

Professor Subhash Anand MBE DCE CompTI CText FTI

Professor of Technical Textiles (1939-2025)



Subhash joined the then Department of Textiles in September 1972 having been awarded a PhD in nonwoven textiles at The University of Manchester earlier in the same year. He was recruited to introduce both knitting and nonwoven technologies into a department which had focussed on cotton spinning and weaving for over 100 years. This he did by developing suitable courses within the department's portfolio and working with the northwest industry, which had become an international concentration of company's focussed on what would later become recognised as technical textiles.

Over the next 45 years or so, he established the university as a centre for technical textile research with a particular focus on novel knitted and nonwoven structures for technical applications, healthcare and medical devices, the effect of laundering on sensory and mechanical properties of textile materials, composite materials and sportswear and active wear structures. In addition, he collaborated with many local companies in the areas of filtration, geotextiles, automotive textiles, and personal protective equipment (PPE). He has published over 200 research papers in the above areas of technical textiles and holds six patents. Many of his former postgraduate students were former students who had often achieved their first qualifications as part time students working for regional companies.

His research efforts were recognised by the University by promotion to Reader in 1990, the award of a Professorship as Professor of Technical Textiles in 1994 and appointment as Director of Research in the Faculty of Technology in 1996 which was extended to the Institute for Materials Research and Innovation (IMRI), University of Bolton in 2003.

Within the University he was well known for his approachable and affable character and always put his students first. His after-dinner speeches across the NW business community were also well known for their grit and humour. He continued work on a part time basis until his full retirement from the University in 2019.

He has organised four international conferences and exhibitions in medical and healthcare devices (MEDTEX) at Bolton and organised three conferences each in Czech Republic and Finland during the 1990 and early 2000 period. During his research career he attracted significant funding, sponsorships, and industrially sponsored research projects. He has completed assignments for ODA, UNDP and was Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi; India in 1984 and 2007 and Institute of Textile Technology, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA in 1994. He also worked as a consultant with UNIDO with assignments as an expert in jute and technical textiles in Dhaka and Manila. He worked as a consultant with Bhilwara Group India in their automotive textiles company (BMD) and knitting company (Maral Overseas).

Outside of the University, he was extremely active in his professional body, The Textile Institute, and worked closely with the Asian business community in the Northwest. His role in research was such as to assist the award of University title and this together with his external work in support of the UK textile industry resulted in his nomination by the University for the award of Member of the Order of the British Empire, MBE, made in 2008.

Within the TI he was active ever since he was awarded his ATI in 1975 to be followed by the award of FTI in 1986. Subhash served the Institute with great distinction across numerous committees, including Professional Qualifications, Medals and Awards, Benevolent Committee, and Events. He was Chair of the Institute and Conference during the Centenary celebrations in 2010. He was the Director of the *Introduction to Textiles Short Course* and played a significant role in educating and inspiring generations of textile professionals. He conveyed his considerable expertise with enthusiasm and rigor, presenting complex material in an accessible and engaging manner. A gifted educator, he shared his knowledge generously and with a sense of fun, inspiring understanding, and confidence in those around him.

He was the Chairman of the Board and Council of The Textile Institute from 10 May 2008 to 10 May 2010. He was awarded the Companionship of The Textile Institute (Comp TI) award in 2011. This is one of the Institute's most prestigious honours and is limited to only 50 living members.

He also co-authored the *Handbook of Technical Textiles* with his colleague and close friend Professor Dick Horrocks CText FTI, himself a former Chair of the Institute. This world-renowned publication now into its second edition remains a core text on many academic and professional study lists.

To complement his professional studies, Subhash was also an accomplished musician who for over 35 years had studied and practised classical Indian music. He has recorded a

number of CDs of light Indian music some of which he was the composer. He sang to and played an Indian harmonium, often performing for charity of which the UK charity *Sahara Means Support* that focuses on promoting physical, emotional and spiritual health.

He leaves behind his wife of many years, Indira, his son Paras and daughter Payal and their respective children.