

UBF Diary

November 2023

Prof PV Chalapathi Rao Awards: Third edition



On November 14, the third edition of 'Prof PV Chalapathi Rao Best outgoing trainee annual awards in Broad Specialties and Sub Specialties' were given away in memory of Dr P V Chalapathi Rao, who served KIMS Hospitals selflessly as director of medical education for close to two decades.

Impactful breast cancer advocacy session



On November 17, Dr Raghu Ram conducted a significant and impactful breast cancer advocacy session, to empower spouses of officers in the Indian army and frontline soldiers, at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) auditorium in Secunderabad.

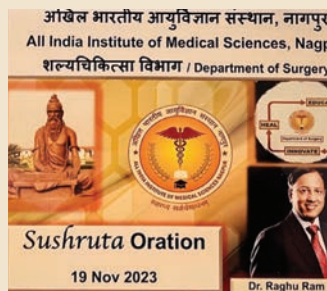
The question and answer session went beyond the duration of the talk and Dr Raghu Ram received a standing ovation.

A standing ovation for 'Sushruta Oration'

Dr P Raghu Ram delivered the inaugural 'Sushruta Oration', instituted to commemorate the department of surgery at AIIMS Nagpur, which completed four positively eventful years.

The doctor received a standing ovation after his oration, titled 'Transforming Breast Healthcare in India—celebrating 16 positively eventful years', and was much appreciated by trainees and practising surgeons in and around Vidarbha Region—Nagpur, Chandrapur and Gondia (Maharashtra), who attended the event.

Sharing a highlight of this visit, Dr Raghu Ram said, "A senior Registrar from department of surgery in AIIMS, who recently got selected in the NEET Super Specialty exam, told me that his resolve to pursue surgical oncology as a career had strengthened manifold, after listening to my oration. This truly made my visit to Nagpur extra special."



Felicitation of the youngest recipient of ASI's Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr Raghu Ram achieved the rare distinction of becoming the youngest-ever recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award in the 85-year old history of The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI)—Asia Pacific's largest and world's second largest surgical organisation.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu, former vice-president of India was the chief guest at the convocation ceremony hosted by the ASI, during its 83rd annual Congress in Visakhapatnam on December 14. This event was attended by over 5,000 surgeons from India and renowned surgeons from overseas.

During the convocation ceremony, he felicitated Dr Pattabhiramaiah—a renowned surgeon from Vijayawada and Dr Raghu Ram, who were the 2023 recipients of the ASI's Lifetime Achievement awards, which is the highest recognition that is conferred upon an ASI member for his or her outstanding contribution to the art and science of surgery.

Dr Raghu Ram received a standing ovation from the surgical fraternity gathered after the award was bestowed upon him.

Paying rich tributes, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said the Padma Shri and Dr BC Roy National awardee, Dr P Raghu Ram is a

world-renowned surgeon and indeed the worthy son of a worthy father, Dr PV Chalapathi Rao, who also served as the president of ASI.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu said, "I am delighted to learn that for the first and only time in ASI's 85-year history, father and son have served at the apex position of this esteemed organisation. Dr Raghu Ram's outstanding contribution towards promoting the art and science of surgery has brought laurels to his family, colleagues and nation."

LINKS:

Audio Visual - Highlights of Dr Raghu Ram's 'body of work' & major honours

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJLjGtpa0tQ&list=PLRNpTEx-YwbSzhk23W8AiHSqvfVxHhEm&index=4>

Shri Venkaiah Naidu at the Convocation ceremony, ASICON 2023, Visakhapatnam

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BX0umDh9RAk&list=PLRNpTEx-YwbSzhk23W8AiHSqvfVxHhEm&index=2>

'I want to be like Dr Raghu Ram' - Former SASI student at world-renowned Mayo Clinic, USA



On December 26, Dr Raghu Ram was the chief guest at SASI Institute located in Velivenu, a small hamlet near Rajahmundry, which trains students aspiring for higher education. Several toppers who cracked the NEET and JEE entrance in 2023 with high scores and their parents were there in full force.

The physics teacher recalled on stage a recent phone call with a former student of SASI Institute, who is currently at the world-renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester doing his sub specialty residency in oncology. This student (Veda Vyas) mentioned to his teacher, 'I want to be like Raghu Ram'.

Dr Raghu Ram interacted with many parents, most of whom are from very low socio-economic background, who toiled day and night to put together a sum of money to educate their children. They were particularly overwhelmed and moved by the doctor's message to students, reminding them never to forget taking care of their parents when they grow older and never to forget their motherland and mother tongue.

LINK:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu8HHm22wKQ>



HPS Centenary celebrations: Dr Raghu Ram featured on HPS 'Wall of Fame'



Dr P Raghu Ram featured on the Hyderabad Public School (HPS)'s Wall of Fame, in the Echoes of Time Museum alongside Satya Nadella - chairman and CEO, Microsoft; Ajay Banga - World Bank chairman; Prem Watsa - chairman, Fairfax Financial Holdings; Shailesh Jejurkar - COO, Proctor and Gamble; current, former chief ministers, Union ministers and many other famous and distinguished personalities from across the world, who had studied at the school.

Reflecting upon his visit to his alma mater on December 31 during the centenary celebrations, Dr Raghu Ram said, "My school gave me everything I needed to face the world, in addition to nurturing within me, the most important human values of courtesy, compassion, empathy, honesty and humility. An above average student, a daydreamer, who always chose to sit by the window in the class, my schooling taught me the

importance of how to be, and more importantly, how not to be!"

