

Professor Om Prakash Sharma



On August 19, 2012 the medical community lost one of its most important members, Om Prakash Sharma, Professor of Medicine at the School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, who died peacefully at his home in Los Angeles. Om Prakash Sharma was born in India in 1936 and graduated from Victoria College and G.R. Medical College, both in his native land. He then read tropical medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He served internships in medicine in India, Scotland and England and a residency at Albert Einstein Medical College, Bronx, New York, where he also completed

the fellowship in cardiopulmonary medicine.

Professor Sharma was well known and internationally respected as a physician, clinical scientist, teacher, medical historian and humanist. He was emeritus President of the World Association of Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous Disorders (WASOG) and editor of the journal *Current Opinion in Pulmonary Medicine*. Professor Sharma authored or edited five books and eight monographs, and has written about 400 articles, short papers, editorials and reviews on the topics of sarcoidosis, tropical medicine, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, interstitial lung disease and other pulmonary disorders, and on the history of medicine. His work on clinical aspects of pulmonary disease spanned more than 40 years.

Om Sharma was the typical paradigm of a true man and a perfect physician. He was a very good friend to every foreign doctor who sought his help, and he gloried in bestowing compassion on all his patients.

At the beginning of my career I had the tremendous good fortune and pleasure of acceptance of my application to work as his research fellow. It was my great honour, also, to accept his invitation to be section editor of *Current Opinion in Pulmonary Medicine* for the interstitial lung diseases for the last two years. His deep learning, and his humility and gentle approach to others will be a lifelong source of inspiration to me and all others who knew him, and those who never met him have missed a great opportunity.

Om always spoke with a calm reassurance, yet he was very passionate about many things. He was a perfect mentor and a great physician, a gentle giant of learning. His serene, curious and elegant personality together with his great knowledge provided a role model for us all. He was an eminent member of our editorial board. Om Sharma will be deeply missed.

Requiescat in pace.

Demosthenes Bouros, MD