

Health Officials of Goa
Health Ministers of Goa
Blood Transfusion Services in Goa Medical College

Dr Roque Wiseman Pinto,
Professor of Pathology,
Former HOD (2003 to 2024),
Former Dean, Goa University (2018 to 2021),
President South Asian Academy of Cytopathology and Histopathology,
Chairman, International Affairs Committee, IAC,
India's Representative at IAC, International Academy of Cytology, EFCS European Federation
of Cytology Societies and Asian Federation of Cytology Societies,
Chairman International Conference and CMEs in Goa, India.

From 19th December, 1961 to 29th May, 1987, Goa, Daman and Diu was a Union Territory of India.

On 30th May, 1987, Goa attained Statehood.

I read this news in a National newspaper in Delhi, in a train, from Delhi to Bombay.

I had gone to PGIMER, Chandigarh, for a CME in Hematology.

There was no social media and internet at that time.

List of Officials and Health Ministers in Goa, Daman and Diu and from 30 May 1987
In the State of Goa :

Alban Couto, IAC Development Commissioner

Dayanand Bandodkar

V.S. Karmali

Shashikala Kakodkar

Shaikh Hassan Haroon

Dr Kashinath Jhalmi,

Alumni of Goa Medical College and an Allopathic doctor and a General Practitioner in Marcel

Pandurang Raut

Dr Wilfred De Sousa

He was a MS, FRCS Edinburgh and also Consultant Surgeon in GMC, Health Services and the Private sector.

He was Goa's top surgeon at that time.

Francisco Sardinha

Dayanand Narvekar

Alban Couto IAS Advisor to the Governor of Goa

Pratapsing R Rane

Laxmikant Parsekar

Francis D' Souza

Vishwajit Rane

In my Research study of the history of Medicine in Goa, I studied the Bio sketches of Dayanand Bandodkar and V.S.Karmali

All the others, I have personally interacted with, in my tenure of service at Goa Medical College and also many of them came to me as patients for biopsies and other investigations and expert opinions.

Many of them have passed away.

I have interacted with them in the Old Secretariat (Adil Shah's Palace) as well as the New Secretariat in Porvorim and as well as Starred Hotels and other venues where the meetings were scheduled.

But heading the Blood Bank in 1987, the first time, a Lecturer of Pathology was made the independent HOD of the Blood Bank reporting directly to the Dean GMC.

It gave me Administrative and organisational experience starting from a young age.

I became the Head of the Blood Bank at the age of 28.

Blood Bank of GMC was always in the news and deals with the public.

It definitely helped me in my career.

When I was the Head of the Blood Bank I got the advice and support of Dr GJS Abraham, the Dean, as well as my favourite teacher, Professor of Pharmacology

And the Health Secretary Ms Neeru Nanda, IAS, a very kind lady.

It must be mentioned that in the Blood Bank, all the Medical Officers were much older than me.

We had a very good equation. They were Dr Alvaro Pereira, Dr Alexio Xavier Martins, Dr J Lawande, Dr V.S.N. Rao and later, Dr Vijay Laxmi Rangaraju.

The ambience and atmosphere in the Blood Bank in Panjim and in Ribandar was friendly and cooperative, although at times, stressful due to many issues.

I profusely thank all of them, as well my Medico Social workers, clerks, technicians and Class

IV staff, Blood donors, camp organisers, clinical doctors, well wishers and media for the support and cooperation.

I also organised many academic Programmes in the Blood Bank.

Many patients used to come to me for Histopathology and Cytopathology Slide Diagnosis.

I would also like to thank the GSACS Department staff.

Many of the Accountants today are the Deputy Directors of Accounts in Fazenda Porvorim today.

I would also like to thank the FDA Directors and staff, Desiderio Costa Frias, Tripathy, Saleem Veljee and their staff, for their cooperation.

In the PHD, there was Lino Pais Menezes and Celina who helped us. The PHD was in the old Secretariat as well as in Junta House.

The first HIV case of a Blood Donor was during my tenure. At that time, the Blood tests of Western blot were done in NIV Pune. GMC did ELISA.

The HIV AIDS law formulated a new policy and fought in the High Court by Adv K Grover and various NGOs and won, was during this time.

Later on, I handled the Blood Bank from the Pathology Department. CM Manohar Parrikar and the then Dean, Dr .V.G. Dhume made me the second Professor of Pathology and the Head of the Blood Bank in June, 2003.

World Blood Donor Day and the National Voluntary Donation Day was also started.

New equipment, new staff was recruited. In the recent times, the Blood Bank has been modernised and upgraded.

Today, Dr Sangeeta Amonkar, Associate Prof and Dr Merline Augustine, Assistant Professor, with Residents and staff are managing the blood bank.

The Government of Goa has a proposal to have a separate Blood Bank building behind the SSB in Bambolim.

Many decades later, in 2017, a proposal for an independent Transfusion Medicine Department was made by me.

This idea was mooted by Vishwajit Rane, the Health Minister. It must be placed on record that this was good in the interest of Goa, Goa Medical College and the patients, as the SSB Superspeciality started in GMC.

The Department of Immunohematology and Blood transfusion Medicine was officially recognised by the NMC on 11th January, 2023.

I was the Dean of Goa Medical College and the Medical Superintendent and Director IPHB, on this day.

On 11th January, 2023, there was a surprise NMC Inspection for UG, PG and Super speciality. Also, two new MDs and new Departments were created officially, which included Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Medicine and the Geriatrics Department.

Dr MV Mallya was made the Head of the Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion Medicine Department and Dr Edwin Gomes was made the Head of the Geriatrics Medicine Department. This has and will benefit Goa and GMC.

I was also deputed by the Govt of Goa to inspect the Asilo hospital and Hospicio Hospital to examine the feasibility of starting blood banks in these hospitals.

We are happy that the NGDH and SGDH have separate blood banks. SDG Ponda has a storage centre.

Manipal hospital, Dona Paula has an independent Blood Bank.

SMRC, Vasco had a blood bank. I had conducted the inspection. At present, it is closed.

Healthway hosp as well as many hospitals get the blood from the GMC, Blood Bank.

GMC Blood bank has saved the lives of lakhs of patients.
