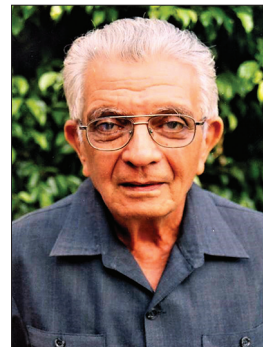


# Dr. H. M. Dholakia



It is indeed an honor that I have been given the responsibility to write about Dr. Harnath Manishankar Dholakia, well known as Dr. H. M. Dholakia Sir. It is almost impossible to summarize such a monumental academic life in a brief way, but I will try to highlight the most important moments of this living legend.

Dr. H. M. Dholakia Sir was born on February 25, 1926, at Mumbai. He did his LDSc in 1947, from Nair Hospital Dental College, Mumbai, then known as National Medical College and Hospital. He also received his LDRSc in 1949, from Royal College of Surgery.

Postgraduation in the subject of oral pathology was not available in India until 1959. Dr. Dholakia holds the distinct honor of being the first postgraduate teacher of Oral Pathology in India, by starting the first postgraduate course in this subject at Nair Hospital Dental College, Mumbai, in 1960. As a postgraduate teacher, he mentored countless number of colleagues to find their way in the field. Most of us share the same oral pathology DNA as him. Thus, I consider him as Teacher of Teachers or “Bishmapitamah” of oral pathology.

During his early days at NHDC, this humble professor had no laboratory equipment or slides to teach undergraduate students. However, due to his great passion for teaching he borrowed microscopes from the Department of General Pathology. With limited technical resources, he developed nearly 7000 teaching slides by collecting specimens, experimenting on biopsied and autopsied tissues and organs. His immense interest in photography was responsible for establishing the Photography Department at various institutes.

He has been instrumental in planning the curriculum for oral pathology in many universities. He is also known for

various classifications, for which he can be called as “Master of Classification.”

After 32 years of dedicated service at Nair Hospital Dental College, he also worked at Manipal College of Dental Sciences from 1982 to 1987, and later on at KLE’s Belgaum from 1988 to 2006.

He also has another distinct honor of being the first oral pathologist from India, who along with Dr. A. P. Bhatt authored a famous article titled “Radicular variety of double dens invaginatus,” published in the Journal of Oral Surgery in 1975.

He was the first President of Indian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists, which was then known as Indian Academy of Oral Pathology. Keeping in mind, his towering contribution in establishing and developing the subject of Oral Pathology our association has bestowed his name for the “Dr. H. M. Dholakia Oration Lecture” as our mark of respect for him.

Dr. Dholakia Sir is undoubtedly one of the most known oral pathologists in India. Many of us will always be indebted to Dr. Dholakia Sir for the encouragement and support of our career.

His achievements are truly an inspiration for the young generation.

### 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.jomfp.in
	<b>DOI:</b> 10.4103/jomfp.JOMFP_213_17

**How to cite this article:** Desai RS. Dr. H. M. Dholakia. J Oral Maxillofac Pathol 2017;21:328-9.