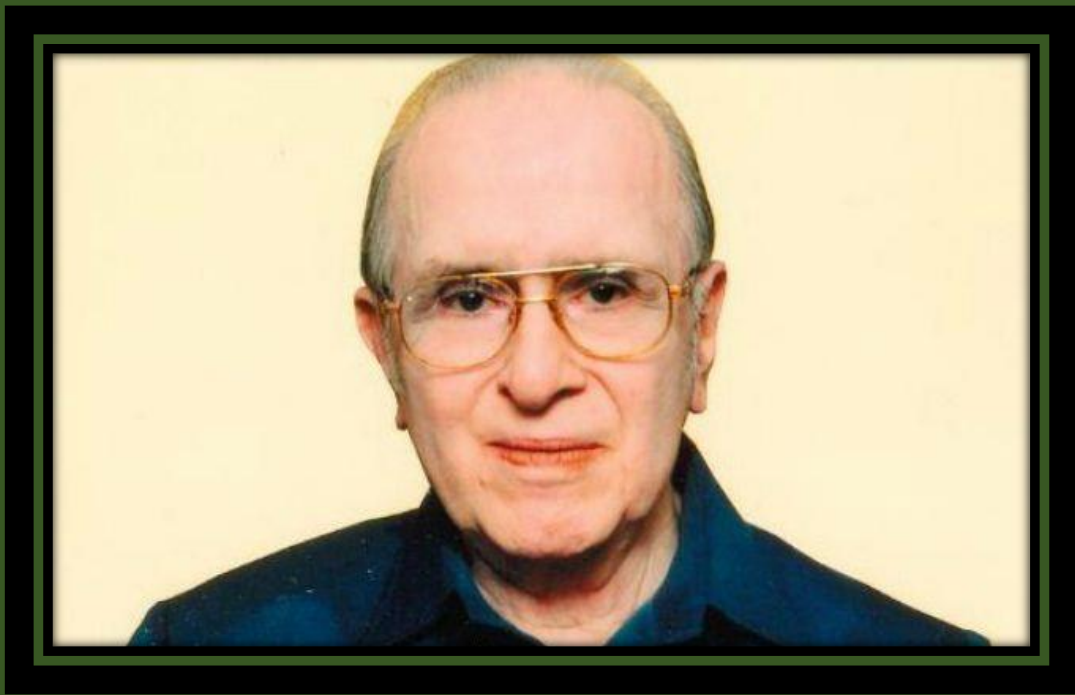


A Physician par Excellence



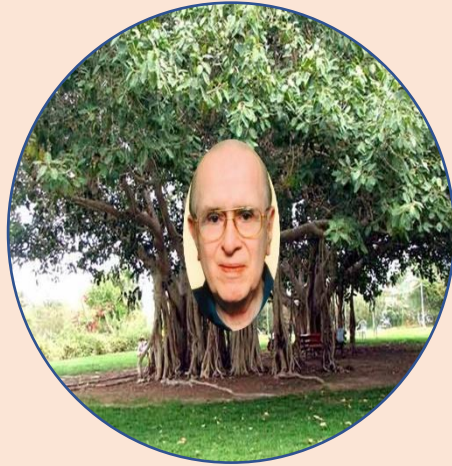
Prof. KV Thiruvengadam



மெய்வருத்தம் பாரார் பசிநோக்கார் கண்துஞ்சார்
எவ்வெவர் தீமையும் மேற்கொள்ளார் - செவ்வி
அருமையும் பாரார் அவமதிப்புங் கொள்ளார்
கருமமே கண்ணாயி னார்

- குமரகுருபரர்

A Tribute to a Great Empathetic Physician,
an excellent Teacher and a Karmayogi



*He stands on strength & dignity,
The wise and mighty banyan tree
With majestic girth and aerial roots
Nurturing minds like tender shoots
He spreads his enabling canopy,
Heralding great minds that are to be
Saplings that become tall trees
Whisper prayers with every breeze
Grant us this banyan tree
Grant us this mighty tree
To mould us and guide us
Through eternity*

- Mrs. Padma Vijay Karthik

Padmashri Prof. K. V Thiruvengadam

A caring and committed Physician

Dr. Prof. K. V Thiruvengadam BSc, MD, FRCP, FAMS, DSc, FCCP (USA), FCAI is a living legend. He is also a medical teacher par excellence who has taught and trained generations of medical students for more than 56 years. The first 31 years he spent at the Stanley and Madras Medical Colleges. The next 25 years he served through many private institutions.

Teaching under-graduates and post-graduates, Dr. Thiruvengadam's core areas include infectious diseases, occupational medicine and clinical allergy.

He stresses the fact that in the medical profession knowledge and experience should be passed on to the successors. He says, "In the practice of medicine it is obligatory that what you learn and experience is passed on to the next generation. Most of that is not present in text books".

