

Tribute to Padma Shri Dr. K. K. Aggarwal (5 September 1958 – 17 May 2021)

Dr. K. K. Aggarwal, a great teacher of medical science and a doyen of public health, breathed his last on 17 May 2021 at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. A true champion from scientific and medical fraternity, he was an Indian physician and cardiologist who was President Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO), President of the Heart Care Foundation of India, the Past National President of Indian Medical Association, Secretary General, Indian Medical Association, President of Delhi Medical Association and Indian Medical Association, New Delhi Branch. Until 2017, he served at Moolchand Medcity, New Delhi, as a Senior Consultant, Physician and Cardiologist, and Dean, Board of Medical Education. He received Dr. BC Roy National Award in 2005 which is given for outstanding service in the field of Socio-Medical Relief. Government of India honoured him in 2010 with the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine.

Dr KK Aggarwal, MBBS, MD, Gold Medalist, had a very keen sense of clinical research and was one of the pioneers of streptokinase therapy for heart attacks in India who also introduced the technique of Colour Doppler Echocardiography in India. Being the first to use clot busters in patients with acute myocardial infarction in 1984, he introduced colour Doppler echocardiography in North India in 1987. He was also a Limca Book of World Record Holder for the maximum people trained in the life-saving technique of Hands-only CPR. A legend of Cardiology, Dr Aggarwal worked tirelessly to establish connections between technology and the tradition. He also used alternative medicine - Yoga and Ayurveda - to treat his patients. Dr. Aggarwal saved countless lives with his undeterred efforts of reaching out to the masses to raise awareness amidst the raging pandemic.

Department of Science & Technology conferred upon him the National Award for Outstanding Efforts in Science & Technology Communication in 2013. He was a reputed science and health education communicator, with a social media following of more than 10 million people, who did phenomenal work for creating mass awareness on the SARS COV-2 virus. He also worked hard through annual Perfect Health Melas which became a huge success among school children and various other stakeholders. He published many books on health, including Alloveda- in which he combined ancient Vedic Medicine with modern Allopathy. He is credited with six textbook chapters on echocardiography and thousands of articles in national and international press. Dr. Aggarwal will be remembered for his indomitable dedication towards public health, medical science, science communication and public welfare during his 30 years of medical and social presence.

His pursuit of excellence continued in the diverse roles of physician-scientist, Researcher, academic teacher, writer, editor, administrator, Meditation teacher and a public health activist. A recipient of Delhi Hindi Sahitya Sammelan - Sahitya Shree Award 2007 as a doctor and philosopher of Indian Culture, he also received Vishwa Hindi Samman in 2015. He was decorated with FICCI Health Care Personality of the Year Award 2016, Dr D S Munekar National IMA Award, Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award 2003, and the Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award 1993, along with numerous other awards and recognitions. It is noteworthy that he was also a member of Ethics Committee, Medical Council of India, and Chairman Ethics Committee Delhi Medical Council. Dr Aggarwal also served as Group Editor in Chief IJCP Group of Publications and eMedinews- the first national daily medical newspaper. A holder of Three Limca Book of World Records and a TEDx Speaker, he was a prolific writer, an eloquent columnist and also a TV Anchor. Championing the cause of medical professionals, health & human rights, medical ethics, he was keenly interested in revamping the medical education in India. His untimely passing away is a loss to the whole scientific community and human kind.