



# BOGS TIMES

The Bengal Obstetric and Gynaecological Society

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## EDITORIAL

*"Life is the collection of experiences and their intensity"* —Jim Rohn

The past two years have brought experiences which have overwhelmed some, devastated others and undeniably been soul stirring for all of us. Hopefully we have now weathered the storm that brought life almost to a halt, not just for us in our tiny corner of the world, but for mankind in general.

As always your very own BOGS TIMES has moved in tandem with the constantly altering scenario, bringing you articles highlighting the various developments in our specialty. The 'Topic in focus' reviews the recent amendments in the MTP Act, emphasizing the ramifications pertinent to each and every one of us. Our guest author from the district discusses the lesser talked about but no less important problem of Vulvodynia, while our Interview team brings you up close and personal to eminent gynecologist and author Professor Hiralal Konar. We chronicle the numerous health, educational and awareness events our society has conducted since our last Foundation day, both on virtual and physical platforms; and also give you a small peek into the upcoming Mega event all of us are proud to host: AICOG 2023!

On the hope that we have turned the corner to a better tomorrow, all of us from the BOGS TIMES desk wish that you and your near and dear ones remain safe, and can once again bask in the warmth of a firm handshake and friendly hug!

*"Yesterday is today's memory and tomorrow is today's dream"*

—Khalil Gibran

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## Up, Close and Personal

### PROF HIRALAL KONAR



**Prof Hiralal Konar** is a well-known academician, the author of a very successful book, clinician par-excellence and a respected teacher. Dr Jayita Chakrabarti, Dr Tulika Jha and Dr Alpana Chhetri met him at his CIT road house for a tete-a-tete about his life and works.

**BT:** Sir, tell us about your childhood and your memories of growing up?

**HK:** I was born in the district of Burdwan (presently Bardhaman) on the 10th of August 1953. We are a well-off family. My father was an open minded socially active person with a strong personality. We are two sisters and six brothers. I am the 6th amongst all of us.

**BT:** What was your aim since your school days?

**HK:** With the start of my school days, I enjoyed discussing / helping my classmates in any of the subject matters. From class VI and mainly from class VII, I was entrusted to do the class of mathematics, English and Chemistry, as an assistant to our class teacher. This I continued it there after till date. Teaching has been my passion. I was awarded several academic distinctions (Scholarships) throughout my school carrier. My father donated all the money for the developments of our school. I received national scholarship in Higher Secondary Examination. I was inspired by my teachers in Mathematics, Chemistry and English. Initially, I joined BSc Honors, in Chemistry at Raj College, Burdwan. Because of political unrest, we had to wait for the medical entrance list. Soon after the medical list came out, I joined the medical course.

**BT:** Why did you change your mind to pursue the course in medicine?

**HK:** My father was not so keen on me being a doctor since there was a social turmoil during that phase. But destiny moved me to Calcutta. I was happy, as I knew, that this is the profession where I can continue my passion as a teacher, and as well as a professional person to serve people in society.

**BT:** Sir, we would like to know the institutions and the year you joined as a medical student?

**HK:** I did my pre-medical from R.G. Kar Medical College in 1971, and I joined MBBS at Sir Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College (NRSMCH) in 1972. One event may be of interest to you. The day I entered to NRS with my father for the first time, I fell in love with the institution seeing the beautiful green surroundings, rows of trees, gardens, flowers, and the fountains. I expressed my desire to father. By the grace of the Almighty, two - third of my career was spent in this institution. I am ever indebted to my mother institute NRSMCH.

**BT:** How was your life and academics during your MBBS days?

**HK:** In my pre-medicals, I stood first in Biochemistry. The then anatomy teachers in Bengal, inspired me a lot. I used to attend the classes of the stalwarts of anatomy, Prof A.K. Dutta, Prof Samar Mitra, Prof K.K. Banerjee who were the famous teachers and authors of Anatomy. I was the class assistants, secured highest marks in the University, gold medals and recipient of honors in

many subjects under the guidance of all the teachers at NRSMCH.

**BT:** What motivated you to take up Obstetrics & Gynecology?

**HK:** I had interest in both Medicine as well as Surgery. I was inclined to surgery, as I stood first in the University with the subject. My teachers called me back and encouraged me to join Obstetrics and Gynecology as it is the profession where a combination of both (medicine and surgery) exists. Above all, I was highly inspired by my teachers in Obst & Gynae and also with other subjects, who rather over the days, replaced the parents. I wish I could name all of them such as: Prof. Mahamaya Sarkar, Prof N.N. Roy Choudhury, Prof. Ajit Sarkar, Dr C.C. Mitra, Dr Gouri Shankar Mondal. Prof K. M. Gun, Prof D. C. Dutta, Prof B. N. Chakravarty, Prof S. K. Pal, Prof. B.B. Sarkar, Prof U. S. Arora, Prof A. K. Chandra, Prof Maqbul Ahmed, (Surgery), Prof S. K. Sarkar (Pathology), Prof Ashit Roy (Pharmacology), Prof Subhas Mukherjee (Physiology), have always been as guardians during my student days at NRS.

