



**DR. GAUTAM NANDKISHORE  
ALLAHBADIA**

MD, DNB, FNAMS, FCPS, DGO, DFP, FICMU, FICOG

**56<sup>th</sup>**

President of the Mumbai Obstetric  
and Gynaecological Society  
(2009-2010)

**T**HEY DON'T CALL HIM the 'Miracle Man' for nothing. Dr. Gautam Allahbadia has India's first trans-ethnic surrogate pregnancy and first same-sex-couple pregnancy to his credit. His accomplishments are often cited as a benchmark by top gynaecologists in India and abroad. This genial Medical Director of Rotunda - The Centre For Human Reproduction, with fertility clinics in Bandra & Parel is a living inspiration to hundreds of aspiring gynaecologists.

Interestingly, Gautam did not start out in life, wanting to pursue medicine. Art was his first love. He says: "I used to paint a lot. I also started collecting art from the year 1994. Today, I have a decent art collection from all six continents." As a matter of fact, he even passed the elementary and intermediate examination with flying colours and also holds an art curating diploma from New York. But hailing from a family of doctors, he had no alternative but to shelve his ambitions of pursuing art as a career. Says Gautam: "My

mother was an anaesthetist and my father a gynaecologist. They worked for 13 years in Ireland and UK. But when my mother was pregnant with me, she came to India for her confinement and never went back to the UK. I also have a younger brother, who is today an Joint-Replacement Surgeon, practicing at Hinduja Hospital, Khar.”

Born on 7th July, 1963, in Mumbai, Gautam got his early education, first at St. Joseph’s High School, Wadala, and later at Jai Hind College, Churchgate. “I think whilst still in school, I decided to become a doctor. I probably opted for Ob-Gyn because my father was a gynaecologist and I grew up listening to success stories in the field. The rest of the milestones just fell in place easily. I was prolific in clinical research, and my teachers went beyond their call of duty to encourage my research paper writing skills. By the time I left Lokmanya Tilak Municipal General Hospital and Medical College, Sion, in 1992, I had published over 100 peer-reviewed national and international research papers.”

It was during his stint in L.T.M.M.C., that his teachers suggested that he join the Mumbai Obstetric and Gynaecological Society, and present his research work. Says Gautam: “One individual who encouraged me throughout was Dr. Pratibha R. Vaidya, my HOD at Sion Hospital. My other teachers Dr. Vivek Patkar, Dr. Geeta Niyogi and Dr. Vijay Ambiyee also helped fine-tune my skills and were pillars of support. But it was Dr. Sadhana Desai who ignited the spark of taking up Assisted Reproduction as a specialty and I never looked back thereafter.”

After completing his MD, Gautam joined as a Lecturer (Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology) for over four years at the L.T.M.M.C. & L.T.M.G.H., followed by a 12-year tenure at the University of Mumbai affiliated Bombay Hospital Institute of Medical Sciences, before going full time into private practice. He was appointed as visiting Faculty to the University of Tel Aviv, Sackler School of Medicine at the Sheba Medical Centre from 2003-2011.

Gautam became the youngest President of the MOGS in 2009-2010, a year of noteworthy developments. Israel has the distinction of having produced the highest number of Nobel Laureates in Science till date. The Holy Land, as Israel is known commonly, is far ahead of the world in cutting edge medicine and technology. It was fitting that his MOGS Presidential was endorsed by the Israel Consulate in Mumbai and the State of Israel sent 12 of its leading Ob-Gyns to Mumbai to conduct workshops for our post-graduates that year. He recalls: “We celebrated my year as Presidency as an Indo-Israeli Collaboration Year and the quality of academic conferences and teaching programs during that period by leaders in the field is unsurpassed even till date. It’s vital for the Society to constantly adapt to the digital life, and quickly too, so it remains relevant in modern times.”

Today, Gautam is widely regarded as an authority on IVF Lite, Ultrasound-guided Embryo Transfers

and a pioneer in Third Party Reproduction in South-East Asia. Throughout his career, he has been instrumental in developing new fertility-enhancing protocols and propagating the use of ultrasound in Embryo Transfer procedures. The development of the highly successful third party reproduction program at Rotunda has made it possible to achieve pregnancies in patients from over 40 countries.

Gautam was also instrumental in setting up and hand-holding gynaecologists in 17 private IVF Centres across India between 2000-2012 as an IVF Consultant including Delhi, Jalandhar, Gorakhpur, Pune, Srinagar, Jammu, Rewari and Ahmedabad. He also helped start IVF centres for his international post-graduate fellows in Ghana, Nigeria & Malaysia

He has had quite a prolific career, having authored over 125 scientific papers, 135 book chapters and 25 textbooks, the latest of which is a set of 4 textbooks in 2016 by Springer

International including 'Vitrification', 'Minimal Stimulation IVF', 'Embryo Transfer' and 'Ovarian Stimulation Protocols'. He is the recipient of over 25 prizes and fellowships in the field, notable among which are the Canadian Young Scientist Fellowship Award (1994), which allowed him to train in Infertility at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver and the National Prize Dr. Kumud Tamaskar Award for original research work in infertility (1991). He was awarded the prestigious FOGSI-CORION National Research Award for best original research work in infertility at the 42nd All India Obstetric & Gynaecological Congress held at Hyderabad (1998).

