



Bhawani Shanker Sharma, President NSI 2015

Prof. & Head, Dept. of Neurosurgery &
Director, Neurosciences
Mahatma Gandhi University of Medical Sciences &
Technology, Sitapura, Jaipur
Email Id : drsharma.aiims@gmail.com
Tel: 91 9868398232

Family history:

Born on 10/10/1953 in town Bhusawar, Dist Bharatpur, Rajasthan, located in the interior of Jaipur-Agra high way. Father - Late Shri Rajori Lal Sharma, a school teacher. Mother – Late Smt Kasturi Devi, Housewife. Second of four brothers, studied in Govt. Secondary School. Have 2 sons both managers in USA & Dubai. One 1½ years old grandson. Children never wanted to become a doctor and got dissuaded by my extremely busy schedule in hospital and home during residency and neurosurgical career, while they were growing up.

Schooling:

No electricity was available in my house during my school days, used to study with lamp and in street light. Stood first and topped entrance test for admission to science biology in class 9th. In the school, received awards in extracurricular activities, essay writing and drama. In secondary board examination got distinction in physics and chemistry. As no further schooling was available in my own town, moved to Jobner where elder brother was studying in Agriculture College. Passed 11th class from Govt. higher secondary school with distinction in physics and chemistry. Moved to Maharaja's College, Jaipur, passed 1st year three year degree course in first division.

Medical Schooling:

Had a fascination for knowing and studying the structure and function of the human body and how diseases occur and how they can be treated. Always wanted to become a doctor and doctors always impressed me. My feeling was that to serve humanity via this profession, is the best thing I could do. Got selected in Rajasthan premedical test, passed all MBBS professional examinations in first attempt from RNT Medical College,

Udaipur, Rajasthan. While doing anatomical dissection in anaesthetized frogs in secondary school, I used to like the challenge of dissection and preservation of normal structures. I had strong liking to become a surgeon. I felt that a surgeon develops skills to correct with his own hands, so I opted for surgery in post graduation and passed MS general surgery in the first attempt from the same college. Selected as Civil Assistant Surgeon by Rajasthan Public Service Commission and joined primary health centre (PHC) of my own village. Served population of that area and earned good reputation. Though private practice was allowed, never did it.

Struggle period:

Meanwhile, got married (arranged marriage) with Mithilesh, MA, Sociology, April, 1980 during surgery residency. I appeared in RPSC interview for the post of lecturer in general surgery and was not selected because I had no publications. I had not published even my thesis work. This taught me a lesson that for academic job one has to have publications. This incident stimulated me to work hard in order to pursue an academic surgical career. After working for 1 year at the PHC, one day I realised that I was not operating because no facilities were available at a PHC. I decided to study further and went to CMC Vellore and started working as a registrar in Urology. As my father had retired, and brothers were still studying, and as a M.Ch Urology student, I had a meagre salary of 800 rupees per month I left and came to Delhi in search of a job. I joined GB Pant hospital as a Senior Resident in neurosurgery. Earlier, I had no exposure to neurosurgery at all. While working in neurosurgery because of challenges in diagnosis and special surgical skills, I started liking it and decided to become a neurosurgeon. Because there was shortage of neurosurgeons, I could foresee good scope and opportunities. Meanwhile PGI Chandigarh M.Ch admission advertisement appeared, I got selected and joined PGIMER, Chandigarh, July 1982.

Neurosurgery Residency:

In the first 6 months, while working at PGI, on one occasion, I decided to give up neurosurgery, because of the very tough life and difficult working conditions, but my family and friends, persuaded and encouraged me to continue. Started working still harder and passed M.Ch in 1984 in the first attempt. My wife tolerated hard times well and encouraged me throughout.



After passing M.Ch, I had six permanent job offers but opted for an adhoc lecture job at PGIMER, Chandigarh. I really enjoyed learning decision making and operating major cases independently. Hard work at this time really paid me dividends later. My mentor, guide and teacher Prof. V.K. Kak infused academic work culture and always encouraged me to learn new techniques. Dr. Derek Gorden from Belfast (where Prof. Kak was trained) visited PGIMER, Chandigarh and on ward rounds he was impressed by my dedication, hard work and results. This opened one new gate and he offered me a job as registrar in neurosurgery.

Overseas and further training:

Under overseas doctors training scheme of Royal College of Surgeons of England, worked at Royal Victoria hospital, Belfast for 2 years (1/1/1991 to 31/12/1992). Though I had a permanent registration with the General Medical Council, London, I returned back to my parent institute as that job was one of the best available in India. Worked in various faculty positions at PGI Chandigarh for 15 years and got selected as Professor of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, New Delhi in 2000. Time to time during my career, I obtained short term trainings in microvascular surgery (Nagoya, Japan), skull base surgery and Endoscopic surgery in Japan (Nagoya, Osaka, Matsumoto) and Germany. I was always active at a national level in promoting the development and growth of subspecialties in neurosurgery and became an active member of nearly all neurosurgical societies including the Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons, Association of Spine Surgeons of India, Indian Society of Stereotactic and Functional

Neurosurgery and Indian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Area of interest included skull base, vascular surgery and endoneurosurgery.

