



**Dr. Chittaranjan Behera**

MBBS, MD (AIIMS), FIMSA, FICFMT, MAMS

ICMR International Fellowship at Department Psychiatry and Neurobiology, UAB, USA

**Professor**

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**1. FIELDS OF INTEREST AND WORK:**

Prof. Behera serves as the Faculty In-Charge of the DNA Laboratory at AIIMS, New Delhi, and has made substantial contributions to forensic medicine, medico-legal investigations, and molecular forensic medicine. His key areas of expertise include suicide research, forensic genetics, epigenetics, psychological autopsy, development of DNA databases, and providing medico-legal expert opinions in complex cases referred by agencies such as the CBI, NIA, NHRC, Crime Branch, as well as the High Courts and Supreme Court of India.

He has been instrumental in developing India's first DNA-based identification platform, the **UMID** (Unidentified Bodies, Missing Persons Identification Portal and DNA database) (<https://umid-aiims.icmr.org.in/>), designed to assist in the identification of unidentified bodies and missing persons in India. To support identification efforts, he has been working on developing genotype-to-geolocation approaches and DNA phenotyping models tailored for the Indian population.

Dr. Behera's research focuses on genetic and epigenetic factors, genome-wide analyses, and the discovery of potential biomarkers associated with suicide. His interdisciplinary approach integrates forensic pathology, psychiatry, clinical psychology, sociology and

molecular biology, thereby contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of suicide as a complex, multifactorial phenomenon. His expertise is further strengthened by advanced training in ‘suicide biomarkers’ from the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA, as well as certification in psychological autopsy from the American Association of Suicidology, Baton Rouge, USA, which together enhance his capacity to evaluate risk factors and inform prevention strategies. He has been working on the development of a First **Indian Database for the Understanding of Suicide (INDUS)**, which integrates a comprehensive ‘**Brain biobank**’ and other tissue bank along with detailed clinical data, psychological autopsy findings, suicide notes, and various phenotypic information.

Dr. Behera first coined the term ‘e-suicide note’ and his team’s multiple publications on suicide note analysis revealed distinct behavioral and personality profiles, offering forensic and preventive value. He has assembled one of the largest single-centre cohorts of suicide notes for suicide research. His investigations into psychosocial risk assessment, and postvention models for families have direct clinical implications by informing culturally tailored psychological interventions. He is ranked among the top 10 researchers in Southeast Asia in terms of contributions to suicide research publications.

Additionally, he has contributed to advancements molecular autopsy in cases of sudden and unexplained deaths, SUDEP and injury pattern analysis in intricate medico-legal investigations. Dr. Behera has also engaged in several national and international collaborative research projects, including prestigious NIMH-funded R01 grants, and has authored more than 250 publications in reputed scientific journals, thereby significantly advancing the fields of forensic medicine and suicide research both in India and internationally. He has co-authored two textbooks in the field of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology.

## 2. **RESEARCH TRAINING, FELLOWSHIP AND AWARDS:**

- ❖ Research training on “Biomarkers in Suicide” as part of ICMR International fellowship at Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurobiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA.
- ❖ DNA Fingerprinting Training at Biology Division of CFSL, CBI, New Delhi
- ❖ Psychological Autopsy Certification Training at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA
- ❖ Fellow of Indian Congress for Forensic Medicine and Toxicology
- ❖ Fellowship from International Medical Science Academy
- ❖ Research awards in the category of ‘Best Editor ‘to IP International Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicological Sciences an official Journal of KERF
- ❖ Excellence award in Forensic medicine - presented in SAFCON 2008 held in AIBHS, Amity University, Noida, U.P.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Prize for best paper presentation in faculty category at XXXIV (34<sup>th</sup>) Annual National Conference of Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (Forensic Medicine-2013).
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> best paper award at Sneha Suicide Update -2019, Chennai
- ❖ Letter of appreciation is awarded by CMET, AIIMS for valuable contribution for Institute day celebration.

