

Khanna overcame many obstacles to become doctor

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Khanna was taken off life support last Thursday Jan. 4.

A funeral service for her was held Saturday in Etobicoke.

"It's an unfortunate way to find out how many people truly care about someone when this happens. We've had condolence messages from all over the world," a tearful Sameet said.

"There is still shock, but also a constant thread of people telling us how she was a compassionate caregiver who spends time with her patients, is thorough and asks the right questions. We as a family would like people to know how important the Georgetown community was to her."

A native of New Delhi, India, whose father was a foreign service administrator, Dr. Khanna grew up in Australia, Ethiopia, the U.S. and Bahrain before practising and teaching pediatrics in Bombay for several years, then took up family medicine in Qatar for another decade.

A 2002 Chatelaine magazine profile described her approach to medicine as treating "patients as whole human beings," and that while in Qatar, Muslim patients specifically asked to be treated by Dr. Khanna, despite her Hindu faith.

The article also detailed Dr. Khanna's exasperation in waiting to earn approval from the province to start up a family practice here because of a limited num-

ber of residency spots allotted each year, despite a serious shortage of physicians at the time.

She continued to work in Qatar while her family stayed in Mississauga for two years until finally receiving her residency spot.

"When she started working again as a doctor in Canada, she was very happy," said husband of more than 40 years, Jaidev.

In recent years, Dr. Khanna enjoyed traveling and spending time with daughter Omi, son Sumeet and his wife Sharmin and their children Rhea and Rahil.

Among the dozens of online tributes and notes of condolence was one who said she had been

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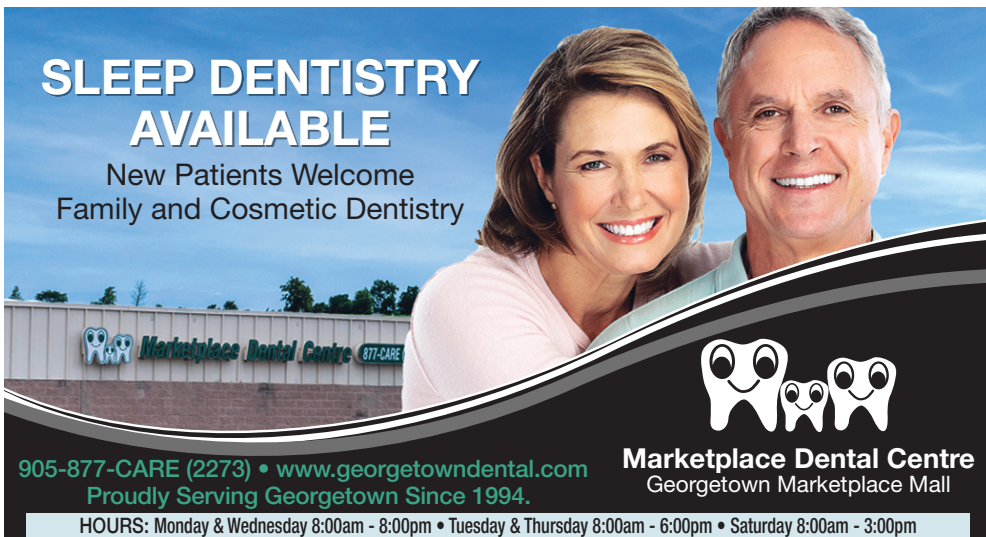
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