

UBF Diary

February 2024

Guest of Honour at Telangana Bengali Film festival



Dr Raghu Ram felicitating Ramesh Prasad



Dr Raghu Ram was invited as a guest of honour at the 6th edition of the Telangana Bengali Film festival (TBFF-2024) on February 12. The vibrant film festival, which was held at Prasad Preview theatre was organised by Hyderabad Bangalee Samity, which is an 83-year-old organisation representing more than 10 lakh Bengalis in Hyderabad.

At the festival, Dr Raghu Ram felicitated the legendary Ramesh Prasad (film producer, chairman and head of Prasad Studios, Prasad's IMAX and LV Prasad Eye Institute) and Harikrishna Mamidi (director, department of culture, Telangana).

Eleven acclaimed films, including several international and national award-winning films in Bengali, were screened. The festival also paid tribute to legendary film maestro Mrinal Sen on his birth centenary with the screening of his 1976 national award-winning Hindi film *Mrigayaa* (The Royal Hunt) on the opening day along with his other films.

Chief guest at ABSI Conference, Puducherry



L to R: Drs Rohit Kumar, Dr SVS Deo, Raghu Ram, Kadambari and Rakesh Aggarwal



Dr Raghu Ram with the legendary Prof N Ananthakrishnan

Dr P Raghu Ram, a former president of The Association of Surgeons of India and The Association of Breast Surgeons of India (ABSI), inaugurated the ABSI's mid-term conference organised by Dr Kadambari D, professor of surgery at the department of surgery at Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry on February 16.

Dr Rakesh Aggarwal, director of JIPMER; Dr SVS Deo, president ABSI; Dr D G Vijay, president-elect ABSI; Dr Rohit Kumar, honorary secretary, ABSI and several other prominent surgeons from Puducherry and beyond participated in the event.

Having played a pivotal role in the genesis and formation of ABSI and having served as founder honorary secretary and president of the association, Dr Raghu Ram reflected upon ABSI's journey – from the inspiration, the genesis, the resistance against its formation, the teamwork – and ended with expressing his desire that the newest and one of the most vibrant sections of ASI will celebrate 20 positively eventful years in 2031!

He paid rich tributes to the ABSI leadership for ensuring that ABSI – which is the newest section of the Association of Surgeons of India – has been adjudged the 'Best Section of ASI' for the past three consecutive years (2021, 2022 and 2023). This speaks volumes of what has been achieved in a short span of time.

The essence of Dr Raghu Ram's message was also published as an editorial in the Indian Journal of Surgery (IJS) in 2021, when ABSI celebrated 10 positively eventful years, and it was one of the highest accesses for an editorial published in the IJS (1900).

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12262-021-03099-0>

Dr Raghu Ram gets prestigious India-UK Achievers Award



Dr Raghu Ram with other speakers at India UK Education Conference



Dr Raghu Ram with Lord Karan Bilimoria and Virendra Sharma at the reception held in the UK Parliament

Dr Raghu Ram was conferred the prestigious 'INDIA-UK Achievers Award' in the category of education, science and innovation by Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi, assistant secretary general of the Commonwealth, at a glittering awards ceremony at De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms in London on February 28, 2024.

The award was presented in recognition of Dr Raghu Ram's extraordinary achievements and exemplary body of work towards transforming the delivery of breast cancer care in India.

Instituted by National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) in partnership with the British Council and the UK Government, the 'India-UK Achievers Annual Awards' celebrates the exceptional work of achievers of Indian origin, who have completed their higher education in the UK and whose contributions have shaped the India-UK bilateral relationship.

There were over 1,000 nominations in various categories for this year's awards and the 'Class of 2024 Achievers' were selected by a high-profile jury, which included Professor Luis Gabriel Franceschi; Alison Barrett, director, British Council (India); Dr Diana Beech, CEO of London Higher, the umbrella organisation representing over 50 London universities and higher education colleges; Subhash Ghai, well-known Indian filmmaker and Anne Marie Graham, chief executive, UK Council for International Student Affairs and others.

A day earlier, on February 27, a grand reception was held in the UK Parliament premises by Virendra Sharma, Member of Parliament; Gareth Thomas, Member of Parliament and Lord Karan Bilimoria, Cross Bench Peer at the House of Lords to celebrate the exceptional achievements of the 'India-UK Achievers Finalists'.



