



Profiles in Preventive Cardiology



- Dr. Sujoy B. Roy

Professor Sujoy B. Roy, an eminent cardiologist, was born in Burma (now Myanmar). He completed his undergraduate training at the Rangoon University Medical School and moved to Edinburgh and Boston for his postgraduate studies. He had the pleasure to work with luminaries like Dr. Benedict Massell at the House of Good Samaritan, and Dr. Lewis Dexter and Dr. Walter Abelmann at the Brigham and Boston City Hospital.

While he was on the faculty of Harvard University, the late Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, then Health Minister of India, asked him to come to India to head the newly created Department of Cardiology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, which he did, in 1958.

The Department of Cardiology at AIIMS was established under the leadership of Prof. Roy. The department has developed excellent facilities for clinical care and had full functionality for adult and pediatric interventions including coronary interventions, valvuloplasty, device closure of congenital shunts and electrophysiology services (including radiofrequency ablation, pacemaker, bi-ventricular pacemaker and cardioverter defibrillator implantation). Further, the laboratory testing facilities included treadmill testing, holter recording, echocardiography (including transthoracic, transesophageal, 3-D and fetal echocardiography), Tilt testing for syncope and electrophysiology testing including CARTO system mapping.

Professor Roy was a compassionate physician, a dedicated researcher and an accomplished teacher. Most of the current day cardiologists were his students. Apart from training a number of students in cardiology, Dr. Roy made a significant contribution towards the understanding of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in India. He also coined the term 'Juvenile Rheumatic Stenosis'.

His work on high-altitude cardiorespiratory problems, which helped in the maintenance of troops in the Himalayas, has been widely acclaimed. He was a senior fellow of the Armed Forces Medical Research Council and a member of the Cardiovascular Expert Committee of the World Health Organisation.

He published over 150 scientific papers in national and international journals and also wrote several articles for the lay press.

Professor Roy's prodigious contribution in the field of medical science won him several accolades like the Amir Chand Basanti Award, the Massachusetts Heart Fellowship, and the FICCI Award, 1976, for contributions to life sciences, including agriculture. The most prestigious "Padma Bhushan" was also conferred on to him by the president of India.

Professor Roy passed away on 25 March 1976, in New Delhi after a brief illness.

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