

Medi Quest BRS Hospital

A monthly News letter from BRS Hospital

A TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED TEACHER PROF.Dr. KVT

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Reminiscing fond memories of Prof. KVT



1926-2020

This issue of Mediquest is dedicated to the doyen in the field of Medicine, Dr. K.V. Thiruvengadam, fondly known as Prof. KVT, a renowned physician and teacher of medicine.

He passed away recently on October 2020 at 94 years of age due to the complications of COVID. He was a specialist in chest diseases, asthma and allergies. He is widely known for his teachings, clinical acumen and patient centric approach. Born to be a teacher he completed B.Sc Chemistry and was applying to engineering college when he was guided, by Prof Dr. A.L Mudaliar, who upon seeing his exceptional potential in a viva exam, encouraged him to take up medicine. And there was no looking back. He graduated from Stanley Medical College and served as Professor of Medicine in SMC and MMC. He was a teacher for 31 years and has molded thousands of doctors into good clinicians. He was a great teacher par excellence and had a humane touch to all patients. He has trained over 3 generation of doctors. We were fortunate to be his

students during our under graduate years at the Madras Medical College. He said in an interview that his time in the Government service was very satisfying, treating the underprivileged patients and availing the opportunity to serve, learn and teach. He vouched for the power of clinical medicine and emphasized we see the patient as a whole rather than parts. Investigative modalities should be used as an adjunct to supplement our clinical skill rather than supplanting it.

Teacher of Teachers :

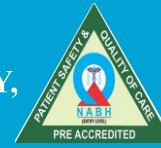
His students refer to him as "Teacher of Teachers" and likened him to a walking textbook of Medicine. What etched him in the hearts of the people was his kind, polite, soft spoken and considerate nature towards everyone. He spent considerable time with every patient and gave a patient ear to all their complaints.

He always said history taking will take you to the diagnosis and clinical examination will complete the diagnosis. He used to say "listen to the patient carefully, he will tell you the diagnosis!".

His past students, most of whom are now senior consultants and experts in their own specialties, fondly recall his "bedside clinics" and grand rounds on admission days. During Ward rounds, Prof. KVT would stop at every patient's bedside and discuss in detail the condition of the patient. If the patient had a heart problem he would discuss about heart murmurs. His soft voice made it essential to for students to maintain pin drop silence to



**GENERAL MEDICINE , GENERAL SURGERY,
PEDIATRICS AND NEONATOLOGY
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OB AND GYN
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listen to the invaluable medical teaching.

Effortless learning:

Students never felt the burden of learning, and while presenting cases to him, he would always put them at ease, and this was akin to a child learning from its mother. His famous axiom 'I am sure you know that' is unforgettable. His memory was legendary and he made it a point to address everybody by their names!

Academician:

He received the Panagal Gold Medal in 1950, DR. BC Roy award for eminent medical teacher in 1977, Padma Shri in 1981, Master Teacher Award by The Indian College of Surgeons in 2012, and Ilakiya Kazhagam Aram award in 2013 to name a few. He donated the prize money of Rupees One Lakh from the Aram Award, to Sankara Nethralaya for research purposes.

He always gave importance to research in medicine and his students say he was so knowledgeable that he was equal to Price's Textbook of Medicine and Harrison's Book of Medicine combined. He enjoyed reading medical journals to help keep him abreast about the latest in medicine. He was a larger than life figure for all his students who are fortunate and forever grateful to be inspired by the master physician to follow in his footsteps and abide by his principles.

A Perfect gentleman:

A perfect gentleman to the core, he practiced highest standards of ethics in treatment and empathy towards his patients.