Dr Raghu Ram receiving the award from Prof Luis Gabriel Franceschi, The Commonwealth Asst. Secretary General

Glittering award ceremony

The final winners in various categories were declared formally during the glittering awards night on the following day, February 28, 2024 at De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms in London.

India UK Education Conference

Dr Raghu Ram was also a speaker and panelist at the 'India UK Education Conference', held at the London venue earlier on the same day, where he highlighted the challenges he faced, and equally, the tremendous joy that he experienced through focused actions implementing various innovative initiatives, that have paved the path towards improving breast cancer care in India.

He urged prospective surgical trainees intending to pursue higher specialist training in the UK to complete their basic surgical training and obtain MRCS in India itself. He also outlined the career pathways for international medical graduates in the UK and highlighted the educational collaborations between Association of Surgeons of India and the Surgical Royal Colleges in the British Isles.

Empowering women, impacting lives

On March 12, Dr P Raghu Ram was invited as guest of honour along with Jennifer Larson, US Consul General in Hyderabad by K Rama Devi, chairperson of The Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP).

ALEAP is India's premier organisation and a beacon of empowerment for women entrepreneurs across the country and beyond.

Whilst empowering women about various aspects of breast health, Dr Raghu Ram said, "A woman is the nerve centre of the family. If she is well, the family will be well." He was felicitated for his outstanding contribution towards transforming breast healthcare in the country.



Dr Raghu Ram being felicitated by Rama Devi and Jennifer Larson



Creating awareness about breast cancer



Exploring avenues to improve breast cancer care



Dr Raghu Ram with Apurva Chandra (left) and Prof Vinod Paul (right)



On March 14, Dr P Raghu Ram met Apurva Chandra, Union health secretary at Nirman Bhavan and Prof Vinod Paul, member of NITI AYOJ, a globally recognised paediatrician, scientist and public health exponent, to explore ways to improve breast cancer care in the country.

Dr Raghu Ram outlined all the breast cancer advocacy initiatives spearheaded by the Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation over the past 17 years, which impressed them. Also, he presented a copy of the most recent issue of *Pink Connexion* (Feb-April 2024) to them.

Dr Raghu Ram features on 'Wall of Fame' at Royal College of Surgeons



Dr Raghu Ram was “pleasantly surprised and thrilled” when a friend from the Royal College of Surgeons of England sent him a photograph, which showed that he featured on the “Wall of Fame” at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

For Dr Raghu Ram, it is an “incredible honour and privilege” to be part of this massive collage of pictures so beautifully put together as a scalpel in the newly-refurbished Royal College premises.

This photograph of Dr Raghu Ram in the collage was taken just before the Convocation Ceremony, when he was conferred the Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Surgeons of England in 2022. He is the youngest surgeon of Indian origin in 484 years to have been bestowed the highest recognition by one of the oldest and world-renowned surgical colleges.

Recalling that time, Dr Raghu Ram said, “Proud to have represented Bharat in a traditional Indian attire. It was a memorable and unforgettable experience.”

Non Technical Skills Masterclass for Surgeons (NOTSS), Hyderabad



Dr B Bhaskar Rao, chairman, KIMS Hospitals inaugurated the Masterclass. Also seen (L-R) Drs Probal Neogi, Yeap Chee Loong, Andre Das and Raghu Ram



The faculty with participants

Dr P Raghu Ram, a former president and current convener – International Affairs of The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) – hosted the landmark first Non Technical Skills Masterclass for Surgeons (NOTSS) on March 22 and 23, 2024, under the auspices of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. This course was held in partnership with Association of Surgeons of India at KIMS Hospitals in Hyderabad.

It is a follow up to the NOTSS introductory course that he had organised at the same place in September 2023.



Some of the faculty members at KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Raghu Ram said, "Technical skills alone are not enough to ensure best outcomes after surgery. Poor communication is a common yet much ignored factor that accounts for errors made during surgery. This course addressed these specific issues. It is my wish and desire that this innovative and extremely useful masterclass should become part and parcel of the Association of Surgeons of India's annual academic calendar and be held across the length and breadth of Bharat."

Having participated in this unique masterclass at RCS in Edinburgh in 2005, long before relocating to India, it was Dr Raghu Ram's dream to ensure that the surgical fraternity in the country benefits from it. Some 19 years later, his dream has come true.

Several practising surgeons and trainees from across India participated in this masterclass that was held over two days on March 22 and 23, 2024.