A Brilliant and Multi-faceted student

Dr. K V Thiruvengadam who was an under-graduate student from 1945 to 1950, is among the oldest living Stanleians. He was awarded a number of prizes and medals including the Government Gold Medal of the Stanley Medical College and the Raja of Panagal Medal for the Best Outgoing Medical Student of the University of Madras in 1950.

He has had the rare distinction of obtaining I class in the first and final MBBS examinations. He later became the Vice Principal and Professor of Medicine for 11 years from 1959 to 1975. He was awarded the "Star of Stanley" Medal by his Alma Mater from where he graduated as the "Best outgoing student" and remained professor before he was transferred to Madras Medical College after 16 years of dedicated service as Professor of Medicine.

Earlier at the Muthialpet High school he had a distinguished record winning the prize for English Essay writing in three consecutive years and was also awarded the Medal for English oration and prize for singing in Tamil.

Dr. K V. Thiruvengadam fondly called KVT reminisces, “I had finished my BSc Chemistry and was being interviewed for entry in an engineering course in Guindy Engineering College. My impressive marks in Human Physiology prompted the legendary Sir AL Mudhaliar (then on the interview panel) to persuade me to apply for medicine and so I joined Madras Medical College, though just for 20 days! The next day a cycle messenger came over from Stanley and informed me that if I did not report the next morning at Stanley Medical College, my medical course admission would be cancelled! Only then, I realised that a letter has been sent transferring me to SMC and it had languished unattended in a letter box in MMC. The transfer was necessitated because MMC wanted to replace me with another SMC student who was a good footballer – much needed by MMC. However, to my dismay, I was asked to pay fees again, though I’d already paid up at MMC. The kind Vice Principal loaned me Rs. 120 to meet it”.

Dr. KVT had singled out exemplary teachers such as Dr. K. S Sanjeevi, Dr. Rathnavel Subramanian, Dr. Arunachalam, and Dr. C Raghavachari as inspiration. “The only days Dr. C Raghavachari would not teach were the Test match days because he was a cricket enthusiast!” His assests, “Our teachers taught by example the ethics of medical practice, professional and personal character”.

His eyes sparkle as he remembers eminent stalwarts like Dr. Mahadevan, the first surgeon to open the heart in the 1943; Dr. Kini, an ortho-surgeon of outstanding ability; Prof. Ananthanarayanan (“who had a wonderful way of teaching Anatomy especially embryology, with no slides or powerpoint projectors at that time, he would put romance even into Embryology”) He recalls how the gynaecologist Dr. Madhavan known for his sartorial elegance “used to come any time at night, very fast in his Vauxhall car” and G.D. Valiath was an extremely empathetic pathology professor.

He finally comments, “In Government service, if you have the will you can do a lot of work. Many of our patients were very poor, and had to be hosued on cots and under the cots; many time with no money even to go home! From poor fund, it’d take a long time to get funds. So we’d reimburse them most times!”

Dr. KVT also remembers the inauguration of the new Out-Patient Block held in the late 1960s; the building of new Surgical Block behind the demolished Gray Ward where, he recalls, French

nuns were looking after the terminally ill; the development of Pediatrics as a distinct speciality with Dr. A T. John as the first paediatrician in the hospital, and the emergence of the medical Oncology Block.

Dazzling Scholar of Medicine

Dr. Thiruvengadam, as an academician and Researcher has given a number of prestigious orations, published number of papers and served on a number of academic bodies with distinction. He has published nearly a hundred papers in both national and international journals, particularly on Chest Medicine, Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Thiruvengadam was formally trained in Chest diseases in UK under the Colombo plan.

He has worked on viral infections in Madras City and his report on the neurological complications of influenza find a place in standard textbooks of medicine.

He was also involved in studies in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) that investigated the Chickungunya epidemic in Madras. He has also made significant contributions in the field of amoebiasis, especially pleuro-pulmonary disease. In the area of occupational medicine his work on Byssinosis done in collaboration with the ICMR in the early sixties has been comprehensive.

In collaboration with the Tuberculous Research Centre, Madras (ICMR) and the National Institute of Health, Bethesda USA he established the role of human filariasis in the pathogenesis of Tropical Eosinophilia.

He has contributed chapters on pulmonary medicine for the API textbook of Medicine, Progress in Clinical Medicine and the chapter on chest disease in Essentials of Clinical Diagnosis edited by M.M.S Ahuja.

Dr. Thiruvengadam has also made significant contributions in the study of role of traditional medicine in the treatment of several common disorders. As the Head of the Traditional Medicine Unit at the Madras Medical College and the Government General Hospital he was responsible for initiating several studies to delineate the efficacy and safety of *Tylophora indica* and *Ocimum basilicum* in allergic lung and skin diseases.

