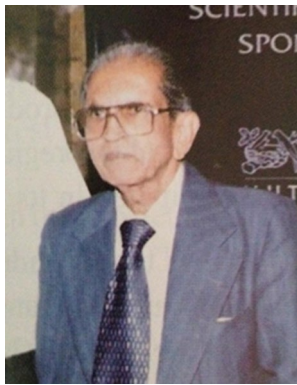


OBITUARY

## Obituary

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The often-quoted phrase, “To love and to be loved” is very true for Dr. Mahendra Parikh. Mahendrabhai’s life was full of academic pursuits and promotion of women welfare. Mahendrabhai was born on 16th December, 1928 in a small town called Pethapur in Gujarat. His family was engaged in business activities. Though born in Gujarat, his parents migrated to Sangli town in Maharashtra to promote their business. He completed his medical education from Seth GS Medical college, Mumbai. Having taken doctorate in Obstetrics and Gynecology, he preferred to have additional experience in anesthesia and did diploma (DA) in the specialty since postgraduate degree in anesthesia was not available then. After finishing his residency in Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital, he decided to pursue his career in the same hospital as Honorary Obstetrician and Gynecologist till retirement. Though busy in private practice, he remained

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deeply engaged in academic pursuits. He used to spend his time in teaching, research and innovations in his specialty.

After his training in Laparoscopy in USA, he returned with vigour to perform laparoscopic tubal ligation. He used to take his students to such camps all over Maharashtra.

Mahendrabhai’s academic pursuits and achievements helped him to be the president of many organizations—FOGSI, NARCHI, ISAR, MOGS.

He was also the chairperson of ICOG and NARCHI. He was editor of the popular JOGI journal. He was the recipient of the coveted “Life time achievement award” from FOGSI. He contributed by writing articles and research papers and also inspired his students to engage in research and write articles. He introduced the famous concept of **PICSEP** (program for inculcating the culture of scientific inquiry and pursuit). He published two good books giving details of how to pursue ethical scientific research. Students used to rush to attend his clinics and lectures because he was a very popular teacher. Dr. Shantha Kumari our FOGSI president sent her message as follows, “He was an erudite scholar and his encyclopaedic knowledge was welded with a thorough bent of practicality. This endeared him to the practicing gynaecologists.”

Dr. Narendra and Dr. Jaideep gave a tribute to him with the following words. “He was a walking encyclopedia of Gynecology and Obstetrics. He was a great innovator of instruments used in surgery. He taught all youngsters the tricks of laparoscopic surgery”. Dr. Pankaj Desai gave a tribute to him by saying that, “He taught by his deeds more than words. He was extremely well organized, meticulous, sincere and committed”. Dr. Shyam Desai said, “He was dedicated to the profession and intelligent with an eye for anything which could improve our services for women welfare”. Dr. Nozer Sheriar wrote, “Dr. M N Parikh had a very sharp intellect and was a visionary, ahead of his times in his thought process”.

Dr. Firuza Parikh his daughter-in-law mentioned that, “He has been a mentor, teacher, friend, philosopher and guide to me. He was a leader not only for me but thousands of other students”.

Apart from being a visionary in academic field, Mahendrabhai was a social person. He was a man devoted to his family, friends and students. Shobhanaben, his wife stood behind him in all his pursuits and supported him all her life. I have had a long association with him spreading over six decades. I had the pleasure of his company during our travel, stay and academic sessions while attending national and international conferences. Our colleagues in FOGSI used to call us “Twin Brothers”. Mahendrabhai would remain cool, calm and composed during difficult times. Much to our chagrin he was always late during our travel. We were to go to Berlin in 1985 to attend FIGO conference. Our flight from Mumbai was scheduled to leave at 3–30 in the early morning. He was still busy packing his bag at 12 midnight. Shobhanaben and I were getting restless. He said, “The flight will not leave without us”.

It was sad that he had a brain stroke in 2011 while addressing a scientific meeting. It was very difficult for him to remain inactive for almost a decade after the brain stroke. I met him several times in the last decade, and I was feeling sorry that an active man with sharp mind is forced to live a passive life. I feel Almighty relieved him from this passive life and took him to heaven.

Not only was he a great person during his lifetime, he proved his greatness after death as he donated his body to Anatomy department of Seth GS Medical college where he studied.

## MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

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