**BT:** We all would love to hear your encounter and association with the legend Prof D.C. Dutta who not only is your mentor but also father-in-law?

**HK:** It's interesting again. You know, probably all of us have faced such events. What I came to know later on, Prof D.C. Dutta was from Calcutta Medical College and worked as a Resident surgeon there. Our BOGS conference oration goes by his name. Those days most of our teachers in NRS were from CMC. In fact we (NRSMCH) were in strong competition with CMCH. You will be amazed to know, all our teachers were very respectful and used to love each other much. It appeared to me as if they were from one family with brothers and sisters. It is our teachers again, they could see the future within us and thought to make it. The rest of it you can easily imagine.

**BT:** Sir, what inspired you to go to Chandigarh for further studies?

**HK:** During my internship and house surgeonsip, I was highly motivated by the clinical excellence of Prof K.M. Gun and Prof C.C. Mitra (HOD), who taught me diagnose the rarest of rare cases during ward rounds. Prof Mitra taught me the importance of history taking to diagnose a case. He was the one, told me that our patients are our books and to listen to them carefully. He advised me to leave Calcutta and go to AIIMS or PGI Chandigarh for specialization in O&G. I was selected at the end of 3 phases of independent assessment at PGI. I worked there in the year 1982-1984 under Prof G.I. Dhall and the others. Following specialization, I came back to Calcutta and joined the state health service. I have tried to introduce the same standard of education and the examination system in Calcutta also.

**BT:** How did you go with the health care system in Bengal?



*RCOG-Membership*

**HK:** My first posting was in Kurseong Hospital. When there was a MCI visit in North Bengal Medical College, I joined there as Registrar in 1985 and worked till 1989. My days in NBMC is a very pleasant memory. My son was born in North Bengal. We used to perform family planning camps (Laparoscopic ligation) throughout the five districts of Northern Bengal. We have performed over 22,000 cases of laparoscopic ligations during that period. All are recorded in the Jr. OB-GYN India and Jr IMA . We have discussed our experience and suggestions to the Dept of Health and Family Welfare with this.

**BT:** When did you think of MRCOG and moving to UK?

**HK:** I was advised by Prof. N. N. R C, Prof K M Gun and Prof J. Mitra to try and get the exposure of international standard of education and clinical practice. I got the official permission from the health service. I cleared MRCOG, part -1 in 1991 and I went to UK in 1992 and joined the NHS. I was in UK from 1992 to 1996 where I worked as a Regional Registrar in Northern and Yorkshire region. As I came back to India, I joined the teaching post in Burdwan Medical College. In the year 2000, I joined NRS as a lecturer and continued till the post of a Professor. I worked as the Professor and Head at Midnapore Medical College. I completed the health service from Calcutta National Medical College in 2018. Thereafter, I joined as the Professor and Head in Agartala Government Medical College, Tripura. Presently I am working at KPC Medical College, Kolkata as the Head of the Department.

**BT:** Sir, we would like to hear about your work in the health service.



*Membership Admission-1993*

**HK:** I devoted myself to the patient care maximally. I used to attract huge number of patients where ever I have worked. Patients loved me. Maximum 361 patients in one of my OPD at NRSMCH was the record. I have involved my colleagues in other disciplines whenever I was in need. I was loved by my students, juniors as they felt free to work with me . I take special responsibility for their training and research works. I attended the evening rounds routinely worked even the holidays, attended emergency calls even in the middle of night for the care of my patients. I am till in touch with many of my students and patients and their families. All my research papers are with my patients those seen and managed. There is significant development in the health care system and service in Bengal.

**BT:** Sir, we would like to hear about your family?

**HK:** To be honest, I am deeply indebted to my wife Mrs. Madhusri Konar in this respect. In family, she is the person who takes care all of us. She takes care of all our relations also. Without her sacrifice we could not have performed this much. I was married on 10th March and am blessed with son and daughter. My son is an Assistant Professor (O&G) and my daughter is pursuing medicine now (MS- O&G).

**BT:** You are associated with various organizations please tell us about your active involvement in our very own society BOGS, FOGSI, AFOG, ISOPARB?



