

OBITUARY



Dr. Jimmy Daruwalla 1942 - 2016

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Jimmy Daruwalla was born in Mumbai on 21 January 1942 as the youngest in the family of two daughters and a son. He graduated from Grant Medical Collage in April 1965 and took up orthopaedic residency at the J. J. Group of Hospitals to do M.S. Orth. in October 1968. I knew him through his elder sister Jeroo who was my classmate at medical school in Mumbai but came to know him more closely in 1967 when I spent a few months teaching at the Orthopaedic Department at the J. J. Group of Hospitals on my return from U. K. He proceeded to U.K. and did his F.R.C.S.Ed. in December 1970 and M. Ch. Orth. (Liverpool) in 1974. He had his main orthopaedic training at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow. He joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery of the National University of Singapore in 1976 as a lecturer. He then rose to the level of Associate Professor. His interest in scoliosis took him to the world renowned scoliosis center in the twin cities in Minneapolis for a short sabbatical stint under the tutelage of Robert Winter. With Prof. P. Balasubramaniam and Dr. Uma Rajan he did a large epidemiological study on the incidence of scoliosis and its early detection which is still acclaimed as a classic scoliosis study. He was elected the President of the Singapore Orthopaedic Association in 1987 and delivered an excellent lecture on scoliosis as Donald Gunn Lecturer in 2004. He left the academic position at NUS for group private practice in 1990 until his untimely death on 6 July 2016.

He was a very active member of the Rotary Club of Raffles City Singapore. He took up the Rotary Club project for Dyslexia in July 1989 and worked tirelessly and with all sincerity to establish the Dyslexia Association of Singapore (DAS) in October 1991. Dyslexic children who were unrecognized for their disability in the past, now had proper program to overcome this problem and make a successful life. He was the founding member of the association and in October 2011 the Unsung Hero was honoured with the Inaugural Community Champion Award by TABLA with a

\$10,000/- donation by the State Bank of India to help fund the dyslexic children's education. He was the President of DAS from 1991 to 2016. His dedication to the cause for dyslexia remained unabated till his death. To continue his legacy, DAS has launched Jimmy Daruwalla Education Fund for the dyslexic children.

Jimmy was a stickler for honesty and sincerity in the treatment of his patients and never minced his words. My association with him goes back to almost 50 years and he remained a sincere partner in practice with me for almost 25 years. Once he was your friend, he was always a true and affectionate friend who commanded the admiration of all his past students and friends.

He loved his golf and had a great close circle of golfing friends. He had great interest in cricket and never missed any international game and the world cup.

He was married to Roshan on 15 October 1964 even before he completed his orthopaedic residency in Mumbai and was a devoted husband and father to his three sons, Neville, Karl and Zubin until the untimely death of his beloved wife on 7 January 1999. It took him a long time to recover from this sudden loss but found love, compassion, affection and care from his secretary of 26 years, Jothy whom he married on 23 August 2009. He was devoted to her and her two daughters Sridevi and Jayashree and cared for them with utmost love, unstinted affection and compassion.

His sudden demise on 6 July 2016 has left a void in the orthopaedic community of Singapore and the Dyslexia Association of Singapore. We bid our condolences to his wife Jothy, his sons and step-daughters.

Pesi Chacha