- ❖ Awarded multiple travel grants by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India under the International Travel Support Scheme in the year 2016, 2019 & 2023.
- ❖ Awarded multiple travel grants by the University Grant Commission, Government of India under the International Travel Support Scheme in the year 2016 & 2019.

### 3. **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES:**

- ❖ Elected member of prestigious National Academy of Medical Sciences(NAMS), India
- ❖ Life member of Indian Academy of Forensic Medicine (IAFM)
- ❖ Life member Indian Medical Association (IMA)
- ❖ Life member of Indian Congress of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (ICFMT)
- ❖ Annual member of Indian Society of Toxicology
- ❖ Annual member of International Society of Psychiatry Genetics(ISPG)
- ❖ Founder member of Indian Congress of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (ICFMT)
- ❖ Executive member in governing body of ICFMT

### 4. **ACADEMIC SUPERVISION:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Total Thesis Guided (MD/MS/MSc/PhD)	31
Chief Guide – MD Thesis	5
Co-guide – MD/MS Thesis	13
Chief Guide – PhD	6
Co-guide – PhD	7
Doctoral Committee (DC) Member – PhD	3
Co-guide – MSc	2
Guide-ICMR SRF	3
Guide-ICMR RA	1

### 5. **FUNDED PROJECTS:**

#### ***1. Research Projects as Principal Investigator***

- ❖ Building Resources for the Diversification of Genetic Data on Suicide Death. Funding Agency: NIMH, USA (R01 Grant), Grant Amount: ₹8,36, 51547/-, Time Period: 2024–2029
- ❖ Genome-wide DNA Methylation Profiling to Study the Role of Epigenetic Modification in Suicide Completers. Funding Agency: DBT, Grant Amount: ₹1,20,62,219/-, Time Period: 2023–2026

- ❖ Establishment of a Multicenter Identification Portal and DNA Database for Identification of Unidentified Dead Bodies in India Using Molecular and Bioinformatics Tools. Funding Agency: ICMR – Multicentric Task Force Project, Grant Amount: ₹3,89,90,669/-, Time Period: 2023–2026
- ❖ Development of DNA Database and Identification Portal for Unidentified Dead Bodies Autopsied at AIIMS, New Delhi Using Bioinformatics Tools. Funding Agency: ICMR – Task Force Project, Grant Amount: ₹1,36,00,000/-, Time Period: 2019–2022
- ❖ Exploratory Case-Control Study to Assess Risk and Protective Factors for Completed Suicide Among Persons with Psychoactive Substance Abuse. Funding Agency: AIIMS Interdisciplinary Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹10,00,000/-, Time Period: 2023–2024
- ❖ Bioinformatics Identification and in Vitro Evaluation of Candidate Genes Associated with Completed Suicide in Indian Population. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant Amount: ₹69,11,390/-, Time Period: 2017–2020
- ❖ Association of Inflammatory Cytokines with Suicidal Deaths: A Hospital-Based Comparative Cross-Sectional Study. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹10,00,000/-, Time Period: 2016–2018
- ❖ Association of Menstruation with Completed Suicide: A Hospital-Based Case-Control Study. Funding Agency: AIIMS, Grant Amount: ₹3,78,629/-, Time Period: 2014–2015
- ❖ Comparative Study of Psychosocial Risk Factors and Personality-Behavioral Dimensions Between Suicide Note Writers and Non-Note Writers in Completed Suicides. Funding Agency: ICMR-SRF Project, Grant: Salary of SRF and contingency, Time Period: 2019–2022
- ❖ Trauma-Focused Postvention Module for Family and Friends of Victims of Completed Suicide – Development and Validation. Funding Agency: ICMR-SRF Project, Grant: Salary of SRF and contingency, Time Period: 2022–2025

## ***II. Research Projects as Co-Principal Investigator***

- ❖ Influence of Vitamin D-Binding Protein Gene Polymorphisms on Urinary Microbiome-Metabolome Profiles in Children with Congenital Uropathies. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant Amount: ₹1,06,00,000/-, Time Period: 2023–2026