Contributions at AIIMS:

Headed Department of Neurosurgery at AIIMS, New Delhi for about 7 years and started neurotrauma services at new state-of-art JPNA Trauma centre with facilities of micro dialysis, collaborative international studies, mobile CT scanner and O-arm facilities, started new operation theatres in CN Tower, faculty increased from 7 to 26, upgraded Gamma knife to Perfection model, obtained a dedicated MRI for gamma knife centre and intraoperative MRI (Brain suite). Formed a Centre of Excellence for epilepsy, Surgical skills training lab and Central cadaver training facility Equipped operation theatres with High-end Pentero/ OH-6 Leica operating microscope, Midas Rex drill, CUSA with bone scalpel, Radiofrequency diathermy, O-arm, Image guidance (neuronavigation), Intraoperative neuromonitoring, 3D endoscope and Robot (ROSA) Started PGDF in spinal surgery, epilepsy and functional neurosurgery, skull base, cerebrovascular neurosurgery and paediatric neurosurgery.

Contribution to Neurosciences:



With Colleagues

Learnt, practiced, mastered and developed Skull base surgery – microscopic and endoscopic, Endoscopic cranial and spinal surgery, Minimally invasive cranial key hole surgery, Minimally invasive spine surgery, STA-MCA and EC-IC bypass, Endoscopic controlled clipping of anterior circulation aneurysms. Learnt and practiced and metamorphosed from conventional cranial approaches to complex skull base approaches to

minimally invasive approaches using high end operating microscopes and 3D endoscopes. Intra op MRI (brain suite) in brain tumors craniotomy and ‘O’ arm in spinal instrumentation. Endoscopy (3D), image guidance and robot in minimally invasive neurosurgery. Witnessed phenomenal growth and advancement in imaging from direct carotid and vertebral puncture angiography, ventriculography, pneumoencephalography and myelography to CT, MRI, advanced sequences in MRI, PET, MEG. Used yellow fluorescein for glioma surgery and ICG in vascular neurosurgery.

Academic contributions:

Publications – 450, Books edited – 4, Research projects – 10, Multicentric studies – 2, Thesis guided > 50, Editorial / scientific board of World Neurosurgery, Child Nervous System, Neurosurgery, Neurology India and British J. of Neurosurgery. Visiting Faculty in Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Canada, Czech



Republic, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam. 25 special talks given abroad invited guest lectures/ plenary session/ Symposium/ keynote Awards Travelling fellowship - young neurosurgeon, Nagoya, Japan, Fellowship in skull base and cerebrovascular surgery, Osaka, Japan, Dr. SV Singh Best scientist award, RNT Medical College, Udaipur, Appreciation of services by Vice President of India, Oration in own name “Prof. B.S. Sharma Oration” at NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur, every alternate year.

Office-bearer:

Executive Committee member CME, Convener, Secretary, and President – NSI, Secretary and President – Skull Base Surgery Society of India, Treasurer, Secretary and President – Cerebrovascular Society of India, President, Neurotrauma Society of India, President – Delhi Neurological Association, President - Indian Society of Peripheral Nerve Surgery (ISPN), President - Neuroendoscopy Society of India.

Contribution to NSI:

Promoted educational activities and surgical skills learning for young members and residents of society. Worked as officer and executive of NSI and was associated with facilitation of international membership, collaboration with other neurosurgical societies abroad, friendship meetings with international neurosurgical societies, NSI education course initiative and mock exams for DNB & M.Ch. residents. This helped in improving neurosurgery education in the country and international projection of self, AIIMS and Indian neurosurgery.

Orations delivered:

Sheikh Abdullah oration, SMS Medical College, Jaipur, Dr Shurvir Singh oration, RNT Medical College, Jaipur, Dave-Newton oration, KGMC, Lucknow, Dr VK Kak oration, NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur and Sh RL Swarankar oration, MGUMST, Jaipur besides 7 Presidential orations.

Regular faculty:

Chair, AASNS, education committee & participation in education courses 3-4 times a year in Asian countries, Endoscopic fellowship programme at NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur, Surgical skill training lab AIIMS, Central cadaver dissection facility trauma centre, AIIMS, Demonstrated micro and endoscopic live surgery in workshops at VHS, Chennai, AIIMS, New Delhi, Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai, Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, National Medical College, Kolkata, NSCB Medical College, Jabalpur, SN Medical College, Jodhpur and SGPGI, Lucknow.

Way of life :

Strongly believe in philosophy of middle path in life and keeping balance in family and professional spheres of life, in Neurosurgery career, strong parental/family support is required throughout.

Always critically analyse complications / mortality and take a lesson for future.



With Family

Believe in regular meditation to keep stress away in day to day life. Help and encourage younger colleagues. Strongly believe in team work, have straight forward thinking and do not like polarization or politics while working within a group. Do not believe in retirement – Neurosurgeons are always hard working and they must continue to deliver in one way or another, i.e., teach/ write a book/ and serve community as long as they can. I would certainly like to become a neurosurgeon again, if given opportunity, at a high volume academic centre well equipped with advanced and modern gadgets. ■