

UBF Diary

August 2025

KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre hosts eminent breast surgeon



The world-renowned Prof Kelly Hunt, Chair of the Division of Breast Surgical Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Centre visited the KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases, KIMS Hospitals, on August 1.

During her visit, she delivered a keynote lecture titled *From Houston to Hyderabad—Advancing Surgery Through Collaboration and Science*. Prof Hunt said she was proud that Dr Nina Tamarisa from MD Anderson Cancer Centre

and Dr Raghu Ram have been awarded the prestigious Prof Charles Balch Fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology for 2025, an honour instituted in recognition of Prof Charles Balch—one of the world's most respected surgical oncologists from MD Anderson.

Following the lecture, Prof Hunt interacted with consultants and met with patients at KIMS Hospitals, appreciating the Centre's commitment to excellence in breast healthcare.

Dr Ushalakshmi Oration: Early detection is key



The fourth edition of the Dr Ushalakshmi Oration was delivered by Prof Golshan Mehra, professor of surgery, Yale School of Medicine, during the 13th annual conference of Association of Breast Surgeons of India held in Kolkata on August 2. He touched upon the origins of population-based breast cancer screening programmes across the world and their impact on reducing the disease mortality through early detection.



The annual oration was instituted in 2022 to honour Dr Ushalakshmi's struggle in the battle against breast cancer and to recognise her role in inspiring an impactful breast cancer advocacy campaign in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh for close to two decades.

ABSI lecture: Journeying towards a hope-filled future



Dr Raghu Ram delivered a guest lecture titled “ABSI Through the Lens of Time: Purpose, Progress and Future” at the 13th Annual Congress of the Association of Breast Surgeons of India (ABSI) on August 2.

In his address, he reflected on the founding of the Association 14 years ago, outlined the transformative progress made since its inception, and underscored ABSI’s potential to further enhance and standardise breast healthcare delivery across the nation.

He concluded with an inspiring message, reminding delegates that extraordinary progress is possible when there is clarity of purpose, collective will, and unwavering commitment.

Breaking myths, stirring awareness

Dr Raghu Ram was invited to an engaging and lively breast cancer awareness session at IIIT Hyderabad on August 13. This institution is a renowned autonomous university, known for its strong research programmes across diverse fields, with a focus on technology and applied research benefiting industry and society.

The doctor interacted with employees and staff at this Centre of Excellence and strongly advocated the importance of early detection of breast cancer and clarified the myths surrounding the disease.



Empowering surgical trainees – Dr Raghu Ram speaks on global podcast



Dr Raghu Ram participated in an engaging podcast conversation with Dr Akatya Vidushi, founder-president of the Global Surg Network—a worldwide platform dedicated to surgical education and training.

In this interaction, he inspired surgical trainees by highlighting essential aspects of breast health and outlining the training opportunities available in breast surgery both in India, and abroad.

Centred on the theme, “Future of Breast Surgery: Where Innovation Meets Compassion”, the discussion explored how evolving techniques, guided by empathy, can redefine the future of breast care and elevate standards globally.



Prof PJ Narayanan, Director IIIT presenting a memento to Dr Raghu Ram

A Living Bridge between India and the UK



Dr P Raghu Ram was invited as a distinguished guest speaker at the Stoke-on-Trent city division of the British International Doctors Association (BIDA), the UK's oldest and one of Europe's largest organisations representing international doctors working across the British Isles.

He reflected on his formative training years in the UK and shared insights into the disruptive initiatives he has championed over the past 18 years to transform breast

healthcare in India. He concluded by expressing his pride in serving as a 'Living Bridge' between the UK and India throughout his professional journey, a sentiment that earned him a standing ovation.

During his visit to Stoke-on-Trent, he also felicitated his guardians, Drs Prasad Rao and Mohini Rao from Stoke-on-Trent, acknowledging their unwavering support to his family for more than 25 years.

Unique honour



Prof Hany Eteiba confers the Honorary FRCS(Glasg) upon Dr Raghu Ram

Dr P Raghu Ram achieved the rare distinction of becoming the youngest surgeon from South Asia to be conferred Honorary FRCS (Glasgow) by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG). Having earned FRCS (Glasgow) by examination in 1997, Dr Raghu Ram now holds the unique honour of being both an FRCS (by examination) and an Honorary Fellow of the same college.

