



Cite this as: *BMJ* 2025;389:r927
<http://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.r927>
Published: 09 May 2025

Sunil Krishnalal Pandya

Sanjay Pai



Sunil Pandya was born and spent almost his entire life in Bombay (now Mumbai). He joined Grant Medical College in 1957, graduating in 1961. He then gained a masters in general surgery and trained in neurosurgery. In 1968 he joined a public hospital, King Edward VII Memorial Hospital, and Seth Gordhandas Sunderdas Medical College (KEM-GSMC) where he worked with Homi Dastur. In 1974-75 he spent a year training at the Institute for Neurology, Queen Square, London, under Valentine Logue.

BMJ: first published as 10.1136/bmj.r927 on 9 May 2025. Downloaded from <https://www.bmj.com/> on 14 May 2025 at Sreeja Library. Protected by copyright, including for uses related to text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.

Sunil served KEM-GSMC with great dedication until 1998. His record keeping, adherence to protocol, and concern for his patients, especially the poor and the downtrodden, was legendary. On retirement he joined the private Jaslok Hospital, where he practised for the next 23 years.

He wore many hats—he was primarily a neurosurgeon but like his medical hero, William Osler, he was also a medical historian, man of letters, voice of reason, role model, and bibliophile. As a teacher and public speaker he was unparalleled, the result of his incredibly wide range of interests.

Medical ethics was especially close to his heart, and he was the founder editor (in 1994) of a newsletter that has grown into an indexed and reputed medical ethics publication, the *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*. He continued to contribute for the next 30 years. Sunil was also associated with the *National Medical Journal of India* from its inception in 1988, and contributed a regular column for many years. Possibly the genesis of this column was from the 1980s, when he was a regular columnist for *The BMJ* with his “Letter from Bombay.”

He was unassuming; courteous to a fault, with an old world charm; modest despite his many achievements; always had a sense of wonder; and continued learning new things. On the flip side, I was told recently that he could be a tough man to please when he was an examiner.

Sunil died from frailty of old age, in part because of medication induced pulmonary fibrosis. Not unexpectedly, he donated his body to the department of anatomy at KEM-GSMC for dissection and research.

He is survived by a son and daughter, as well as his wife, Shubhada, herself a renowned neurophysiologist, leprologist, and medical historian.

Neurosurgeon (b 1940; q Mumbai 1961), died 17 December 2024 of frailty of old age