



# OBITUARIES

## Neelika Karunaratne

Nihal Samarasinghe, Knightly Seneviratne



Neelika Karunaratne trained at the faculty of medicine at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka and received her higher training in the NHS, lastly at the Farnborough and Orpington Hospitals in Kent, before returning to her native Sri Lanka in 1986, having obtained her fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

She was highly regarded as an anaesthesiologist, and a clinical teacher with a deep commitment to training. Several of her trainees and mentees are currently working as specialist anaesthesiologists in the NHS, in Sri Lanka, and in other parts of the world.

Neelika was a former senior consultant in anaesthesiology and head of the department of anaesthesiology and intensive care Sri Jayewardenepura (Teaching) Hospital. She was also an examiner for the postgraduate institute of medicine of the University of Colombo. A former president of the Sri Lankan College of Anaesthesiologists, she was also the founder secretary

of the Sri Lankan Society of Critical Care and Emergency Medicine (SSCCEM), of which she was elected president for two separate terms.

A vibrant and determined lady with a lively sense of humour, Neelika was deeply committed and fiercely loyal to her family and friends. She was a keen sportswoman, who represented her university in athletics and swimming during her undergraduate years. The stoic and unselfish manner in which she faced her final illness reflects her personality.

She leaves SD, her loving husband of 40 years, an eminent orthopaedic surgeon in Sri Lanka; a son, Channa; and a daughter, Thushani.

### Biography

Senior lecturer in anaesthesiology General Sir John Kotalawala Defence University Medical School, Sri Lanka (b 1949; q 1974; FRCA, MD), d 19 February 2016.

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