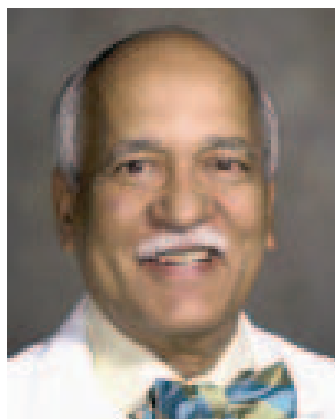


OM PRAKASH SHARMA, MD, FRCP, FCCP  
4 JULY 1936 – 19 AUGUST 2012  
INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SPECIALIST IN SARCOIDOSIS



Prof. Sharma was a well-known and internationally respected physician, clinical scientist, teacher, medical historian and humanist. He was born in India where he graduated from Victoria College and attended G.R. Medical College.

Afterwards, he worked in India, Scotland, England, and the USA. Prof. Sharma's academic and professional background encompasses many areas of pulmonary medicine, but he has mainly dedicated himself to the study of sarcoidosis. During his career that embraced 50 years of clinical and research experience, he had produced outstandingly clear, concise and informative books and monographs on sarcoidosis, general pulmonary medicine, and tropical medicine. He was editor of the journal *Clinical Opinions in Pulmonary Disease*, as well as editor of several books on interstitial lung diseases and tropical medicine. He was an important liaison between the American College of Chest Physicians and the Indian Thoracic Society.

Prof. Sharma's interest in sarcoidosis in particular led to his presidency in the World Association of Sarcoidosis and other Granulomatous disease (WASOG). During his tenure as presidency, he worked

with Dr. Geraint James and Gianfranco Rizzato as they established WASOG as the only organization devoted exclusively to sarcoidosis. Prof Sharma was part of the first ERS/ATS/WASOG statement regarding sarcoidosis. Prof Sharma's insights into the various clinical manifestation of the disease led to a large clinic in Los Angeles. He delivered a great contribution to the educational, clinical, and translational research areas of respiratory and critical care medicine. For decades, his work had attracted chest disease specialists as well as general physicians interested in sarcoidosis, immunological lung disease and granulomatous lung disorders. His devotion to investigating the etiology of sarcoidosis has resulted in national and international educational and research collaborations.

Prof Sharma had written several articles and monographs regarding the history of medicine. In particular, he had written two separate books regarding Dame Sheila Sherlock and Prof D. Geraint James. Those books detail the lives of two of the key figures in the sarcoidosis movement.

Prof Sharma was a great ambassador for WASAOG over the years. His efforts to bring in people from all parts of the world into the sarcoidosis community were quite successful because of his quiet but attentive attitude. He died peacefully in his home on 19 August 2012. He will be sorely missed by ourselves and all that knew him.

*R. P. Baughman, M. Drent, U. Costabel*