

Prof. Dr. V. Satyanarayana, MD, DM, FIAN
15th December, 1937 - 13th June, 2020



'As is a tale, so is a life: Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matter' - Seneca

Dr Vipperla Satyanarayana, former Professor of Neurology, Andhra Medical College, the doyen and father of neurology in this part of the country, who heralded a new paradigm in the practice and teaching of this grand subject.

Hailing from a simple and rustic background in Samalkot, Dr. V. Satyanarayana, son of Sri Vipperla Narayan Rao and Smt V. Ramayamma born on 15th December 1937. He graduated in 1961 from the hallowed portals of Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam. Incidentally, another Eminent Neurologist, Prof Dr. M. Gourie Devi, was his batch mate from 1956 to 1961 during MBBS at AMC. Married Smt Annapoorna in 1965 who was his constant support and constructive critic. He was awarded DGM in 1965, when he joined AP Medical Services as CAS and served for brief period in Radiology & IDH. He pursued his MD in General Medicine from the same college in 1968 and worked for a brief time as Assistant Professor of Medicine under the formidable Prof. Dr B Swami.

However, unlike many of his peers in those days, the inquisitive and knowledge-hungry physician wished to specialize further and chose Neurology with its intricate reasoning skills and demanding clinical acumen. He was the first person from both Telugu States, AP & Telangana, to obtain DM Neurology as early as in 1974 from Madras Medical College under the able guidance of Prof Dr. B. Ramamurthi, Prof. Dr K. Jagannathan and Prof. Dr G. Arjundas. After completing DM Neurology, he initially worked in Osmania Medical College as Assistant Professor of Neurology. He was later promoted as Professor of Neurology and worked for a brief period in Gandhi Medical College. Later in 1977 he returned to his alma mater as Professor & Head, Department of Neurology and in which capacity he served until his superannuation in December, 1995. He steered the department deftly and in his long and illustrious posting at AMC, Dr V Satyanarayana helped train scores of medical students and postgraduates in the nuances of neurology. He was examiner for DM Neurology for many Universities and on interview board for many institutes.

However once he entered Neurology, he was indeed far ahead of his times realised that, though the then grueling methods of training in neurology made them expert clinicians who could zero down to a diagnosis exquisitely, it did little to

alleviate the patient's symptoms and sufferings. So, Dr V Satyanarayana wisely focused his attention to what he would fondly call "treatable neurology ". He is known for his zeal for continuous learning and updating till his last breath. He believed in Learning, Unlearning and Relearning. Truly father of Neurology and created awareness among doctors and public about treatable Neurology. His penchant for keeping himself updated and passing on the knowledge to colleagues is unparalleled. He has influenced many students to take up the speciality of Neurosciences and Psychiatry. He was also instrumental in inculcating the concept of Recent Advances and Treatable Neurology in all his junior colleagues. He was awarded the Founder Fellow of Indian Academy of Neurology (FIAN) in 1996 for his contributions in the field of Neurology. He was also the President of Andhra Pradesh Neuroscientists' Association (APNSA) for the year 2000-2001. He was the Treasurer for NSI Conference in 1982 and President of the Organising Committee for IANCON-2003 held at Visakhapatnam. Endowment Lecture in Neurosciences was being held regularly at Andhra Medical College with the savings from NSI Conference.

Dr V Satyanarayana heralded the concept of continuing medical education in Visakhapatnam and redefined its role in spreading the latest knowledge of neurological pharmaco-therapeutics to every general practitioner and physician since 1978. The programme is named as Goal Oriented Continuing Medical Education in Neurology (GOCMEN) with the main aim in his words as to disseminate the recent advances in treatable neurology from the first clinical year medical student to the senior most teacher. His lectures were laced with live demos of various gaits, movement disorders and speech disorders, not to mention the occasional wit and humor. He renamed the programme and registered it as "Neurovision" from the start of the century, which was a one day CME at a most affordable fee and which encompassed updated protocols for neurological disorders. It is indeed a most commendable and exceptional achievement of Prof. V Satyanarayana and his team that this program has been going on uninterrupted for the past 40 years. He also saw that every time the CME souvenir with all the updated lectures was distributed to all the delegates. He was very happy to see many practitioners following the protocols as was given in these booklets He also saw that most of the speakers are local and giving opportunity to all his junior colleagues which in turn help them in updating the knowledge in Neuro Therapeutics and in turn help the society at large. Not only that, the evening of every such program is devoted to felicitating and honoring a senior member of the neurological fraternity. 21st Biennial CME of Neurovision was conducted on the eve of National Brain Week on 22nd December, 2019 under his able guidance.

He had a fruitful family and was blessed with a son, Mr. V. S. V. Ravi Kumar, a Chennai IITian and Ph.D from South California University and presently working for GE in US. He also had a daughter, Dr. Sujatha, eminent Cardiologist and her husband, Dr. Sreedhar, Surgical Gastroenterologist who run the popular Indus Hospital in Visakhapatnam. In spite of his busy career, he was very instrumental in imparting the best of knowledge to his children.

Dr. V. Satyanarayana was very successful professionally and on a family front, he will be remembered by his followers and admirers for long. Mobile till last minute and Chairman of Indus Hospitals, Visakhapatnam, reached heavenly abode without

much suffering and a great loss to the Neurosciences of Andhra Pradesh. Our grateful homage to the noble soul and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

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