Further, he is the recipient of six research grants from the International College of Surgeons and the Medical Research Centre of Bombay Hospital Trust. He has been an invited guest speaker or faculty member at over 250 Congresses, Workshops and Scientific Meetings. He was awarded the prestigious Deutscher Akademischer

Austauschdienst Fellowship for the year 1996 to train in Assisted Reproductive Techniques in Germany. He has completed his training in IVF/ICSI at the University of Gottingen, Bielefeld IVF Centre & the University of Munich. He was awarded the AOFOG-Young Gynaecologist Award for the year 1998.

Gautam has been elected as the Vice President of the World Association of Reproductive Medicine (WARM) headquartered in Rome, Italy and was the Scientific Chairman of the 2nd World Congress of WARM, held in Rome in May 2004. He has organised several International Congresses in the subject and was nominated as 'Mumbai's Top Doc' in 2012 by a peer nomination process.

Gautam is very passionate about the Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of India, of which he was the Editor-in-Chief from 2014-2016 and has been nominated as Editor Emeritus for the same in January 2017. He was also the Editor-in-Chief of the International peer-reviewed journal, IVF Lite (Journal of Minimal Stimulation

IVF) from 2014-2016. “My wish is that the Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology of India be given its rightful place globally. This will only happen if some visionary FOGSI President separates the Academicians from the Politicians in the Journal Editorial Board. No FOGSI member who wishes to grow politically in FOGSI should be allowed to hold any position in the Editorial Board. There should be no dual posts. All worthy Scientific Journals have only Academicians who can never stand for any elections or be nominated for any Society post. Once the Journal really gets its Academic independence will it reach its real potential,” he emphasises.

Aside from Rotunda, Gautam also serves as IVF Consultant & Head of the Aster IVF & Women Clinic at Al Mankhool, Dubai, UAE. He was previously the IVF Consultant & Medical Director of New Hope IVF Clinic, Sharjah and IVF Consultant & Head at the Fertility & Recurrent Miscarriage Clinic at the Dubai London Clinic, Jumeirah, Dubai.

“It is another phase of my life. It is a challenge setting up a successful practice in a foreign land with International competition. But I’m up to it,” he says. He has initiated the Aster IVF Education Program which has rapidly spread from only the UAE to Oman & Qatar as well in 2016-17. The aim of this education initiative is to disseminate knowledge in the field to all the Gulf Council Countries in the Middle-East under the Aster & DM Healthcare umbrella.

These days, it’s a tough shuttle between Mumbai and Dubai for the .Miracle Man. But Gautam isn’t fazed. “My wife Dr. Swati Allahbadia has been a rock-solid pillar of support. She runs her own IVF Centre, India’s first budget IVF clinic established in 2005 called the Rotunda-Blue Fertility Clinic & Keyhole Surgery Centre, in Parel ([www.testtubebabyclinic.com](http://www.testtubebabyclinic.com)). My kids have grown up to be responsible young adults. The older one Akanksha will be a gynaecologist in 18 months and the younger one Ranveer is a Telecommunications Engineer with his own

YouTube Channel (@BeerBiceps).

He has recently curated the art collection at Okapi World Art Gallery at the JW Marriott Marquis Dubai and is also an art consultant to Galleries in four different continents. He is setting up an artist-in-residence program for the Dubai gallery, which will be another first for the art scene in the UAE.

Another pillar of support for all his academic IVF work has been his long-time Laboratory Director of 17 years Goral Gandhi, who is based at the HQ at Bandra, Mumbai. Gautam has set up the International School of Reproductive Medicine & Embryology (ISRME) along with her for personalised one-to-one training in Embryology & Clinical Reproductive Medicine (see [www.learnivf.org](http://www.learnivf.org)). This state-of-the-art training facility at Bandra has cutting edge technology including Italian simulators for transvaginal oocyte retrieval and ultrasound guided embryo transfers.

Gautam is now part of the teaching Faculty for the ART Diploma Course held twice a

year in Oldenburg, Germany at the St Pius Hospital affiliated to the University of Oldenburg. He has been appointed Director in 2015 to the board of a UAE based Medical Event Company which hosts super-specialty meetings in the subject across the Middle East & Central Asia (see [www.zimtdubai.com](http://www.zimtdubai.com)).

Gautam is a cancer-survivor and in the last few difficult years has been mentored by Dr Kamini Rao who is the Medical Director & Chairperson of the pan-India fertility clinic chain Milann – The Fertility Clinic and is grateful for the guidance and support of Alisha Moopen, Executive Director Aster & DM Healthcare. While he keeps soldiering on the road less travelled, Gautam has a simple piece of advice for anyone following in his footsteps: “Just follow your passion and never say die. It’s important to have faith in your abilities. The future will take care of itself.”

An enthusiastic believer of the digital world, you can read about his work at [www.gautamallahbadia.com](http://www.gautamallahbadia.com).