

# Obituary

## Surgeon Captain I.K. Indrajit

(4 December 1963–30 April 2014)



If you had met Inna Kedege Indrajit, you would certainly have described him as an intellectual, a professional and a gentleman. You may not have believed that he could dance—but you would have been wrong. Inji, as he was known to his friends, was truly a man of many talents. I (HM) first met Inji when we were both batched together for pre-admission medicals at Armed Forces Medical College,

Pune, in 1982. It was the beginning of a lasting friendship through medical college (both in college and in the intervening vacations in then Madras), during internship, as ship's doctors in Visakhapatnam, as fellow residents and then specialists in the Indian Navy.

To our teachers, he was always one of their best students—diligent, knowledgeable and widely read. He was a master of learning by association—a technique he may well have invented. We studied radiological and pathological correlations of disease entities together and I, for one, am certainly a better pathologist today, thanks to him. We would study in the most unusual of places—on many nights, we would be spending the wee hours in coffee shops and hotel lobbies, and remembering what we read based on the other passers-by and patrons we had for company! I strongly recommend this 'Inji technique' to all students, both present and future. Most of his peers will remember him for his innumerable academic activities. To his students, he was truly erudite, readily sharing his fathomless pearls of wisdom. He was also an avid internet-geek. I had returned from the USA in the late 1990s, when the internet explosion had just begun, and thought that I was up-to-date with using the world-wide web. But, while rooming with Inji and spending many hours together at internet cafes, I realized the extent of my ignorance as he taught me innumerable ways to mine the net for information. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of websites with an easily accessible index that he created and expanded. His knowledge, lateral thinking and ability to network—both online and otherwise—led

to a wide range of collaborations. His many contributions to the Radiology Education Foundation of India will continue to benefit future generations. He also wrote a regular column titled 'An eye on the web' for this *Journal* (see *Natl Med J India* 2000;**13**:193–201; *Natl Med J India* 2001;**14**:50–3. *Natl Med J India* 2001;**14**:242–5; *Natl Med J India* 2003;**16**:100–4).

As all his friends know, Inji was an adventure- and fun-loving person. We undertook many long cycling trips and treks together in the Western Ghats. When posted in Kochi, he would take off with his wife Sushma on weekend forays on his faithful Kinetic Honda, exploring the beautiful Kerala countryside. His interests were not just restricted to medicine, radiology and nature. He loved to play cricket—although we would often joke that that was only to remind us that the famous K. Srikkanth was from his school! And what he loved best was to gather his son Vibhav along with the neighbourhood kids at 6 a.m. for a game of cricket. He was years ahead of all his friends even when it came to music. Inji introduced us to many singers and bands, before they became mainstream performers. And he loved to dance to all of them. He was passionate about movies and generously shared his collection with one and all. He was a 'smart' uncle to all children and youngsters, who often had impromptu quiz sessions with him.

He was truly fearless. When he developed acute lymphatic leukaemia, he took it on as another challenge. He would not let it hold him down, continuing to work, teach and be an examiner. Sadly, the disease did not give him a second chance. We will truly miss his energy and physical presence, although his memory and his many contributions will live on. Inna Kedege Indrajit—friend, philosopher, guide and teacher—forever.

HARESH MANI

*Inova Fairfax Hospital  
Falls Church  
Virginia  
USA*

*hmani@lycos.com*

SANGEETA JOSHI

*Department of Microbiology  
Manipal Hospital  
Bengaluru  
Karnataka  
India*

*sangeetajo@yahoo.com*