"Inspired by my teachers, coupled with proactive motivation from my maternal grandfather, I explored the vernacular and developed an affinity to reading, writing and speaking in my mother tongue - which has stayed with me all along. All in all, ever grateful to the divine force for the privilege of being able to spend my formative years in an institution steeped in history and greatness, which has undoubtedly had an indelible impact on my life."

LINK:

Glimpses of NDTV coverage of 'Echoes of time' Museum at HPS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1d5PtJ-DqpE>

High-profile UK visitor at KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases

Sir Professor Neil Mortensen, the immediate past president of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, who was recently knighted by His Excellency King Charles III, visited KIMS Hospitals and KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases. He paid rich tributes to Dr Raghu Ram, and applauded his noble mission to improve the delivery of breast healthcare in India.



January 2024

Innovative panel discussion on Breast Cancer Advocacy and Screening

An innovative public awareness panel discussion, on 'Breast Cancer Advocacy and Screening', was held during the 66th annual Conference of All India Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AICOG 2024) at HICC, in Hyderabad.

About 10,000 delegates attended this Congress, which was held from January 6th to 10th, 2024. Dr Shantha Kumari, chairperson of AICOG 2024 and past president of FOGSI, who organised this session said that there was a pressing need for gynaecologists to be empowered about the need to make women 'breast aware' and to refer patients in time to specialists that will ensure those diagnosed with breast cancer derive the best possible benefits through early detection.

She complimented Dr Raghu Ram for his passion to breast cancer advocacy and for spearheading various such initiatives all across Telugu States and creating the much-needed awareness about the importance of early detection.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr P Raghu Ram, who was a special guest at this panel said, "On most occasions, a gynaecologist is the first port of call for women presenting with a breast health issue. It is vitally important for them to ensure that all women presenting with a breast lump must undergo triple assessment, which includes clinical examination, mammography and ultrasound guided core needle biopsy to confirm or exclude breast cancer."

"It is disturbing to see many patients being referred for FNAC (Fine needle aspiration cytology), which is inadequate, not accurate and also has a potential for false positive diagnosis, which can then mislead patients, resulting in wrong diagnosis and incorrect treatment," he added.

He also outlined the importance of mammogram as the gold standard investigation for women presenting with a breast lump and cautioned gynaecologists about referring patients for thermography, which has not been proven to be an effective investigation in the evaluation of breast lumps.

UBF's yeomen service

Amala Akkineni, UBF patron, who was the guest of honour paid rich tributes to Dr Raghu Ram and UBF, for creating the much-needed awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer through a number of unique and innovative initiatives over the past 17 years.





She said, "I too like most women despite being educated was unaware that women over 40 years must undergo screening mammogram until Dr Raghu Ram brought about this awareness in the city and all across India. I have been fortunate to be associated with UBF as its patron, which is doing yeomen service to empower women about early detection in addition to have implemented a population based breast cancer screening programme in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, that has served to be a benchmark across the nation."

Damayanthi, a retired IAS officer and a breast cancer 'conqueror' stressed that her diagnosis was delayed because she was referred for FNAC of her breast lump. She underlined the importance of undergoing core needle biopsy to confirm or rule out breast cancer. She also highlighted that breast conservation followed by radiotherapy can be as effective as mastectomy and complimented Dr Raghu Ram, for not only conserving her breast but also reshaping it after a lumpectomy using oncoplastic techniques, to ensure excellent aesthetic outcome with no defect and a scar which is hardly visible.



"My diagnosis was delayed because I was referred for FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology) instead of core needle biopsy, which gave a false reassurance that the lump was not a cancer. Triple assessment by way of mammogram, ultrasound and ultrasound guided core needle biopsy must become the standard of care. Doctors must take time and counsel women about options for breast conservation where feasible and about oncoplastic techniques to ensure good cosmetic outcome."

Damayanthi

Retired IAS officer and breast cancer 'conqueror'

Prestigious Final MRCS Examinations in Hyderabad



Dr P Raghu Ram hosted the world-renowned and prestigious Intercollegiate Final MRCS Examinations, which was held by the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS England) in Hyderabad from January 17-22, 2024.

Some 35 eminent examiners from the UK, India, Malaysia and the Middle East flew down to Hyderabad to assess 240 surgical trainees, who came from all over India and abroad to take this examination, which was spread over six days.

Established in 1540, The Royal College of Surgeons of England is one of the world's oldest and United Kingdom's most prestigious Surgical Royal College. With a global multidisciplinary membership of over 30,000 surgeons spread across the UK and in over 100 countries internationally, the Royal College promotes excellence in the practice of the art and science of surgery through its role in setting standards, facilitating research, providing quality assurance and

supporting training professional development.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Raghu Ram, who is the youngest surgeon of Indian origin to have been conferred Honorary FRCS (England), which is the highest recognition conferred by RCS England said, "The MRCS Examination tests the knowledge, experience and core clinical competence expected of surgical trainees at the end of their basic surgical training. For the first time in 500 years, this prestigious examination was held in Hyderabad in 2015 and it has been a distinct honour and privilege to have been entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this prestigious MRCS every year ever since it started."

Further he added, "I am delighted that through this landmark initiative, thousands of surgical trainees are able to sit the examination in India itself, which saves the hassles of travelling and staying in the UK, which can be prohibitively expensive."