Obituary – Dr. Vidya Acharya

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing away of Prof (Smt) Vidya N Acharya this morning.

Prof Acharya had been hospitalised following a trauma and was in the ICU for last several days.

Prof Acharya was born on 8th January 1938 and had her entire education in Mumbai. She was a student of Seth G.S. Medical College from where she obtained her M.B.B.S. and M.D.

The first lady nephrologist of India, she was responsible for establishment and development of the Nephrology Unit at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, Mumbai. She was the very first to start Dialysis and Transplantation facilities in Western India. She has been one of the very few who helped the formation of Indian Society of Nephrology, Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and consistently worked for their progress having held the post of president of both societies. She was also a founder member and past President of Hypertension society of India. She was an active member of Education Committee, Hypertension and Kidney Disease Detection Committee of International Federation of Kidney Foundation [IFKF]. She was passionate about the importance of prevention of CKD.

Respectfully called "madam", she was a popular teacher in Medicine and Science, having trained thousands of students at the M.B.B.S. level, hundreds of post graduates in M.D., more than 200 students in the specialty of Nephrology, and more than a dozen research students for M.Sc and Ph.D in the subject of ‘Applied Biology’ of Mumbai University.

She had been one of the pioneering researchers in Nephrology in India, with a number of high quality publications in journals and book chapters.

Her contributions to the development of nephrology and nephrologists in India has been immense. Despite facing a number of health issues in recent years, her commitment to education remained undiminished till the end. She was always on the front row of medical and nephrology conferences. Unafraid of presenting a point of view, she challenged old and young presenters with questions and offered the benefit of her long experience.

She received numerous recognitions, including the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Society of Nephrology and the Pioneer award of the International Society of Nephrology.

The entire Society mourns her loss today and prays for eternal peace to her soul.

Condolence meeting will be held on Sunday, 11th May 2014 at 11.00 am in the Dr. Jivraj Mehta Auditorium, Seth GS Medical College, Parel, Mumbai - 12.