



Obituary

Professor (Dr.) Md. Ridwanur Rahman

MBBS FCPS (Medicine)

Professor of Medicine, Researcher & Academician

born in Satkania, Chittagong on April 21, 1958.

Passed away on October 25, 2023.

Md. Ridwanur Rahman

With profound sorrow, we mourn the passing of the distinguished physician, researcher, educator, and professor (Dr.) Md. Ridwanur Rahman departed from this world on October 25, 2023.

Professor Md. Ridwanur Rahman is widely acclaimed for his groundbreaking contributions to the research of infectious diseases and tropical medicine. His notable work in the early 1990s in Khagrachari unveiled the widespread chloroquine resistance among *Falciparum* species in Bangladesh. Collaborating with Prof. MA Faiz, he co-founded the Malaria Research Group (MRG) in Chattogram, Bangladesh, which played a pivotal role in conducting extensive trials on malaria over 15 years. Notably, their participation in an international multicentre study for the World Health Organization (WHO) led to groundbreaking trials establishing the efficacy of Artemisinin-based drugs, now integral in malaria management. A publication from this study, featured in *The Lancet*, earned the prestigious title of Best Research Paper of the Year in 2010 by the British Medical Journal (BMJ). This work contributed significantly to the Nobel Prize in Medicine awarded to Chinese researcher Dr. Youyou Tu for the discovery of the product. Malaria, once a deadly disease in Bangladesh, has nearly been eradicated, reflecting the enduring impact of Professor Ridwan's efforts. The MRG expanded its focus to include research on Dengue, Typhoid, Nipah virus, and Snake Bite, among other illnesses. Professor Ridwan's involvement with the WHO extended beyond Bangladesh, where he served as a Clinical Monitor in Zambia, Tanzania, and Ghana.

In the 2010s, Professor Ridwan collaborated with the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi) to address the challenge of Kala-Azar (Visceral Leishmaniasis) in the Greater Mymensingh region. Serving as the Principal Investigator, he conducted a trial that revolutionized international guidelines for Kala-Azar management by introducing an effective drug regimen. Kala-Azar has since been declared eradicated from Bangladesh, a testament to Professor Ridwan's impactful contributions.

Professor Ridwan also made significant strides in researching non-communicable diseases in both urban and rural settings of Bangladesh. His accomplishments have garnered recognition both locally and internationally, with his contribution to multiple guidelines and authorship of nearly 170 scientific publications, cited over 5400 times.

Beyond his research prowess, Professor Ridwan was a distinguished educator, celebrated for his innate ability to simplify complex medical concepts for students. In addition to clinical education, he focused on teaching Evidence-Based Medicine and Research Methodology, conducting workshops across the country to nurture the skills of emerging clinicians.

Known for his unwavering commitment to patients' interests, Professor Ridwan was a respected clinician with sharp diagnostic skills. His clinical acumen was admired by colleagues and patients alike.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Ridwan emerged as a vocal advocate for healthcare staff protection, increased resources for patient management, and enhanced public education. His tireless efforts, including round-the-clock consultations, demonstrated his dedication to community well-being and was a beacon of hope during challenging times.

Born on April 21, 1958, in the remote village of Moulvi Bari in Kanchana, Satkania, Professor Ridwan was the sixth of seven children of Monirul Haq and Begum Amatun Noor. His academic journey began at AKBC Ghosh Institute, where he completed his SSC in 1973. After that, he completed his HSC in 1975 from Adamjee Cantonment College.

Ironically, he initially enrolled in BUET, studying there for a few months before requests from his family meant he eventually joined Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), where he graduated with distinction in 1982, coming in second place in the final professional exam. After completing his internship at IPGMR, he earned his Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS) in 1989. From 1983 onwards, he spent a lot of time in some of the remotest parts of Bangladesh, being posted in multiple Upazilas in the Chattogram Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar before joining CMCH as a Junior Consultant in 1993.

That is where his excellent career in Medical Education began. Rising through the ranks, he served in various capacities in CMCH, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College, and ultimately became the Head of the Department of Medicine at Shaheed Sohrawardy Medical College (ShSMC) in 2006, a position he held until his retirement in 2017. Even post-retirement, he continued his research contributions as the Head of Research at Universal Medical College and Hospitals until his demise.

Elected as a Councillor of BCPS in 2021, Professor Ridwan also served as the Chair of the Research, Training, and Monitoring Department (RTMD).

In his personal life, Professor Ridwan was a people person, finding joy in spending time with family and friends. An avid traveller, he explored far-flung corners of Bangladesh and the world, never forgetting his roots and actively serving the people of his village, Kanchana.

Regrettably, on the morning of October 25, the world lost a compassionate healer as Professor Ridwanur Rahman succumbed to a massive cardiac arrest. His legacy of commitment, intellect, and altruism serves as an inspiration to aspiring medical professionals and a source of pride for those fortunate enough to have crossed paths with this exceptional individual. He leaves a vast network of family, friends, colleagues, and students.

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