

OBITUARY

Professor Subir Sengupta 1934 - 2011



Professor Subir Sengupta passed away in University Malaya Medical Centre on 31st December 2011 due to lung disease. Subir Sengupta was born in Calcutta, India, in 1934. He graduated from Calcutta Medical College in 1957. In 1960, a few days after marrying Supti Choudhury, Sengupta travelled to the United Kingdom for orthopaedic training. After qualifying as a fellow of the FRCS (Edinburgh), he applied for a lecturer post in the newly constructed medical school in Malaysia. Sengupta's arrival to Malaysia in 1966 would mark the beginning of a long and continuous role as a prominent surgeon, teacher and mentor.

Sengupta became the head of the Orthopaedics Department in 1982, and was later promoted to Professor in 1990. He was the icon of Paediatric Orthopaedic surgery in Malaysia and pioneered Ilizarov reconstruction surgery in this country. He has been very active in several professional medical associations and non-governmental organizations. Professor Sengupta was elected as president of Malaysian Orthopaedic Association in 1993, and then later served as the president of ASEAN Orthopaedic Association in 1997. He has travelled to many parts of the world either as a speaker, fellow or representative of the Malaysian orthopaedic community.

Most colleagues, students and friends knew Professor Sengupta as a kind and soft spoken person who took the issues of surgical procedures and preparation of hot tea seriously. His life philosophy and practices demonstrated the love of humanity without any boundary. His involvement in various voluntary projects in the 1980s and 90s inspired many others to follow in his footsteps. The lessons we learned from him are far beyond his medical teachings. Most of us will not remember the year he retired because his passion to teach seemed to only increase with age. He will be missed by all of us, including his many patients who then brought their children to see him.

Sengupta is survived by his wife Supti, his daughter Shampa and grandson Kiran.