- ❖ Impact of Host Genomic Landscape and Environmental Factors on Gut Microbiome Profiles in Children with Congenital Uropathies. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant Amount: ₹1,59,00,000/-, Time Period: 2025–2028
- ❖ DNA Methylation Profiling in Pediatric Patients with Posterior Urethral Valve (PUV) Prone to Chronic Kidney Disease. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹10,00,000/-, Time Period: 2025–2027
- ❖ Effects of Antidepressants and RAAS Modulators on Treatment Response in Depression with Biomarker Correlation. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹9,00,000/-, Time Period: 2024–2026
- ❖ Antidepressant Treatment Response Optimization Using Next-Generation Sequencing and Metabolomics. Funding Agency: AIIMS Collaborative Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹20,00,000/-, Time Period: 2026–2028
- ❖ Fibrosis as an Early Marker of Myocardial Dysfunction in Severe Mitral Regurgitation. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹20,00,000/-, Time Period: 2023–2025
- ❖ Sudden Cardiac Death in Young: An Autopsy and Molecular Study. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant Amount: ₹70,00,000/-, Time Period: 2019–2022
- ❖ Editing of Atoh1 in Cadaver-Derived Supporting Cells for Regeneration of Auditory Cells. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant Amount: ₹70,00,000/-, Time Period: 2021–2024
- ❖ Development of Rotary Ultrasonic Bone Drilling Machine Prototype. Funding Agency: SRISTHI, Grant Amount: ₹15,00,000/-, Time Period: 2018–2019
- ❖ Anatomical Variations of Round Window Niche in Human Cadaveric Temporal Bones. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹5,00,000/-, Time Period: 2015–2016
- ❖ Evaluation of Different Endoscopic Approaches to Inner Ear. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹5,00,000/-, Time Period: 2013–2014
- ❖ Fibrillin-1 Gene Mutation and Role of TGF-beta in Aortic Aneurysms. Funding Agency: AIIMS Intramural, Grant Amount: ₹5,00,000/-, Time Period: 2016–2017
- ❖ Estimation of Relationship Between Post-Mortem Subjects and Siblings Using Mitochondrial DNA Analysis. Funding Agency: AIIMS, Grant Amount: ₹10,00,000/-, Time Period: 2022–2024

- ❖ Interface of Social Media and Completed Suicides. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant: Salary of Research Associate and contingency, Time Period: 2020–2023
- ❖ Epidemiological Investigation of Suicide Deaths During COVID-19 Pandemic in Delhi. Funding Agency: ICMR, Grant: Salary of SRF and contingency, Time Period: 2022–2025
- ❖ Association Between *Toxoplasma gondii* Infection and Suicide in India – A Pilot Study. Funding Agency: DHR, Grant Amount: ₹10,00,000/-, Time Period: 2024–2025

## 6. EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBER AND REVIEWERS OF THE JOURNAL

**Editor/Editorial board member of Journal:** Assistant editor of International Journal of Medical Toxicology & Legal Medicine, Associate Editor of IP International Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicological Sciences, Editorial board member of ARC Journal of Forensic Sciences, Annals of Forensic Research and Analysis, Sci Fed Journal of Forensic, Journal of Forensic Medicine, IP International Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicological Sciences, Editorial advisory board of Indian Journal of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology

**Reviewer of several reputed journals:** Injury Prevention, Burns, BMJ Case Reports, Medicine, Science and the Law, Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, Aggression and Violent Behavior, Food and Chemical Toxicology, Frontiers in Psychiatry, Journal of Affective Disorders, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Journal of Family Medicine & Primary Care, Indian Journal of Medical Research, Journal of Neurosciences in Rural Practice, Journal of International Medical Research, Journal of Public Health Research, Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences, Psychoneuroendocrinology, Science and Justice, World Journal of Emergency Medicine, World Journal of Biological Psychiatry.