This highest honour, from the 425-year-old College, was formally bestowed upon Dr Raghu Ram by Prof Hany Eteiba, president of RCPSG, at a glittering ceremony held in the



L-R: Krishna Sai, Dr Vyjayanthi, Dr Raghu Ram, Dr Devi Putta and Dr Prasad Bollina

historic College Hall in Glasgow on September 10 2025, which was followed by a formal sit-down dinner to celebrate the conferment of the Honorary Fellowship.

Addressing the guests, professor Hany Eteiba, president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow said, "I am delighted to confer upon Dr Raghu Ram the Honorary Fellowship, which is the most prestigious and highest honour bestowed by the college. For over two decades, he has dedicated himself to his community, bringing hope to millions of people in the fight against breast cancer.



Dr Raghu Ram and Dr Vyjayanthi felicitated Prof Hany Eteiba, President RCPSG, with the traditional trademark Pochampally Ikkat shawl from Telangana. Also in the picture - Mrs Rafique Eteiba and Prof Abhay Rane, Registrar RCPSG

By fostering close links with surgeons in the UK, India and worldwide, he has been integral to our mission of advancing health and professional standards in surgery. We are immensely proud to welcome him into our college community and look forward to strengthening the bond between the UK and India.”

The citation read out by Prof Abhay Rane, registrar and trustee of the RCPSG paid glowing tributes to Dr Raghu Ram’s transformative contributions to breast cancer care in India over nearly two decades; his pioneering role in convening 12 overseas FRCS/MRCS preparatory courses in Hyderabad that enabled over 2,000 trainees from across South Asia to succeed in the prestigious examinations; and

his strategic guidance to the college’s academic initiatives in India.

Expressing his gratitude, Dr Raghu Ram said about the honour: “I am deeply grateful to the president of RCPSG for conferring this highest honour, and I dedicate this singular recognition to my family, my patients, and my motherland.”

The RCPSG

Founded in 1599, RCPSG is over 425 years old and is the only multi-disciplinary Royal College in the British Isles that represents a diverse community of over 15,000 surgeons, dentists and professionals working in podiatry and travel medicine from across 97 countries around the world.

Some of the prominent surgeons who were closely associated with this historic college include Prof Peter Low—the founder of RCPSG, who published the first surgical textbook in English (1597); Sir William Macewan—“father of Neuro Surgery’ credited to have removed the first brain tumour; Prof Joseph Lister—father of antiseptic surgery; Prof Sir Greame Teasdale, former president of the college and Prof Bryan Bennet—both of whom founded the Glasgow Coma Scale, which is a widely used tool worldwide to assess the level of consciousness. And, not to overlook Prof Jamini Sen—an Indian surgeon and the first female Fellow of the College (1912).

Link to the Hon FRCS Conferment Ceremony

<https://youtu.be/nZrSIKTD0bs?si=pn7itqyCMtlSBgLN>

Podcast turns spotlight on breast healthcare

On September 23, Dr P Raghu Ram was invited as a special guest on a podcast organised by FOGSI (Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India), focussed on the theme—“Changing the face of breast cancer care in India”.

In conversation with Dr Charulata Bapaye, an eminent gynaecologist and chairperson of FOGSI breast sub-committee, Dr Raghu Ram began by commending Dr Sunita Tandulwadkar, FOGSI president for creating weekly Podcasts on various aspects to empower gynaecologists nationwide.

Dr Raghu Ram highlighted the critical shift from traditional ‘breast self-examination’ to ‘breast awareness’, stressing that since gynaecologists are often the first point of contact for women with breast health concerns, it is vital for them to be well-informed. Further, the doctor underscored the importance of close collaboration between the Association of Breast Surgeons of India and FOGSI to equip gynaecologists with practical guidance—not only on what to do, but equally on what not to do and when to refer.

Such measures, he noted, are essential to ensure women across India receive the best possible breast healthcare.

Link to podcast:

https://youtu.be/34AXE1_TBnA?si=CFXxgQHQTlZrYVyg

Pride of Telangana awards: Honouring achievers



Dr Nanda Kumar Reddy, Dr Senthil Rajappa and Deepika Reddy being honoured during the event

The 2025 Pride of Telangana Awards, organised by start148, a chapter of Round Table India, celebrated individuals and organisations that have made a meaningful impact on society. The ceremony, held at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) on September 28, honoured those who exemplify exceptional leadership, creativity, and innovation in their fields.