*ICOG Convocation-Chairman-19.01.13*



*AICC-RCOG-at Chandigarh*



Days at NBMCH-1987



Bhratri Dwitiya



Family Holidays at Shillong

**HK:** I was associated with BOGS during my internship in 1981, when AICOG held in Calcutta. I worked as a volunteer for the said conference doing the duties for the railway station and the airport alternately in the morning and evening session. I became a member of this prestigious society as induced by my teacher Prof. K.M. Gun 1982. I joined as an executive member while I was working as an RMO –cum- Clinical Tutor at NRSMCH. I am indebted to Prof Alokendu Chatterjee and my good friend Prof. Pankaj Desai, Baroda, to induce me to the organizations. I was elected as an Assistant Secretary in 1999, then I took over as the Secretary in 2000. Dr Basudev Mukherjee was the President. We enjoyed the work very much throughout the year. I was elected the President in 2008 when Dr Krishnendu Gupta was the Secretary. We had to work hard to regularise many of the areas of the society. I was associated with FOGSI in 2000. I was elected as a committee chairperson of FOGSI in Medical Disorders in Pregnancy (2001-2005). The committee works got much appreciation in FOGSI. Committee chair meeting in Kochin was a memorable event (2005). I was elected the Vice president of FOGSI in 2008. Dr. Narendra Malhotra was the President, we worked all throughout the year. During this period (2001-2008), we published several of our clinical research papers such as: Malaria in Pregnancy, Heart Disease in Pregnancy, Jaundice in Pregnancy, Maternal Mortality in India and the others. I was elected the Chairman ICOG, the academic wing of FOGSI, in 2013. Dr. Jaydeep Malhotra was the Secretary of ICOG. We, along with Dr C.N. Purandare, the Dean of the ICOG, first initiated the MRCOG and MRCPI examinations in India. I was elected the FOGSI representative of AOFOG in 2015-2016. I worked for oncology committee. Our project is the elimination of cancer cervix by 2030. We prepared and published AOFOG recommendations of management of patients with cancers during the COVID -19 pandemic. Till date I am working with the oncology committee of AOFOG. I was inducted to Indian Society of Perinatology and Reproductive Biology (ISOPARB) the other National Organization by Prof Gita Ganguly and Dipika Didi (1989). The society and the Journal, (IJOPARB) is very popular now. I am ever indebted to few of my younger colleagues such as: Prof Pranab Biswas, Prof Snehamay Choudhury and Prof Picklu Choudhury for their support to look after my hospital works, when I had to be out of station for the society.

**BT:** Sir, tell us about your works as an author and editor?

**HK:** I served 3 terms (3 years each) as National Corresponding Editor in Jr. Obst. Gynae of India. Presently I hold the post of Editor-in-Chief of ISOPARB journal for last 7 years.

Prof D.C. Dutta left us in 1996 and I took over the responsibility of maintaining the legacy of the famous textbooks of Obstetrics and the Text book of Gynaecology. I published a book on bedside clinics and viva-voce in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I am the author of Clinics in Obstetrics and Clinics in Gynaecology as released this January 2022. I have contributed in over 120 publications in the national and international journals. My works reflect the health issues in Indian scenario. My presentations also reflect the health care issues in Indian context predominantly. Several book Chapter contributions too. Few of my important publications are “Tamoxifen Therapy in Breast carcinoma and its association with Endometrial Cancer; Mullerian Malformations and Reconstructive Surgery – Clinicians approach.”

**BT:** Apart from your professional career what are about your hobbies?

**HK:** I love natural wildlife photography and travelling, is my area of interest and my hobby. I have invested in imported expensive cameras since my younger days. Reading literature both English (Shakespeare, Lord Tennyson, Stephen Covey, Robert Browning, Gautam Ghosh and others) and Bengali (RN Tagore, Sarat Chandra, Bibhuti Bhusan, Swami Vivekananda, the magazine ‘Desh’) is my favorite past time. My father appointed me a master to teach me singing but it could not make any progress.

**BT:** It was great knowing you as a person so closely, Sir, what is your message to this present generation?

**HK:** Work, Sincerity and Dedication have no other alternative. Unity is the strength and Organization is the power. Through the large societies like, BOGS, FOGSI, we are tied through the bonds of knowledge, learning and academics. We need to be professional and try to work for the society towards the progress. We in BOGS, are very proud to know our predecessors founded this society (BOGS) in this state and in the same year, the Federation (FOGSI), at the national level (1936). We are well recognised for our far sight. We are ever grateful to our predecessors. The successors of the society need to think beyond the boundaries.

“LONG LIVE BOGS”