

## OBITUARY

We have lost two of our members in the recent past

### **Prof. Muralidhar Sengupta. OSWB Membership No: S – 427**

**Born on: 12<sup>th</sup> December 1911**

**Expired on: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The most influential personality of Ophthalmology in West Bengal bellowed his first cry in a doctor's family... that of Dr. Jogesh Ch. Sengupta, in the shivering cold winter of Munger in Bihar. His father was in the transferable job of Bengal Medical Service. Hence he had his schooling at several places and finally received his School Leaving Certificate at Khulna. He completed his I. Sc. at Rajsahi.

An extraordinary brilliant student with a family background of medical profession, he joined Calcutta Medical College to serve the suffering humanity. He completed his MBBS in 1937 and got wedded to Dr. Aruna Sen who was also his classmate and a good friend. As a studious fellow he earned the Government College Scholarship, Gold Medal in Surgery, Duke of Edinburgh prize in Surgery and Honours in Pathology. He passed DOMS (London) in 1949 and became the fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences in 1963.

He worked in the General Surgery Department of Calcutta Medical College from 1937 to 1941. His blooming career in Ophthalmology started after this initial spell when he was spotted by General Kirwan and he joined the Eye Department of Calcutta Medical College on his instruction. He joined as House Surgeon, matured himself through the responsibilities of Registrar, Resident Surgeon and Assistant Professor and gracefully retired as a guiding personality in the field of Ophthalmology in West Bengal as the Professor and the head of the Institute of Ophthalmology in 1971. As an exceptional teacher he was taken back to the Calcutta Medical College even after his retirement as Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology. For a short spell he was transferred to N R S Medical College and his midas touch and planning saw the birth of the Department of Ophthalmology there.

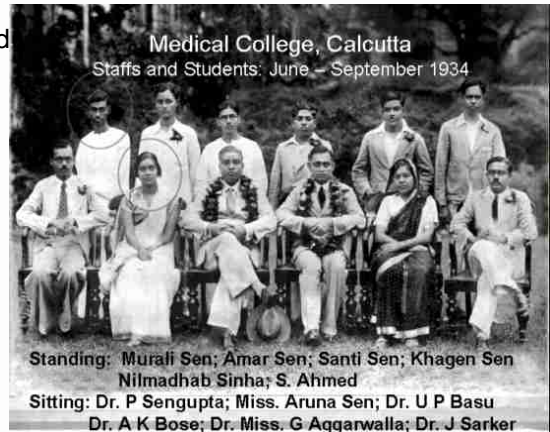
Having a tremendous foresight on the legal aspects, he was instrumental in having the Cornea Grafting act passed and then established the first eye bank in West Bengal. He masterminded the planning of the "School of Optometry" and the "Retina Clinic" in the "Eye Infirmary" building which later became the "Regional Institute of Ophthalmology". Under the guidance of Capt. Kiran Sen he devoted himself to retinal surgery and started the Retina Research Clinic at Medical College.

Honours and responsibilities kept this popular personality busy throughout his life. The following are only a few to mention...

1. Hony. Secretary and President of OSWB.
2. Chairman of the editorial board of Bengal Ophthalmic Journal of OSWB.
3. President of AIOS.
4. Hony. Secretary and President of the Association for the Prevention of Blindness.
5. Fellow of State Medical Faculty of West Bengal.
6. Vice President of Light House for the Blind.
7. President of Eye Care and Research Centre.
8. President of Eye Donation Society.

His wife Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Sengupta who was the Deputy Director in health services, expired in 1993. He is survived by his able son Dr. Dipankar Sengupta, well known surgeon in Gastroenterology and daughter in law, the reputed Ophthalmologist of Kolkata Dr. (Mrs.) Juthika Pal. Last but not the least the 4<sup>th</sup> generation doctor in the family is his grandson Dr. Raja Sengupta who has just completed his MBBS from Calcutta National Medical College.

May his soul rest in peace.



Medical College, Calcutta  
Staffs and Students: June – September 1934  
Standing: Murali Sen; Amar Sen; Santi Sen; Khagen Sen  
Nilmadhab Sinha; S. Ahmed  
Sitting: Dr. P Sengupta; Miss. Aruna Sen; Dr. U P Basu  
Dr. A K Bose; Dr. Miss. G Aggarwalla; Dr. J Sarker