

... 2 doctorates, post –doc degree, fully qualified in *Medicine, Psychiatry and Neurology*

Dr Ravi Nehru: The life, the man, the loss



Dr. Ravi Nehru (30 July 1952–14 December 2010)

Dr. Ravi Nehru had been a wonderful teacher for his students, a caring doctor to his patients, an eminent neurologist, psychiatrist, neuropsychologist, and neurolinguist. No words can describe his aura; the ones who have felt it know that he was calm, poised, well mannered, loving, and being near him gave every one around him peace and sanity. It was often that a resident would come to him baffled with queries and issues. He would smile and politely ask him to sit down, have a coffee and suddenly all the queries would be settled by simple answers and all issues resolved without a doubt. He was admired by his colleagues for his helping nature, cool head and work ethics.

He was born 30 July 1952 and completed his MBBS from **Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC)** in 1976. He always wanted to do MD Psychiatry, but at that time, the course did not exist; so, he did MD in Medicine in 1980. He went on to do D.M. Neurology from G.B. Pant hospital in 1984. He did not hesitate to pursue his inclination in psychiatry, and after D.M., he joined D.N.B. Psychiatry from G.B. Pant hospital and completed it successfully in 1992. This gave him the distinction of *being the only professional in India formally trained and qualified in Medicine, Neurology and Psychiatry with two doctorates and one post-doctoral degree*. If one would ask him about his knowledge, however, he would be happier talking more about his knowledge of *Persian, Urdu, Arabic, Latin, Sanskrit and Spanish* literature and language. He was studying Bengali in his last few days and had started reading Bengali literature. His knowledge of philosophy, spirituality and religions, though not certified, had been his most valuable asset. His personal library has more than 5000 books on subjects that interested him including dog breeds, flowers, fishes and wines. He has been remembered in the autobiography of Khushwant Singh and a number of books have been presented to him by this eminent author.

He has over 275 publications including books, editorials, articles, papers and abstracts in refereed journals and refereed conference proceeding and served as Executive Editor of the Indian Edition of the *Archives of Neurology (American Medical Association)* and Editor of the Delhi Psychiatry Bulletin, having delivered over 100 lectures at conferences, and at institutions including King's College Hospital and the Institute of Psychiatry, University of London; University College London, University of London; School of Special Education, University of Birmingham, UK; and Cork University Hospital, University of Cork, Ireland.

His clinical work was mainly in the field of behavioral neurology and movement disorders. He did pioneering research in dementia, dyslexia, behavioral disorders in children, aphasia, neuropsychiatry and general neurology. ***His work on scientific organization of the Hindi alphabet and of phonemes and graphemes in the brain is path breaking.*** His work on language organization and dyslexia done 15 years back remains unsung due to untimely death of his research associate, Anju Garg, who worked with him on the subject.

He had a special attachment to his parent institute, MAMC and compiled the detailed history of MAMC in the form of an article (available online) and a book.

This work had been very close to his heart and makes every MAMC alumni proud.

He spent his last few days fighting as his usual self against all odds. He was cheerful and loving till his last day and never forgot to bless his near and dear ones. His fond memory and wonderful way to live continues to inspire everyone. He is survived by his father, Mr. H. M. Nehru (86 years), and a younger brother, Rajiv Nehru, who is an eminent lawyer in Delhi.

The disciplines of Neurology, Psychology, Linguistics and Psychiatry will always miss him and be deprived of what all he could do further, had it not been for his untimely demise.

adapted from [Amit Batla](#) and [Farah Khanam](#)¹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3108089/?report=classic> (download 27.06.2016) **Ann Indian Acad Neurol.** 2011 Jan-Mar; 14(1): 70–71. PMID: PMC3108089

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