

# Guest Editorial

*A tribute to Dr. Daljit Singh*



## **The legend that was !**

*There have been few who have lived with so much passion, so much zeal and so much zest to pursue the loves of their lives as Daljit Singh did.*

*He always had a twinkle in his eye when he spoke of the one or many new things he was doing. The passions were many and Ophthalmology was only the first of these. He loved writing, he loved challenges and he loved innovating. He was never a conformist, he was the eternal rebel! He would not hesitate to challenge anything that was traditional, till he had evidence to prove or disprove it. This was evident in everything he spoke, wrote or did. Whether it was about surface ablation for refractive surgery or lymphatics in eye or a different glaucoma surgery or plasma knife or ptosis surgery or about fighting for a cause (Remember him putting his life and soul in a cause, a political movement, that we all wanted to believe in and did actually believe in for some time).*

*To say that he was a 'great man' or that he will live in our memories forever will be words too small for him. To say that he was the pioneer of intraocular lens implant surgery (who does not remember how bus loads of people landed up in Amritsar from all over the country to get their surgery done?) or that he pioneered several new cost effective technologies (His iris claw lens or the stainless steel sutures) would not be effective enough descriptions for him. He once pointed to his hospital and told me that this building is made of the money saved from Johnson & Johnson!! (over one lakh surgeries done and over 100Rs. saved per surgery, by using stainless steel sutures). To say that he was the symbol of Ophthalmology in India (President of All India Ophthalmological Society or President of Indian intraocular lens implant society were the offices – that were honoured, because he held them !), that he was a great teacher (The scores of his students who became leaders all over the country and swear by him all their lives are a testimony to that) or that he wrote several scientific masterpieces (How many of you recall the several pages devoted to his technique of ptosis surgery in the bible of ptosis surgery by Crowell Beard?) – would merely be cliches, that fail to describe that wonderful man.*

*Memories keep flooding you – when you think of him. Everytime you sat with him – he would speak to you, explain to you and try to convince you about his thinking , in his own gentle inimitable style, as if you were the most important person for him. How many of you know that he wrote a great deal about life in Punjabi ? I treasure the books he sent me – when I told him that I could read Gurumukhi.*

*He was the most techsavvy person of his generation and probably much beyond! He talked of his passion for 'Apple' when we thought it was just a fruit ! And he was ever so fond of teaching how we could use that technology to do things that were truly amazing ! He was a more 'complete' man than anyone else I know !*

*Oh What a man he was !!!*



DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7869/djo.346>

**Dr. Ashok Kumar Grover**

MD(AIIMS), MNAMS, FRCS(Glas), FIMSA, FICO, FAICO  
 Awarded Padma Shri by the President of India  
 Chairman,  
 Department of Ophthalmology  
 Sir Ganga Ram Hospital &  
 Chairman,  
 Vision Eye Centres  
 Siri Fort Road & West Patel Nagar  
 New Delhi