

Obituary

M. V. Govindappa

(23 November 1934–11 December 2007)



The sudden demise of Professor Govindappa, affectionately called MVG, has left a deep void in the field of clinical medicine. His students, patients and family members were shocked at this most unexpected event. I was indeed fortunate being a student of Professor MVG during my undergraduate and postgraduate days over 30 years ago. What I am today is only because of his guidance and there are scores of doctors who have benefited by his benevolence.

Professor M. V. Govindappa was born in a poor agricultural family of Gouribidanur, Karnataka in 1934. He had a brilliant academic career at Mysore Medical College from 1952 to 1958. He was the best outgoing student of the college and won a number of gold medals and prizes. He joined government service as an assistant surgeon in 1958 and was a part-time lecturer in internal medicine in Mysore Medical College. He did his MRCP from Edinburgh during 1963–65 and after his return worked as an assistant professor, reader

and professor of medicine in various medical colleges of the state. He took voluntary retirement in 1984 while he was Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine at Hubli Medical College. He was an examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate examinations of various universities of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. He worked at Jagadguru Sri Shivaratreswra Medical College, Mysore for 5 years and was working as a consultant at Basappa Memorial Hospital, Mysore at the time of his death. He is survived by a son, who followed in his footsteps as a consultant in internal medicine, and a daughter.

Professor MVG was a wonderful teacher of clinical medicine. In an era when few investigations were available, his uncanny ability to arrive at a diagnosis was flawless. He was a very supportive examiner and assessed a student on his abilities and nothing else. He always respected his patients and his students and spoke to them with dignity. Although some of us considered him short tempered, those who knew him well realized that this was an expression of his annoyance at the mistakes committed by his students. He was always meticulously dressed, highly disciplined and humane. His departure is an irreparable loss to the medical profession in general and to his students in particular. May his soul rest in peace.

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