

Dr. Rita Sood

MBBS, MD (Medicine), MMed, FAIMER Fellow

Former Professor of Medicine & Professor-in-Charge, Centre for Medical Education and Technology (CMET), AIIMS, New Delhi

Founder-President, Academy of Health Professions Educators (AHPE) | Former President, SEARAME

Professional Profile

Dr. Rita Sood was a pioneering medical educator and clinician who shaped medical education in India over nearly four decades at AIIMS. Her work spanned medical education leadership, assessment, postgraduate training, faculty development, educational technology, and clinical education. She established India's first Centre for Medical Education and Technology (CMET) at AIIMS and initiated the first national medical education conference in 2007, now a major annual academic platform.

Education

MBBS – Lady Hardinge Medical College, University of Delhi • MD (Medicine) – Lady Hardinge Medical College • Training in Medical Education Technology – Dundee Institute, UK • Master in Medical Education (MMed) – University of Dundee, UK • Clinical Haematology Training – Mayo Clinic, USA • FAIMER Fellow, Philadelphia

Areas of Expertise

Medical Education Leadership & Systems Strengthening • Curriculum & Educational Technology • Assessment in Medical Education • Postgraduate Training & Competency Development • Clinical Medicine, Infectious Diseases & Haematology • Clinical Reasoning, Reflective Practice & Doctor–Patient Communication

Leadership & Contributions

Founder-President, AHPE • Professor-in-Charge, CMET, AIIMS • President, SEARAME and representative on the WFME Executive Council • Course faculty for all three FAIMER Regional Institutes in India. Mentored generations of medical educators across India and South-East Asia and authored influential publications and textbook chapters on assessment, postgraduate training, and clinical education. Known for meticulous bedside teaching centred on history-taking, clinical reasoning, and patient-centred care.

Professional Philosophy

Dr. Sood championed rigorous, evidence-based, humanistic medical education grounded in sound bedside practice, reflective learning, and strong doctor–patient relationships. She believed medical education must develop clinicians who are competent, compassionate, ethical, and responsive to patients and society.

Memorial Tribute to Dr. Rita Sood

Dr. Rita Sood's passing in 2021 left an enduring void in Indian medical education. She was not only a distinguished physician and professor at AIIMS, but a **teacher of teachers**,

mentor of mentors, and visionary leader who transformed the landscape of medical education in India.

Her philosophy was rooted in a simple yet profound belief: **good medicine begins at the bedside—with attentive listening, careful reasoning, and deep respect for the patient.** Through her teaching and mentorship, she reminded generations of clinicians that clinical excellence and humanistic care are inseparable.

As Founder-President of AHPE and Professor-in-Charge of CMET at AIIMS, she built institutions that continue to influence faculty development, educational innovation, and national medical education. Her initiation of India's first national medical education conference in 2007 created an enduring platform for dialogue and advancement in health professions education.

Her leadership extended internationally through SEARAME and WFME, where she represented South-East Asia with a commitment to quality, equity, and integrity in medical education.

Beyond her titles and achievements, she is remembered for her **clarity, compassion, humility, intellectual rigour, and generosity as a mentor.** Her publications shaped educational thinking; her bedside teaching shaped generations of clinicians; and her mentorship helped nurture leaders who continue her work.

A Legacy Beyond Measure

Dr. Rita Sood's legacy lives on in every educator who teaches with greater reflection, every clinician who listens more carefully, every student who learns to reason rather than merely recall, and every leader who places integrity and humanity at the heart of medical education.

We remember her with gratitude and reverence—for a life devoted to medicine, education, mentorship, and service. Her enduring legacy calls upon us to **teach with integrity, lead with humility, and care with humanity.**