

Three Stars of Indian Paediatrics

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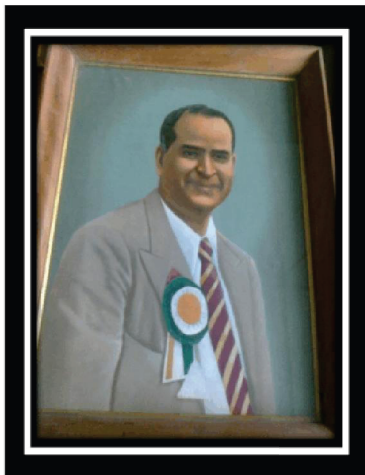
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Abstract

The pioneer of Indian paediatrics are not in lime light unfortunately, they have contributed not only in Indian Paediatrics but also at International level. This is the tribute to this great Indian Paediatricians.

Key words: Indian Paediatrics; Dr. George Cohelo; Dr. Professor S.T.Achar; Dr. K.C.Chaudhary.

Dr. George Cohelo



In 1928 he made the beginning of Paediatrics in Mumbai and became the Superintendent of the B.J. (Bai Jerbai Wadia) Hospital for Children - the first children's hospital in India. He remained the head of the department of Pediatrics till 1953. (1) From 1955 to 1971 he was Editor of JAPI (The Journal of the Association of Physicians of India) (2) During period of 1967 to 1969 he was Head of the Departments at L.T.M.C.

Medical College, Sion, and Mumbai. He established the Paediatrics in the western part of the country. He was of the opinion that the policies regarding teaching, service and research in Paediatrics should be decided by Paediatricians only.

In 1950 he started the 'Association of Pediatricians of India' (API). From 1952 to 1959 he was editor of the 'Indian Journal of Child Health'.

In 1944 under his guidance the postgraduate diploma in child health was started at Bai Jeerbai Wadia hospital for children. Many of the senior pediatricians of today in the country worked at the BJ Hospital for children under the leadership of Dr George Coelho. (3) He decided to establish the Annual Conference of Association of Pediatricians of India in collaboration with various specialty organizations like Cardiologists, Neurologists, Hematologists and other internal medical disciplines.

He is well known as the 'Father of Paediatrics in India'.

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Professor Dr.S.T. Achar



**M.D, FRCP(C), FAMS
(1902-1968)**

Dr. S. T. Achar was born on 11th sep. 1902 and retired from service on 10 sep. 1965. (1)(5) He was the pioneer in planning and establishing a separate pediatric facility for the children Institute of Child Health' at Egmore, Madras. This hospital, referred to as the 'Egmore model' has become a model for other public pediatric facilities in India. In 1948 he was the first Professor of Paediatrics in India at the Madras Medical College and first Indian to have a FRCP in Paediatrics from Canada. (4)

His main published work was on paediatrics nutritional problem, childhood cirrhosis & diarrheal disorders which earned him nationwide recognition & international reputation. He was elected as a fellow of Indian

academy of medical sciences, honorary fellowship of French, British & American paediatrics society and American academy of paediatrics. He served as a member of scientific advisory board of Indian council medical research for two terms and was the chairman, Nutritional advisory board of Govt. of India after his retirement. He served on health panel of commission & was largely responsible for idea & planning of new children hospital in Egmore, Madras. He was visiting lecturer in various countries & member of International Paediatrics Congress. His knowledge & guidance steered the development of paediatrics in this country.

He passed away June 1968. In memory of Dr. Achar, a Gold Medal for Social Pediatrics is awarded every year at National Conference of Indian Academy of Paediatrics.(1)

In 1933 he founded the first independent paediatric journal namely, the *Indian Journal of Pediatrics*, in Calcutta. He also started the

Dr. K.C. Chaudhari



Indian Paediatric Society in 1948. By 1958 Indian Paediatric Society had organized nine National Pediatric Conferences in different cities in India. He was the first person to highlight the problems of children from east side of India-Calcutta. He was the founder of institute of child health in Calcutta.

He thought that the paediatricians of India should have a separate independent annual conference of their own. He felt that conducting a separate annual meeting of paediatricians would help establish paediatrics as an independent discipline. (1)

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