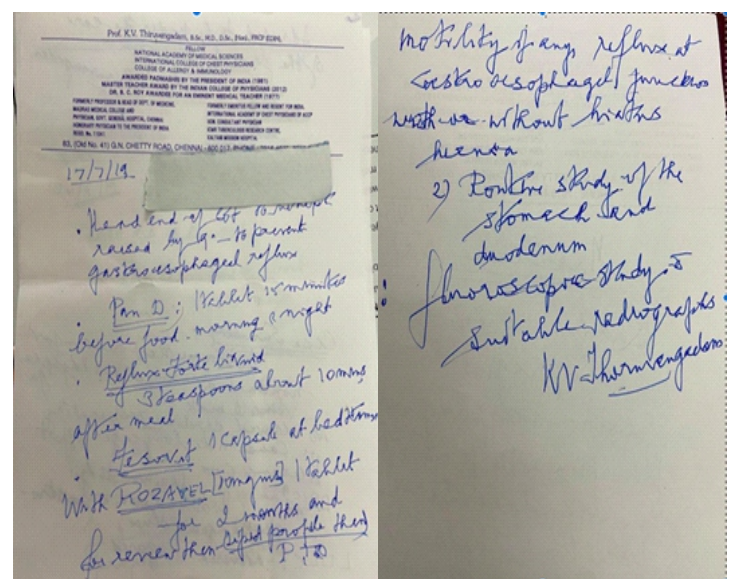
Family man :

Sources close to him always said he was a loving husband to his wife Dr. Malathi, and they were inseparable. She passed away recently. He is survived by his daughter Mrs. Lakshmi Durai, his sons Dr. Ravichandran, MMCian and Medical GE, Los Angeles, Dr. Raghunandhan, also MMCian, Medical Oncologist and Hematologist, LA.

He loved vintage cars, evinced a keen interest on documentaries about the World Wars. He was an avid fan of Carnatic music. He liked to watch the news and kept himself abreast on current affairs. His nature of treating everybody with respect, his humility, his endless thirst for knowledge and updating will be remembered.. Amidst the chaos of 'specialisation' in Medical field, he propagated the message for the need for 'Good

physicians' who can see the patient holistically. At his clinic in G N Chetty road, he would see referred patients from 11am-5 pm every day. He had a very busy practice and patients had to wait for a month to get an appointment. He said he loved seeing patients and it saved him from Alzheimers and he would continue to do it as long he was mentally and physically stable. We will also remember his quote - "You should always be the last person to use a new drug, for you don't know how it works. You should always be the first person to stop a bad drug. You should be 'selfish' for the sake of your patients". He was a living example for the phrase "never stop learning, always be a student". On the day of his admission on September 20th at 3 am, he made a request for the latest copy of New England Journal of Medicine. During his prime he would set apart a day in the week, forgoing his practice to study journals. He will be forever remembered. His was a remarkable era and we may never come across another like him. Thank you for everything Sir.

Your Students Forever
Dr. Madhusudhan and Dr. Ramesh
BRS Hospital Chennai



Prof Dr. KVT - Detailed prescription given to referral doctor



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Graduates of the year 1959-'60

**‘A GOOD TEACHER IS
LIKE A CANDLE
IT CONSUMES ITSELF
TO LIGHT THE WAY
FOR OTHERS’**

Prof KVT was a source
of inspiration to all
doctors to be sincere.
dedicated to the medical
profession and
compassionate to all
our patients.

Prof.KVT at the Graduates Day at Stanley Medical College (1959-60 Batch)



MMC - 1985 Unit Party



Prof. KVT with his daughter
Mrs. Lakshmi and
Dr. Rawlin (Extreme left)



Prof. KVT - Consultation Room



IMA- Kodambakkam function
(late) Major Dr. Parthasarathy
receiving award from Prof. KVT.



Prof. KVT - outside his residence



Prof. KVT - at his residence
with his family and admirers.

Our Sincere Thanks to.

1. Dr.Rawlin who shared the valuable photographs
2. Mrs. Lakshmi, Prof. KVT 's daughter for sharing the family moments with her father.
3. Dr. Indumathy Ramesh
4. Dr. Malle 5. TAMPA



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Hope this Diwali brings you
every joy and blessing.

Happy Diwali.



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