Obituary

Chandra M Pandey: Biostatistician and researcher

With the passing of CM Pandey, former Head and Professor of Biostatistics at Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow and Director (Academic and Research) at Divine Heart Hospital, Lucknow the health research arena has lost one of his moons. His first name was “Chandra” and he made it true throughout his life with a calm disposition and excellent sense of humour.

From the 1980s, he conducted original research on a variety of topics ranging from human reproduction to chronic non-communicable diseases, provided statistical expertise to countless studies and committees at national as well as international levels and served as head of the department of Biostatistics and Health Informatics at SGPGIMS for more than 25 years. He was a critic of research malpractice and a champion of promoting digital health. He was part of a team that initiated digital health records in India and established the first health information system in the country at SGPGIMS in 1998.

Born in a Hindu family in a small village of Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India in the year 1954, Professor Pandey had extremely humble beginnings. He had a passion for gardening and writing poetry. At university, he also took an avid interest in the flying club, learning how to pilot a single-seater aircraft.

He was formally trained at Banaras Hindu University in India where he completed his M.Sc. and Ph.D.. He also participated in knowledge sharing at various international fora like the International Statistical Institute and United Nations International Centre for Theoretical Physics. He has been elected as President-Elect of the International Epidemiological Association (IEA) for 2017-21 and President of IEA for 2021–2024. Professor Pandey was elected as a fellow of the Indian Society for Medical Statistics in 2009 and went on to serve as President of ISMS from 2016 to 2018, as well as the General Secretary from 2002 to 2004. He worked closely with the John Hopkins School of Public Health, World Health Organization, Concordia University, Cincinnati Medical School, Indian Council of Medical Research, and Dept of Science & Technology, GOI to name a few.

He will be sorely missed by his wife Shubh Laxmi, their son Apoorv, and his many friends and colleagues around the world. We lost him on 2nd October 2023, due to complications arising from a traumatic brain injury while recovering from dengue.

Professor CM Pandey M.Sc., Ph.D., FSMS (01 January 1954-02 October 2023)

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

The author is an Associate Editor of CEGH and was Ph.D. scholar of Prof. CM Pandey.

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