Obituary

Dr. Janak Raj Talwar was born on 01.01.1931 in the Golden Temple city of Amritsar. After a brilliant school career, he joined Government Medical College Amritsar and obtained his MBBS degree in 1953. He was then selected for postgraduate training in surgery under Late Professor Yudhveer Sachdev. He was one of the first in North India to receive MS in general surgery with special subject of thoracic surgery. He along with Prof. Sachdev pioneered the thoracic surgery in North India and because of their Herculean efforts, Amritsar became the renowned center for thoracic surgery in the sixties.

In 1959 he resigned from the Panjab Medical service to join as the first registrar in cardiothoracic and vascular surgery at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. His untiring zeal and work in the initial stages of the AIIMS establishment helped to lay the solid foundation for the world renowned department of cardiothoracic and vascular surgery. He became assistant professor in 1961 and associate professor in 1968 in the same department. He was a visiting professor to the university of Ahwaz, Iran in 1975-76. He then became the first professor of cardiac surgery and established this specialty at the Singhania Institute of cardiology, Kanpur.

In 1978 he moved to Delhi and started thoracic surgery at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, MCK Ram Hospital and Holy Family Hospital. He became one of the top most thoracic surgeons in Delhi.

Dr. Talwar was an excellent teacher and many of his students retired as Professor of thoracic surgery. He was a committed research worker. His work on cold injures, which he started after the 1962 war with China is acclaimed nationally and internationally. His work was recognized by ICMR by honouring him with Col. Amir Chand Prize in 1967 and in CSIR awarded him the coveted Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Award in 1971. He published over 125 papers in national and international journals.

Dr. Talwar was always willing to help his students, colleagues and relatives with an ever smiling face. His patient care is an example to be emulated.

In his passing on 21st November, 2002, the medical fraternity has lost an eminent thoracic surgeon of India.


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