

Dr. Narsing B. Kumta, M.D. DCH (Mumbai University)

Founder Member of BPNI & Founder-Advisor of BPNI Maharashtra

Background: Dr. N. B. Kumta was born in a middle-class family with modest means in Hubli, Karnataka in the year 1933.

Qualifications: Completed MBBS degree from Grant Medical College in Mumbai in 1959 and passed M.D and DCH from Mumbai University in 1962. He has also received training in Human Genetics and lab techniques from well-known institutes in the UK under Dr. Noel Raine and Dr. I. B. Sardharwala.

Career: Joined Seth GS Medical college as hon. Assistant professor in Pediatrics in 1963. He later became Professor of Pediatrics and Head of the dept. of Pediatrics at KEM hospital and Seth G.S. Medical College and remained so until his retirement in 1991.

Outstanding achievements:

- Founded the Pediatric Research laboratory at KEM hospital in 1978 which rendered diagnostic and counselling services in biochemical and cytogenetic disorders.
- Reported the first case of Galactosemia at an international conference at Pondicherry organized by Dr. I. C. Verma.
- He convened the Genetic chapter of the IAP.
- He initiated the WHO aided center for Oral rehydration therapy at Kasturba infectious diseases hospital at Mumbai.
- He was President of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics in the year 1991 and received an award for Lifetime achievement from the Indian Academy of Pediatrics.
- He compiled a directory of available services for the mentally retarded in Bombay.
- After attending a workshop on Human lactation conducted by Dr Felicity Savage at KEM hospital and receiving inspiration from Dr R.K. Anand in breastfeeding promotion, he took a keen interest in the subject. He organized several HLMT workshops at Deolali. He founded the Maharashtra branch of the BPNI (Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India).
- He was responsible for bringing the IMS (Infant Milk Substitutes) Act into existence. He ensured that the manufacturers write the message “Breastfeeding is best for your baby” on the labels of their products.
- Dr. N.B. Kumta Award (instituted by BPNI Maharashtra in 2003) is given to facilitate and recognize outstanding contribution in the field of IYCN.

He has been a teacher, examiner, organizer of several conferences (national and international) and a contributor of articles to several national and international journals. He gratefully honors and appreciates his colleagues, students, family & friends for supporting him in this journey. His daughter Dr. Jayshree is continuing the culture of breastfeeding promotion at Beth Israel Hospital in New Jersey, USA.