He has also served on the ICMR committees for the study of traditional medicines and he has been a member of the Committee on Unani Drugs constituted by the Government of India. He was a member of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Committee also.

Dr. KVT has delivered a number of prestigious lectures and orations particularly the Warner Oration in 1979, Welcome Oration in 1980, Dr. Kutumbiah Memorial Oration of the University of Madras in 1980 and E. Merck Oration in 1982.

He has also delivered the prestigious Raman Viswanathan Oration of the National College of Chest Physician, the Yellapragada Subba Rao Oration and the Silver Jubilee Oration of the Trivandrum Medical College and also Prof. K. Jagannathan Oration of the Institute of Neurology, GH. Prof. Madanagopal Oration in Gastroenterology and the Target Oration of the Radiology Association in memory of Prof. A Gajaraj.

Beloved and Respected Medical Teacher

Dr. K V T a Physician and clinician whose skills are the last word in diagnosis, has been witness to an era in medicine from excited professors holding up a vial of chloramphenicol with reverence to the present interesting developments in telemedicine.

His service in the Government Hospital for the poor has been heart-warming to those associated with him as also his work in Allergy, Asthma and Chest diseases for more than 25 years, serving the poor in the hospital.

Many students used to throng to his classes. He was very soft spoken and humility was his forte. As physician, Dr. KVT has observed the highest ethical practice in Medicine and has been a role model for medical students and practitioners. Many of his former students are in the profession in India, USA, UK etc. they acknowledge the value of his teaching and the foundation he has laid for their career in articles and books written by them. His name is in the "Hall of fame" in a book on the medical profession. "What's up Doc?" by Mrs. Saranya Nandakumar.

Physician Author Dr. Abraham Varghese, Professor for the Theory and Practice of Medicine at Stanford University Medical School and Senior Associate Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, one of KVT's students has this to say, "My inspiration has been Dr. K V

Thiruvengadam. It is from him that I learnt the fact that the patient's body tells the story. It is the power of touch and bedside examination that counts in holistic treatment.

I particularly remember the patience and excitement with which he taught us the simplest things even though he has said and done those same things with thousands of students over the year each time he repeated it as if it was the first time and indeed for us his students it was!"

Dr. PS Venkateswaran, Retd. Prof and HOD of Surgery, Madras Medical College has also mentioned in the Madras Musing that Dr. K. V. Thiruvengadam took keen interest in students. He says, "IF we were waiting for the bus to go back home and if he saw us, he would give us a lift in the car. Being in T Nagar I have been dropped many times near my house."

Even after retirement from college he used to teach at places like Railway Hospital, Perambur for the sheer joy of teaching. He continues to be a visiting consultant at the CSI Kalyani Hospital Chennai.

Recognition and Awards Galore

Dr. K V Thiruvengadam was conferred the Padma Shri Award for his contributions to medical field 1981.

- The Medical Council of India recognised his teaching services with the Dr. B C Roy Award for Eminent Medical Teacher
- The Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed on him by the Madras Medical college and by Dr MGR Medical University.
- The Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society of USA has honoured him by giving him accreditation to its membership
- The Governing Bodies of Associations of India have given him the Master Teacher Award in recognition of his long and distinguished career as medical teacher.
- The Diabetic Association of India has given him the Distinguished Service Award in the field of Medicine on the year 2000.
- He has been elected Honorary Fellow of the International Medical Science Academy

He has Won a number of other awards, significant among them being the

- For The Sake of honor by the Rotary Club
- Cathedral Excellence Award from the Lion's Club
- Dhanwanthri Award
- Paramacharya Award etc.,
- Rotary club Marina has awarded him the vocational Excellence Award.

He has been conferred numerous other Awards including that by the Sri Ramachandra Medical College and by the Diabetic Association of India.

The National Board of Examination honoured him for his services as a medical teacher in 2000.

The Indian Chest Society honoured him with the Distinguished Chest Physician Award

Orations in his name have been instituted in the Madras University and Madras Medical College. Dr.K.V.Thiruvengadam Prize for Medicine & Physiology has been instituted by the Madras University Dr.K.V.Thiruvengadam Award for Health Care is jointly hosted by the Rotary Club of Madras East and Chettinad Hospital & Research Institute

It is said that "A Good Doctor Treats the Disease but a Great Doctor Treats the patient" describes Dr.K.V Thruvengadam's service motto. Dr. K V Thiruvengadam was awarded Aram Award 2012 by the Shriram Group. The purse of Rs. One Lakh that was received was donated by him to Sankara Nethralaya for the care of poor patients with eye diseases.

Dr. K V Thiruvengadam also received the Price Award by the Shakespeare Millennium Society in 2014 and was honoured as a legend in Medicine in a function for recognition of outstanding personalities in different fields organised by Krishna Sweets in 2014.



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