

DR. VIJAY S. DAYAL 1936-2011

U. of C. ear, nose, throat surgeon

By **MARGARET RAMIREZ**
Tribune reporter

Dr. Vijay S. Dayal, 74, an internationally known University of Chicago ear, nose and throat surgeon who specialized in treating diseases of hearing and balance, died of heart disease Thursday, June 30, at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, his family said.

Dr. Dayal came to the University of Chicago as a professor of surgery in 1986 and was director of neuro-otology and the balance and hearing disorders program. He assumed emeritus status in 2007.

Colleagues said Dr. Dayal was known for his dignified demeanor that mixed medical expertise with a soft-spoken, caring attitude for patients.

"Vijay Dayal was the epitome of the old phrase, a gentleman and a scholar," Dr. Ernest Mhoon, professor of surgery at the University of Chicago, said in a university statement, "but he was the real thing — always impeccably dressed, knowledgeable and eloquent about seemingly everything, and loaded with British reserve."

"At the same time his expertise in the field, especially vestibular problems such as dizziness, and his enthusiasm for teaching the residents were obvious," Mhoon said.



Dr. Vijay S. Dayal was an internationally known specialist.

In 1991, Dr. Dayal developed and installed a customized rotating chair for diagnosis of dizziness and balance disorders. Patients were securely fastened into the chair and swiveled in either direction, testing the effectiveness of the balance organs throughout a large range of normal motion.

"Testing in the chair is not uncomfortable for the patient," Dr. Dayal said in a 1991 university publication. "It's like a mild ride on a merry-go-round and it provides us with information we cannot get any other way. This often means a more precise diagnosis and better treatment."

In 1981, Dr. Dayal and colleagues at the University of Toronto received a U.S. patent for their

"artificial replacement for the larynx," a voice box for people who had lost theirs to trauma or throat cancer.

It controlled the opening and closing of the trachea in the presence of food and permitted normal exhalation of air through the patient's mouth, which enhanced voice projection, "a significant improvement over the situation where the patient breathes continuously through a hole in the neck," according to the patent.

He was born in Ranchi, India.

At 17, he entered Patna University, where he met his wife, Sheela Sadhu.

They both studied at Patna Medical College. He graduated from medical school in 1959, and spent a year as a junior house surgeon in the ear-nose-throat department at Patna Medical College Hospital.

In 1960, they moved to the Royal Victoria Hospital at McGill University in Montreal for their residencies, his in otolaryngology and hers in obstetrics and gynecology.

In 1961, they were married.

His son, Amit Dayal, said his father was drawn to the complexity of the ear-nose-throat field.

"It's a very broad field," his son said. "When you get into the ear, nose and sinuses, those are very delicate, complicated surgeries. You have to be a good internist. You have to be a good neurologist."

"He was fascinated by it," his son said.

After finishing his residency in 1964, Dr. Dayal completed a three-year fellowship in otolaryngology at the Royal Victoria Hospital. In 1967, he joined the faculty at the University of Toronto as a clinical teacher and became a professor in 1981.

He published nearly 80 research papers for scientific journals and was the author and illustrator of *Clinical Otolaryngology*, which became the standard text in the field soon after it appeared in 1981.

He lectured throughout North America, Europe and Asia and received many honors and awards, including the Campbell Prize in Otolaryngology from the University of Toronto in 1975, the Honor Award from the Canadian Otolaryngological Society in 1987, and the Gold Medal from the Association of Otolaryngologists of India in 1989.

The University of Chicago honored him with a symposium in 2006 and its Gold Key award in 2007.

Besides his son, Dr. Dayal is survived by his wife, daughters Aneeta and Anjali, and two grandchildren.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday in Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers.

maramirez@tribune.com