

Obituary

In Memoriam Dr Yanta Mani Pradhan

Madan P Upadhyay
D.O (London), FRCS (Ophthal)

Born. 1992.08.07

Expired. 2076.11.22

I have known Dr. Pradhan for the last 46 years. When I returned to Nepal after my training in the U.K., he was at that time the Head of the Eye Department of Bir Hospital. I was pleasantly surprised to see that the department had been upgraded (context 50 years ago) from the department with a Gullstrand slit microscope (the light had to be moved along by the examiner) before I went abroad for my training. Gullstrand slit lamp had been replaced by Haag-Streit. Surgery which was performed under a loupe was now being done under an operating microscope.

Our acquaintances grew into friendship and collegiality. This provided me with an opportunity to learn more about his multi-dimensional personality. His life extended much beyond ophthalmology and eye care, not the least of which was ear care. His commitment to health service took him to Mechi, where he spent considerable time setting up an eye center when he was pretty well advanced in age. His larger than life profile expanded to leading world's largest service club- The Lions Club - as District Governor for Nepal; leading the oldest professional society of Nepali doctors as Elected President of Nepal Medical Association and , not the least, society of ophthalmologists of Nepal-Nepal Ophthalmic Society. He was an avid cyclist known as Cycle Eye Doctor.

B.P. Koirala Lions Centre for Ophthalmic Studies- owes a great deal to Dr. Pradhan for his persistence and perseverance in negotiating with Lions International, in his capacity as District Governor for Nepal. This prolonged and tiring process of negotiation resulted in allocation of USD 600,000 by Lions International for development of this Centre. The fact that this Centre has become the producer of the largest number of Nepal trained ophthalmologists who have changed the face of eye care in Nepal, would probably be the most appropriate tribute to him. The alumni and the rest of the ophthalmic community must now carry forward the war against blindness which Dr. Pradhan fought so valiantly until his death restoring sight to over 100,000 cataracts during a productive life of over 50 years.

Even in his death he did not make his near and dear ones suffer. A few days ago he had been discharged from hospital. After coming home, he came out of the toilet, sat on a chair and passed away like taking a SAMADHI! What a peaceful and saintly death! We will all die one day, but how many of us will die so peacefully! I certainly wish that kind of end of life for myself.

His earthly deeds have assured him a place in heaven!