

## Obituary

# Remembering the Late Prof. Dr. Ram Kewal Shah: the first Vice Chancellor of MIHS

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The Late Prof. Dr. Ram Kewal Shah was a Nepalese orthopaedic and trauma surgeon who was renowned for his work on providing better care for the injured in low-income settings and his unrelenting dedication to their treatment for more than thirty years. The medical community was devastated by

his untimely demise on June 8, 2023. Professor Shah was born in Sabaila municipality, ward no. 2, Dhanusha District, Madhesh Province, Nepal, on March 15, 1955. His mother was Mantoria Devi and father was Laxmeshwar Sah. He has two sons, Dhiraj and Niraj, with his wife, Milan.

He attended Shree Saraswati Higher Secondary School in Thilla, Sabaila for his first seven years of education. He eventually got accepted on full scholarship to Saraswati Higher Secondary School, Janakpur in Class 8. Being class topper in the early age was an incredible intellectual achievement in his school life with all his hard work, punctuality and discipline. He enrolled in Amrit Science College, Kathmandu, for his high school science studies after receiving First Division (6th place in the Board's Merit Order) in the 1971 SLC test. Under the Colombo plan, he obtained his MBBS and MD in orthopaedic surgery at LLRM Medical College in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India, in 1982. In 1991, he enrolled at the University of Liverpool to pursue an MCh in Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery, and in 1992, he was awarded the



**Late Prof. Dr. Ram Kewal Shah (March 15, 1955 A.D- June 8, 2023)**

Norman Roberts Medal for Best Thesis [1]. Aside from scoring well on exams, he dedicated himself strategically in uplifting his career in the field of medicine with all his skills as well. He always enjoyed reading books and participated actively in societal activities.

He began working for the government job at Janakpur Zonal Hospital in Janakpurdham after completing his academic program. However, he abruptly quit his job in Janakpur and relocated to Kathmandu. From 1999 to 2021, he served as the head of the orthopedic

and trauma surgery department at Nepal Medical College in Kathmandu. From 2000 until 2023, he also served as an orthopedic and trauma surgeon at the Janakpur Trauma Hospital in Janakpur. From 2018 to 2021, he also worked as the head of the bone and joint surgery department at Norvic International Hospital in Kathmandu. From 2019 to 2021, he served as the head and professor at the Janaki Medical College Teaching Hospital. The Janakpur Orthopedic Hospital (2016) and the Orthopedic & Trauma Foundation Janakpur (1993) were both founded by Prof. Shah. From 2008 until 2014, he served as the Asian

representative for the AO Socio-Economic Committee (AO SEC).

He was designated as the Asia Regional Director when the AO Alliance was established in December 2014. In 2021, he was appointed as the first Vice Chancellor of the Madhesh Institute of Health Sciences, Janakpur Dham, Nepal. He was an active researcher and published several articles in different national and International medical journals. More than three decades, Prof. Shah worked to improve the abilities of surgeons, residents, paramedics, and nurses on the front lines of fracture care for patients in low-income nations [2]. In addition to being conscientious, he was able to plan forward for the society and surroundings behind him.

Madhesh Institute of Health Science (MIHS), Janakpur, was approved 50 seats for MBBS in 2024 as a result of the First Vice Chancellor of MIHS Prof. Dr. Ram Kewal Shah's, tireless efforts from the beginning to launch the program. Even though he is not here with us today, but in his absence, the existing Vice-chancellor MIHS, Prof. Dr. Ankur Shah, Vice-chancellor, and Prof. Dr. Binod Kumar Yadav, MIHS Registrar, put in continuous endless effort to run the MBBS program. Late Prof's Sah's dream came true with the strong determination and memorable effort of inaugural team of three dignitaries of MIHS. This is evidence of the excellent visionary thinking, leadership and outstanding vision of Late Prof. Shah.

In addition to showcasing his dedication to advancing medical education, this achievement highlights the qualities that make him stand out as an inspiration to students aspiring to careers in medicine and other medical disciplines. His ability to see an opportunity for medical education in

Janakpur, drove his dedication to the development of MIHS. For the benefit of our communities and upcoming medical and health care professionals, he always believed that MIHS has a promising future and would be a source of pride for the entire nation, not just the Madhesh Province [3]. Not only students who want to become doctors, but all students and health professionals are motivated by Late Prof. Shah's leadership. He serves as an example for revolutionary change that may result from perseverance, foresight, and a dedication to the well-being of the community. His journey teaches us valuable lessons about setting ambitious goals, working persistently towards them, and using one's education and position to create positive impacts in society.

But unluckily, after his health deteriorated due to chronic liver disease accompanied by multiple hematological abnormalities, he was admitted to the Narayana Super Specialty Hospital in Gurgaon, NCR, India. He passed away while receiving treatment in New Delhi [3]. On Thursday, June 8, 2023, he tragically passed away at the age of 69. The loss of this visionary leader is deeply felt by the medical community in Nepal and beyond. Future generations of medical professionals will continue to be inspired by Dr. Ram Kewal Shah's legacy, especially his accomplishment in introducing medical education at MIHS, Janakpur. He will be sorely missed by his coworkers, students, and everyone whom he touched with his work, kindness, and unwavering support of medical education. Even though the late Prof. Dr. Ram Kewal Shah is no longer with us physically, his abilities, expertise, and services to the medical community will never be forgotten. May your soul rest in peace, we will always miss you sir!

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