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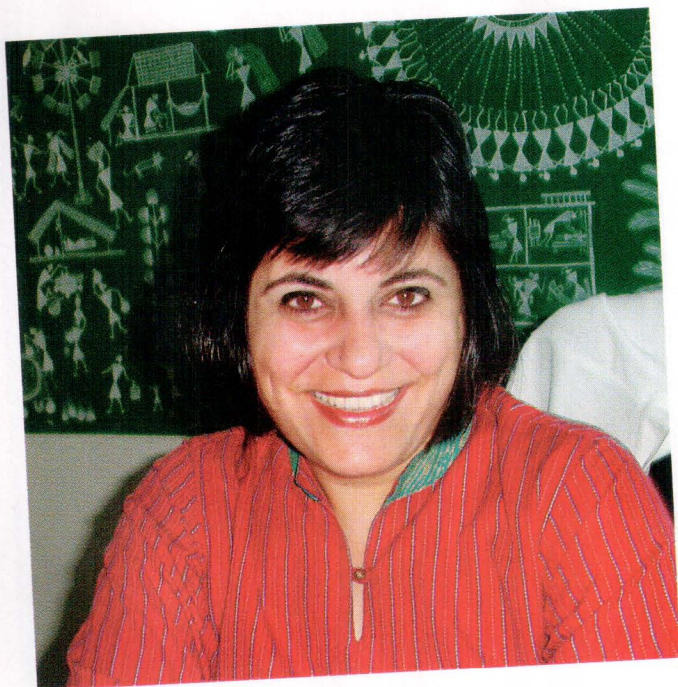
20 WOMEN ACHIEVERS IN HEALTHCARE



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“ Women are the key players in healthcare, as in most sectors, and have proven to have the dedication and focus necessary to take them to the top, though a little bit more effort than their male counterparts is required ”



Dr Sunita Maheshwari

senior consultant paediatric cardiologist & head of department,
Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bengaluru

Dr Sunita Maheshwari is one of the 15 interventional paediatric cardiologists in India. She was born in the US and brought up in Hyderabad and received her MBBS training at Osmania University (was a gold-medallist). She was the winner of the ‘Young Clinician Award’ from the American Heart Association and the ‘Best Teacher Award’ at Yale University. She returned to India in 1999. An enthusiastic and talented teacher with an ability to simplify the complex, she runs the country’s largest fellowship training programme in highly specialised paediatric cardiology, with four Indian and three international fellows per year. She trains physicians to perform endovascular interventional techniques, including ASD, VSD and PDA endovascular closures.

She is a medical entrepreneur and in 2002, she helped in setting up Teleradiology Solutions, one-of-its-kind healthcare IT company that provides teleradiologic interpretations to hospitals in the US, Singapore, Georgia, Puerto Rico and now in remote areas of India through its Telrad foundation.

She is also active in the social arena in India where she runs a trust fund called People4people that puts up playgrounds in poorer sections of Karnataka and funds activities for children. She is also involved in running a health assistant training programme at Karunashraya, a wonderful hospice for the terminally ill, in Whitefield, Bengaluru.

Rapid fire

Years of experience: 19 years post-MBBS, 14 years in paediatric cardiology

Started career as: A Resident at Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA

Best advice received: I was once told by my chairman ‘You are only as good as your last echo’, meaning you can do a 100 great things in medicine but if you make a mistake that is what will be remembered. As a result, I always focus on quality in patient care

Biggest achievement in life: Moving back to India from the US and making a success of it by treating the children with heart disease, training the future generation in Pediatric Cardiology and setting up a telemedicine company

If not Dr Sunita Maheshwari: The health minister of India, so I could change the healthcare scenario of the country to what I believe it should be

Role model: Do not really have one

Unwinding: I like to write on medical issues for lay persons and on parenting issues

Life of women in healthcare, then and now: Then it was a man’s world. Few women who entered it either were relegated to secondary roles or in rare instances became icons. Now it is still a man’s world, but women are the key players in healthcare, as in most sectors, and have proven to have the dedication and focus necessary to take them to the top, though a little bit more effort than their male counterparts is required

Message to fellow women in the industry: Be confident in one’s abilities. Be content with being good at what you do and in doing it exceptionally well. Set the rules of the game and combine a great career with some life balance