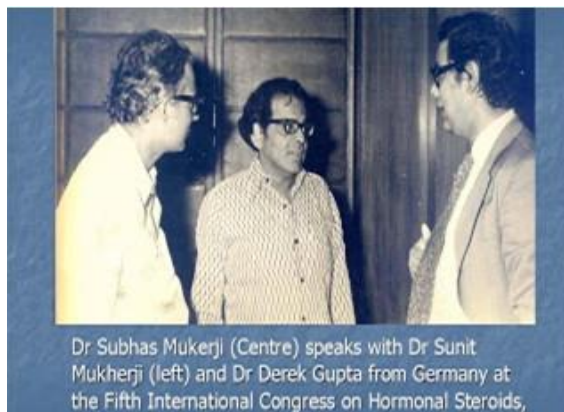


Dr. Sunit Mukherjee who assisted pioneer Dr. Subhas Mukhopadhyay in creating India's first test-tube baby is no more



Dr. Sunit Mukherjee was a Cryobiologist who is known for his contribution to India's first *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) program died on 4th January 2020. He was 89 years of age and has worked closely with Dr. Subhas Mukhopadhyay, the architect of India's first and world's second (after British physicians Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards) IVF technology assisted program in which India's first test tube baby, Durga aka Kanupriya Agarwal was created on 3rd October 1978.

His team announced the birth of baby Durga in Calcutta immediately after 67 days announcement about the birth of the first test-tube baby in England. Dr. Mukherjee had used gonadotropins for ovarian stimulation, trans-vaginal colpotomy to harvest oocytes and also did cryopreservation of the human embryo.

He along with Dr. Mukhopadhyay has done extensive research on the role of food in prevention of infertility. Besides, he has extensively worked on spermatozoa collection and evaluation, ovarian stimulation, In vitro culture techniques, embryo growth, cryogenic embryos preservation techniques etc. Upon request of Government of West Bengal, Dr. Sunit Mukherji along with colleagues Subhash Mukhopadhyay and S. K. Battacharya submitted a signed report entitled, 'Transfer of *in vitro* fertilization frozen thawed human embryo'.

Dr. Mukherjee's combinations of *in vitro* fertilization, and cryopreservation of human embryos is a preferred technique of medically assisted reproduction, and more than 3 million test tube babies worldwide see the lights of day with help of the invention.

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