

Obituary

Jamini Kanta Dutta

(28 April 1924–17 October 2007)



Dr J. K. Dutta was born in Barmandaruni, a village in the district of Balasore, Orissa in 1924. The youngest child of Kinaram and Muktakesi Dutta, he had a brilliant academic career and passed his matriculation with a first division from the zilla school, Balasore. He began his medical education in 1940 in Cuttack Medical School, Orissa and stood first in his batch in the final examination of Licentiate Medical Practitioner (LMP) in 1944, and was awarded a silver

medal. After a brief stint in the Orissa state service, he went on to do the then available condensed course of MB,BS in Lake Medical College, Calcutta (now Kolkata) and completed it in 1950. In 1953, he joined the Delhi state service and continued to work there till his retirement in 1982. During this period he went to the UK and obtained

a diploma in tropical medicine (DTM&H) from Edinburgh University.

He had an intense interest in tropical diseases and was deeply involved in research while he was Medical Superintendent at the Infectious Diseases' Hospital, Kingsway Camp, Delhi (1974–1982), his last assignment in the city. Among his numerous publications on rabies was an editorial in the *British Medical Journal*.¹ His friends often joked saying that 'he was rabid after rabies'.

A prolific writer, his post-retirement life was more fruitful than his active service life. Settling in Balasore, his hometown, he occupied himself with the writing of books. He wrote several on rabies, both for laymen and professionals, besides writing his autobiography. He also edited a book titled '*Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases*' which did not see the light of the day during his lifetime and is now being published posthumously.

His wife predeceased him and he died at the age of 83. A son and a daughter survive him.

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REFERENCE

- 1 Dutta JK, Dutta TK. Rabies in endemic countries. *BMJ* 1994;**308**:488–9.

Obituaries

Many doctors in India practise medicine in difficult areas under trying circumstances and resist the attraction of better prospects in western countries and in the Middle East. They die without their contributions to our country being acknowledged.

The National Medical Journal of India wishes to recognize the efforts of these doctors. We invite short accounts of the life and work of a recently deceased colleague by a friend, student or relative. The account in about 500 to 1000 words should describe his or her education and training and highlight the achievements as well as disappointments. A photograph should accompany the obituary.

—Editor