international *Who's Who* lists.

Professor Deodhare also found time to foray into public health organization and activities, such as establishing a virology service in B.J. Medical College and a rural pathology service for southern Maharashtra.

He married Suman Javalekar in April 1954 and had two sons who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields—pathology and aeronautics in Toronto (Canada) and Bengaluru, respectively. He was staying with his younger son at the time of his demise.

The demise of S. G. Deodhare has removed from our midst a leading pathologist. We will miss his sagacity, wit and maturity in the years to come. He leaves a void behind him. May his soul rest in peace. We extend our heart-felt condolences to the bereaved family.

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