## 7. TECHNICAL EXPERT/ CONSULTANCY

- ❖ Member Technical committee of the National Consultation to Develop Guidelines for Tissue Retrieval and Tissue Tracking organized by ORBO, AIIMS, New Delhi for the purpose of The Transplantation of Human Organs Act (Amendment) Act, 2011 (THOA Amendment 2011) and draft Rules
- ❖ Member of the committee by DGHS for Creation of Digital DNA Labs and National DNA Bank for Digital record of DNA of all patients undergoing Postmortem

- ❖ Member of the committee by DGHS to discuss regarding Single window system for postmortem in India
- ❖ Member of committee to Formulate Advisory/guidelines to mortuaries for central Govt. Hospital constituted by H & FW, Govt. of India
- ❖ Member of committee to formulate requirements & Trial directive of BR Helmets (Ballistics) against 9mm protection of CAPFs, Ministry of Home affairs, BPRD, New Delhi
- ❖ Member of the expert committee to formulate uniform guidelines for Bone age estimation constituted by Medical Superintendent, AIIMS, New Delhi.
- ❖ Advisor for Systematic Review and Networking Support in Health(SARANSH) Initiatives at AIIMS, New Delhi.
- ❖ Advisor for technical resource centre(TRC), Centre for evidence based Guidelines, DHR.
- ❖ Chairman of project selection Committee (PSC) of the ICMR extramural grant proposals.
- ❖ Member of selection committee for Recruitment of faculty in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology at various medical institute including other AIIMS in India
- ❖ Chairman and member of medical board constituted by MS, AIIMS, New Delhi
- ❖ Member standing medical board at AIIMS for MTP beyond 24 weeks of gestation.
- ❖ Member board of studies in Forensic Sciences for Jaypee Institute of Information Technology.
- ❖ Member of area advisory board in Forensic Sciences for Amity University
- ❖ Member of Suicide working group of International Society of Psychiatry Genetics
- ❖ Member of committee to examine the updated curriculum of PG (MD/MS Course) at AIIMS, New Delhi
- ❖ Provided expert medico-legal opinions in cases referred by agencies such as the CBI, NIA, and Crime Branch, as well as in matters directed by the High Courts and the Supreme Court of India.

## **8. WORK EXPERIENCE IN A FEW NOTABLE MEDICOLEGAL CASES:**

- ❖ Nithari case in Noida, UP/CBI
- ❖ Godhra riot case investigation (Bilkis Bano case)/CBI
- ❖ Identification of Victims in Pandveda Village (Gujarat riot case)/CBI
- ❖ Balasore Train Accident case
- ❖ Rohit Radhakrishnan case/CBI

- ❖ Protul Dev Murder case in Assam/CBI
- ❖ Death of Anshu Maheswari, USA/CBI
- ❖ Khiranji case in Maharashtra
- ❖ Gopinath Munde death case
- ❖ Death of Bibek Maitra
- ❖ Death of Raju Srivastava
- ❖ Rahul Mahajan drug overdose case
- ❖ Kavita Chaudhry case/CBI
- ❖ Sonu Case-Bangladesh
- ❖ Geeta Case-Pakistan
- ❖ Natasha Singh case
- ❖ Rizwan case/CBI
- ❖ Ishmeet Singh (*Voice of India* winner) death in Maldives
- ❖ Murder case related to Dera Sacha Souda
- ❖ Sarojini Nagar Bomb Blast case

## 9. PUBLICATIONS:

### ▪ **Book**

- ❖ **P C Dikshit & C Behera. (2022) Text book Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, New Delhi, Peepee Publisher**
- ❖ **P C Dikshit & C Behera. (2026) Text book Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, New Delhi, Peepee Publisher, Revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition for Homoeopathy**
- ❖ Revised two chapters in Text book Forensic Medicine & Toxicology by Lyons.

### ❖ **Publication link:**

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=behera+c&sort=date>

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tiOyLXEAAAj&hl=en>



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