
Obituary



Pronab Kumar Thakur, formerly Clinical Services Manager, Lennox Castle Hospital, Scotland

Dr Thakur was born in Dibrugarh, Assam, on 28 August 1940. He was educated at Don Bosco School, Guahati, and thereafter at St Edmund's College, Shillong. He entered Assam Medical College in 1959, graduating from the MBBS in 1964. After postgraduate training in Guahati (Assam's capital city) in 1966 he moved to Scotland. Over the years he developed an abiding love for his adopted country and indeed in 1968 married Veronica, a Glasgow girl and teacher. He first worked in Aberdeen as a senior house officer at the Royal Cornhill Hospital, continuing his

psychiatric training mainly in the West of Scotland, at Gartnavel Royal and the Southern General Hospitals. He obtained the DPM in 1972 and moved to Edinburgh as senior registrar at Gogarburn Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped. In 1973 he gained the MRCPsych; and the following year was appointed Consultant Psychiatrist with a special interest in Mental Handicap, based at Lennox Castle Hospital near Glasgow. From 1991 until his premature retirement in 1995 due to ill health, he was Clinical Services Manager for Lennox Castle and its associated hospitals and community service. He was elected FRCPsych in 1994.

Many of us knew him as Dul, this name stemming from his earliest childhood and his delight at being pushed on his swing. Having three doting sisters and staff he was swung to his heart's content. It seems Dul derives from *dolna*, Assamese for swing.

Tall and personable, despite the multi-system ravages of diabetes, usually he looked deceptively well. But, like the rest of us, he was not perfect. At times he paid only glancing attention to dietary restrictions. He had a marvellous sense of humour, always kindly in tone. Really juicy medical gossip lightened our days.

For the three brief years of his retirement, along with Veronica he continued to enjoy one of his favourite things, worldwide travel, despite having been grievously ill in Mexico, Florida and on his final visit to India to see his family. He was flown home from there only to die a short time later in Glasgow Western Infirmity on 28 December 1998.

There was barely standing room at his funeral service, attended in force by staff of every discipline and this on an icy, blustery New Year's Eve (our Hogmanay). There were no patients – yet he had for so long been such a consistent part of their lives. Most having learning disabilities would have needed guidance and transport. Because of the approach of the long Scottish holiday all had to be hastily arranged, most of us having not quite a day's notice. Even so we failed them.

He is survived by his wife Veronica and his family in Assam.

LILA MCINTYRE