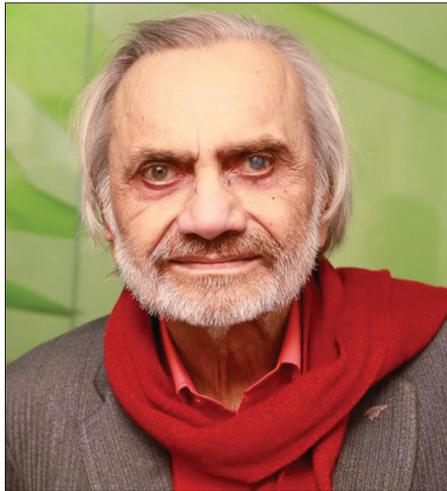


## Prof. Virendra Nath Sehgal (August 09, 1936–January 17, 2020)



Prof. Virendra Nath Sehgal was an academician with several prestigious contributions to his credit. A graduate of the Government Medical College, Amritsar and a postgraduate in dermatology from the prestigious All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, his academic career started with appointments in the Banaras Hindu University and the Aligarh Muslim University in the mid 1960s. His specialty, at that time, was virtually nonexistent. Hard, dedicated, devoted and committed endeavor was needed to bring up the units/departments in the medical colleges in the country. Now, the specialty is well-recognized and there are chairs of Professor of Dermatology in most institutions in the country. Professor Sehgal was responsible for starting/establishing five units/departments in the country, and brought each one of them to postgraduate level. He had been Professor/Head of the Department in Goa Medical College (1969–1978); the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS), Safdarjung Hospital (1978–1981); Maulana Azad Medical College/Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital (1981–1991); Lady Hardinge Medical College (1991–1993); and UCMS-Guru Tegh Bahadur (GTB) Hospital (1993–1994). In the last three medical colleges/hospitals, he was also Director/Medical Superintendent. His contributions need to be recognized as of someone who established medical specialties and who worked tirelessly for medical education for long years. Professor Sehgal grew with the specialty and vice versa over five decades.

He created “schools of thought” in several areas of tropical dermatology. His work on “cutaneous tuberculosis,” in particular, has a huge number of citations. Besides, he has written popular books in these areas for undergraduates

and postgraduates, namely, “Textbook of Clinical Dermatology” (four editions), “Sexually Transmitted Diseases” (four editions), “Clinical Leprosy” (four editions), and monographs on “Histoid Leprosy” (three editions), “Donovanosis” (two editions), “Diagnosis and Treatment of Common Skin Disease” (two editions) and “Atlas of Sexually Transmitted Diseases” (one edition). His works have been widely acclaimed and been indexed for “Medline.”

He represented India on the advisory editorial boards of several international journals of repute (International Journal of Dermatology, SkinMed, Dermatology Clinics and the Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology). In addition, he had been actively engaged as a reviewer for several publications such as Archives of Dermatology, British Journal of Dermatology, American Journal of Clinical Dermatology and International Journal of Leprosy. He was honored with the Dr B.C. Roy National Award, Jalma Trust Fund Oration Award of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for excellence in leprosy and many such awards.

Since retirement from service, he had been actively engaged in practice and participated in continuing medical education. During this time, he brought out several updates and reviews on current developments, besides the publication of Clinical Reports. These too have been widely appreciated, and are now a part of “Medlars Index.” Ninety-seven publications during this period since retirement stand testimony to his continuing active academic pursuits. He had also been invited to contribute to Clinics in Dermatology and Dermatology Clinics. He had a total of 390 publications since 1965. Prof. Sehgal was a great author, thinker, philosopher and guide to many. He mentored numerous disciples and taught them not just the science of dermatology but also the art of paper writing and publication. He was a great orator who put across his viewpoint emphatically and effectively. His prowess in administration was scintillating, especially during his tenure in the Lady Hardinge Medical College and GTB Hospital where he remarkably contributed to improving infrastructure and raising standards of patient care. His persona, perfection and deliverability were simply unmatched. He had original and revolutionary ideas about the problems of the profession and society.

He was a humble and unassuming personality of great qualities. He personified simple living and high thinking. He was extremely generous and genial and showered

compliments and adulations whenever he appreciated the achievement of his mentees.

He was a devoted husband and a doting father. He was committed to family values and always upheld them. He is survived by his wife, Dr Naresh Sehgal, a gynecologist and three daughters, all doctors with postgraduate qualifications.

He was a great man by all standards and his contributions and services to the community will be remembered for a very long time. He was a real karmayogi and a character to be emulated by all of us.

#### Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

#### Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Access this article online	
<b>Quick Response Code:</b>	<b>Website:</b> www.ijdv1.com
	<b>DOI:</b> 10.4103/ijdv1.IJDVL_94_20

**How to cite this article:** Malhotra R, Malhotra A. Prof. Virendra Nath Sehgal (August 09, 1936–January 17, 2020). Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol 2020;86:228-9.

**Received:** January, 2020. **Accepted:** January, 2020.

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