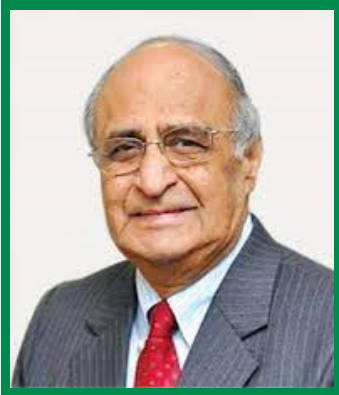


## Felicitation



**Professor I C Verma**

Professor Ishwar Chander Verma, Advisor at the Institute of Medical Genetics and Genomics, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, has been conferred the Padma Shri award for the year 2023. The fourth highest civilian honour in the country has been awarded to him in recognition of his immense contribution and tireless work in the field of medical genetics and rare diseases. Professor Verma is one of the founding fathers of medical genetics in India and a patron of the Society for Indian Academy of Medical Genetics (SIAMG). The award is a matter of great pride for the entire medical genetics fraternity of the country. The SIAMG family congratulates Professor I C Verma on this remarkable achievement and expresses its gratitude to him for his constant guidance and support.

## Messages

My association with Professor I C Verma dates back to 1992 when I joined AIIMS, New Delhi as a “genetics-naïve pediatrician”. I feel privileged, proud, and blessed for having him as my mentor and guru till date. Not only me, for the whole medical genetics fraternity in India, he has been the driving force for improving genetic services and research.

We are all aware about his illustrious career and academic achievements. A teacher par excellence, each of his talks will give you a new message and insight to ponder. And above all, he is an amazing human being.

I learnt several other things from Sir and tried to follow at least some and would like to pass on those for the young doctors and researchers:

- be passionate and enjoy the work you are doing
- get out of your comfort zone
- go an extra mile for helping patients and their families
- go an extra mile to build rapport with your colleagues and enjoy working together; you can never work alone
- remain inquisitive like a child and try to learn from everyone
- be updated about the research, what is happening in your work area and beyond too.

Heartiest congratulations Sir for receiving the well-deserved prestigious Padma Shri award which has made the whole pediatric and medical genetics fraternity proud. Wishing you good health and happiness always! We shall continue to seek your guidance and blessings.

**Dr Madhulika Kabra**

**Professor, Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics,  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, India**

## Felicitation

Professor Verma did his premedical training at Elphinstone College, Mumbai and obtained MBBS at Amritsar Medical College where he was awarded the PN Chuttani Gold Medal for standing first in Clinical Medicine. He obtained MRCP London and DCH of Glasgow University in 1996. He is the first student to be bestowed MNAMS from the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) by examination. He received training in genetics in Zurich, London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Boston and National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. He was awarded the Dr BC Roy National award for his role in establishing genetic services in India. In his brilliant academic career, he has more than 445 research publications to his credit. He established two genetic departments, the first one in India at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi in 1968 and in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) in 1997. He has been adviser to the Government of India and the South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) of the World Health Organization (WHO), and has received numerous awards.

It is a privilege and honour to pen musings of twenty years spent under the tutelage of Dr I C Verma. My entry into genetics was a chance event, and so was the opportunity to work in the department he created and nurtured at SGRH. First encounters with him are always “what can you do”? That is his uncanny ability to delve for new opportunities, recognize novelty in what comes along and put that to practice. He was always impatient to implement the latest technology, believing that diagnostic testing must be available in India for our patients. And he successfully achieved this at both centres established by him, AIIMS and SGRH.

He reads extensively and always reiterates the importance of being updated. His favourites are the New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and the BMJ. He always had something new to tell us. It was a ritual in the department to discuss most cases of the previous day, and this enabled learnings for everyone in the department. He encouraged to publish, and while each manuscript went through innumerable edits, it taught the art of writing to highlight the novelty in the research. He is very hardworking and a perfectionist, encouraging youngsters and providing opportunities for newer vistas. He always had so much to accomplish in the limited hours of the day, but despite that, he was involved in each activity, including being informed of the spouses and children of his colleagues.

He has been a major influence and inspiration, and as I reflect, many instances “flash upon that inward eye”. We are indebted to his passion, vision, and guidance and look up to him to this day for charting the path forward.

Many congratulations Sir for being awarded the Padma Shri and we are privileged to have learned from you and been guided by you. We wish you the best always!

**Dr Ratna Dua Puri**

**Professor in Genetics, GRIPMER & Chairperson, Institute of Medical Genetics & Genomics,  
Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, India**

Dr Verma Sir has been an inspiration to all and a great distant mentor to many of us. From the establishment of India's first division of Clinical Genetics to tribal and community genetics research, his journey at AIIMS has been inspiring. His exemplary clinical and research work, inquisitiveness to remain updated and learn about new technologies and therapies, excellent suggestions, continued participation in online meetings, and impactful lectures have always motivated me. I consider myself fortunate to be associated with the Genetics division at AIIMS, which he founded. Thank you Sir for always guiding us and heartiest congratulations on this stupendous achievement. Wish you a very healthy and peaceful life ahead.

**Dr Neerja Gupta**

**Additional Professor, Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics,  
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, India**