Dr Probal Neogi (president ASI); Dr Pratap Varute (honorary secretary ASI); Dr Shivakant Misra, Dr G Siddesh, Dr Arvind Kumar and Dr Santhosh John Abraham (past presidents ASI); Dr Diptendra Sarkar (chairman, West Bengal Chapter ASI); Dr Jishan Ahmed (member, National Executive Committee ASI); Dr K Lakshman and several other surgeons and trainees participated in the masterclass.

The masterclass was conducted by Dr Yeap Chee Loong and Dr Andre Das from Malaysia.

April 2024

Talk on breast cancer awareness at Embassy of India in Washington



Air Commodore YPS Negi (Air attaché) and Brigadier Gaurav Sharma (military attaché) present a memento to Drs Raghu Ram and Vyjayanthi



Drs Raghu Ram and Vyjayanthi with Indian ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan

Sripriya Ranganathan, India's Ambassador to the USA, invited Dr Raghu Ram on April 5 to empower the Indian Embassy staff in Washington DC about breast cancer awareness. With considerable foresight, she ensured that the awareness session was relayed live to all the other six diplomatic Indian Consulate offices in America – Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York, Seattle and San Francisco.

More than 200 embassy and consulate staff across America attended and actively participated in the session, which was meant to empower women about every aspect of breast health issues in an easy-to-understand format.

Dr Raghu Ram said, "Heartfelt gratitude to Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan. Received such a warm and affectionate reception by the embassy staff. Was given a guided tour and valuable inside information, with the unique opportunity to meet and interact with the chief representatives of Bharat's army, airforce, navy and DRDO in the US. These interactions gave me insightful, first-hand knowledge about what it takes to run a hugely impactful and successful diplomatic mission in the most powerful nation in the world."

Visiting Professor at MD Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston

Dr P Raghu Ram had the honour of being invited as a “Visiting Professor” to the Breast Surgical Oncology department at the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston from April 9 to 11, 2024.

The subject, ‘How best to improve breast cancer care in the USA and India’, figured predominantly in his discussions with the world-famous breast surgeons, breast radiologists, breast pathologists and breast medical/radiation oncologists he met and interacted within the two days he was at the Centre. He visited the operating rooms, Outpatient Clinics and was part of the multi-disciplinary meetings at America’s best known cancer centre.

There was an overwhelming response to his one-hour ‘Visiting Professor Lecture’, which was transmitted live to 13 MD Anderson Cancer Centers across America. The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre designated his guest lecture with American Medical Association’s PRA Category 1 Credits.

Reflecting on his experience, Dr Raghu Ram said, “It was well and truly an incredible honour, privilege and opportunity to interact, share and showcase my dreams at one of the world’s best centres of excellence in cancer care. It was a memorable experience, which I cannot describe in words. My heartfelt gratitude to professor Kelly Hunt, chairman, department of breast surgical oncology and her brilliant colleagues at the Anderson for ensuring my visit to this Institute steeped in history and greatness, truly unforgettable.”

LINK

Introduction of Dr Raghu Ram – the Visiting Professor @ The MD Anderson Cancer Centre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4p2b8M4xe5E&t=82s>




Prof Kelly Hunt felicitated with a traditional handwoven Kashmiri shawl



Dr Raghu Ram with Dr Taiwo Adesoye and Prof Henry Keurer prior to the lecture

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
MD Anderson
Cancer Center
Making Cancer History



**DR. RAGHU RAM
PILLARISETTI OBE**
Founding Director
KIMS-USHALAKSHMI
Centre for Breast Diseases
KIMS Hospitals
Hyderabad, India

DEPARTMENT OF BREAST SURGICAL ONCOLOGY
VISITING PROFESSOR LECTURE

**DISRUPTING BREAST
CANCER CARE IN INDIA**

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024 AT 5:00PM-6:00PM (CST)
IN-PERSON LOCATION: [ECT3.5001](#)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. In support of improving patient care, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



Dr Raghu Ram with Prof Henry Keurer in the OR



At a dinner hosted in honour of Dr Raghu Ram: L to R: Prof Kelly Hunt, Dr Taiwo Adesoye, Prof Rosa Hwang and Dr Carrie Chu



Dr Raghu Ram at the MD Anderson Lecture Theatre



Dr Raghu Ram with Dr Jessica Suarez