Dr P Raghu Ram, who was on the jury, presented the Achiever Awards in the health category to Dr Nanda Kumar Reddy, vice-chancellor of KNR University of Health Sciences, and Dr Senthil Rajappa, renowned medical oncologist at Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital. The 'Star Woman' Award was conferred on acclaimed classical dancer Deepika Reddy.

October 2025

For 17 years in a row, Hyderabad monuments glow pink for breast cancer awareness

On October 1, Hyderabad's skyline turned pink as key landmarks and historic buildings were illuminated to mark the start of International Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative, led by the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, has become a defining annual tradition for the city.

For 17 consecutive years, Hyderabad has stood out globally as the only city where monuments and prominent buildings are lit up in pink on a single night, symbolising solidarity in the fight against breast cancer.

Among the most notable supporters is the Telangana Raj Bhavan, which has participated for six years in a row—including during the peak of the pandemic—making it the only Raj Bhavan in India to consistently join this campaign.



Dr Raghu Ram on Radio



Dr Raghu Ram went on air on October 18 to participate in a Vividh Bharati and Rainbow FM show, which was conducted to create awareness and spread the message of hope, courage and determination in the fight against breast cancer.

Prestigious Research Fellowship



Dr Nina Tamarisa from MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston and Dr Raghu Ram—recipients of the prestigious Prof Charles Balch Research Fellowship in Breast Surgical Oncology for 2025—alongside Sandhya Kanneganti, Manisha Koppala, and Vedha Penmetcha at the KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases.

Hybiz Healthcare awards 2025



Dr P Raghu Ram joined Union Minister Kishan Reddy and MLA Harish Rao on stage as guests of honour at the Hybiz Healthcare Awards Ceremony, which was hosted at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre on October 17. The event honoured eminent doctors from Telangana for their exceptional contributions to healthcare.

Partnering with National Health Mission in Telangana to empower healthcare workers and save lives



ANMs with Dr S Sangeetha Satyanarayana, commissioner health & family welfare and director, NHM Telangana

On October 23, a significant initiative was held to identify barriers in implementing the National Health Mission-run breast cancer screening programme. Spearheaded under the auspices of the 'Professor Charles Balch Research Fellowship in breast surgical oncology for the year 2025', the effort was jointly organised by MD Anderson Cancer Centre in partnership with the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases and the government of Telangana.

As part of this evidence-based initiative to strengthen early detection of breast cancer, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) from Warangal and Hyderabad underwent structured training in performing Clinical Breast Examination (CBE)

using audio visual aids and mannequins. Also, 300 under-privileged women from both urban and rural communities in Telangana underwent CBE conducted by these trained ANMs, as part of a pilot screening programme.

To assess the challenges in implementing the programme, a formal survey was carried out among the 300 participants and 300 non-participants, aimed at identifying potential barriers to the large-scale adoption of the CBE-based screening in the region. The survey findings and key recommendations will be presented to the National Health Mission Telangana, and subsequently shared with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the goal of introducing ground-level measures and enabling policy integration at the national level.

Breaking myths, building trust: Breast cancer awareness panel draws audience

On Saturday evening, October 25, it was a packed hall at The Quorum in Hyderabad, with people even choosing to stand just to listen to an insightful and thought-provoking panel discussion. That sight said it all. It spoke of trust, hope, and connection, and of how deeply the message about the need for early cancer detection has touched lives.

Dr Raghu Ram was joined by Renuka Chowdhury—Member of Parliament and Dr Pratibha Narayan—gynaecologist, for a conversation that demystified the common myths around breast cancer and offered much-needed inner confidence to those battling the disease. This stimulating session, which began at 7.30 pm and went on till 9 pm, was moderated by Dinaz Vervetwala, a fitness and mindset coach.

Dr Raghu Ram: *“Every life saved is every woman empowered. This thought is the truest tribute to my mother’s memory and the purpose she continues to inspire.”*



Lindy Cameron, British High Commissioner to India with Dr Raghu Ram

UK King’s Birthday - A royal event

Dr Raghu Ram attended a grand reception hosted by Lindy Cameron, the British High Commissioner to India, to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty King Charles. The ever-charismatic Dr S Jaishankar was the chief guest at this gala event, held at the High Commissioner’s residence in New Delhi on October 31.