



**C.U. Velumurgendran, President NSI 2005**

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**Family History:**

Hailing from an illustrious family of Physicians it was no surprise that Dr. Velumurgendran became a doctor. His grandfather, Dr. C. Murugesan Mudhaliar, was the first Lecturer in the School of Indian Medicine, Kilpauk Medical College and was awarded the Vaidya Ratna National Award in 1933 by The Viceroy of India. His father, Dr. C. S. Uthamaroyan, Professor of Siddha, Vice Principal, Kilpauk Medical College became Principal of Palaiyamkottai Siddha College and was the first Director of Indian Medicine and first Professor of Siddha at Tamil University, Tanjore. Mother Mrs. Rajakantheshwari was responsible for bringing up all the children. Dr. CUV describes his wife



*With wife*



*With family*

Pattavarthini as “the all prevailing force”. Their three children - Dr. Krithika, MA, PhD (Psychology), Mrs. Jayashree, Master of Law and Dr. C.V. Shankar Ganesh, MS, MCh Neurosurgery are all well settled. The grandchildren Vibhu

Vignesh, Bharath Vignesh and Shruthi Ganesh all in school, are aspiring to become doctors.

### **Schooling, Medical Education and academic recognitions:**

Studied at Kellett High School, Triplicane, Intermediate at Loyola College, Nungambakkam. MBBS 1961, MD 1966, joined DM Neurology as per advise of Prof. Rathnavel Subramaniam. Obtained DM (Neurology) at Madras Medical College 1969.



In 1974-75, was trained in Clinical Neurology and Electrophysiology at Institute of Neurology, Queensquare, London through a WHO fellowship. In 2003, was awarded the DSc (Hon. Causa) from the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, FAMS and FRCP (Glasgow) in 2006, and a DSc from the Madras University in 2007.

### **Teaching experience:**

Has been Post Graduate and Undergraduate teacher for 36 years and continues to teach (Neurology, Neuro Surgery & Psychiatry). Has been PhD Guide (11 Students) from 1966 till now.

### **Research projects undertaken:**

Epilepsy scheme – PL480 (1970-1973), Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi – Cardiological changes in Neuro Degenerative diseases. (1976-1978) CSIR, New Delhi – Viral studies in Demyelination Diseases (1977-1979), ICMR – Stroke (1969-1972), ICMR – TB Meningitis (1972-1976), Glaxo Smith Kline Sodium Valproate Vs Lomatrixine (2002 - 2003), Aventis – Prevail – Stroke 2004 to 2006, Aventis & Quintiles – Chronic Spinal Cord Injury (CSCI) – 2005, Profess – Prevention Regimen for Secondary Stroke – 2005 onwards, Lifecell – Stemcell Research Correlation study for stroke patients – 2006-2007, CliniRx – Safinamide for neuropathic pain – 2007, CliniRx – Safinamide for Idiopathic Parkinson’s Disease – 2007-2009, Pfizer – Reboxetine for Post Herpetic Neuralgia – 2007, Johnson & Johnson – Epilepsy –

2007-2010, Biogen – Multiple sclerosis – 2008-2010, CliniRx – Ralfinamide for neuropathic back pain – 2009-2010, Parexel – Cladribine for Multiple Sclerosis – 2009-2010, DRDO – The effect of Alpha feedback – 2012.

### **Academic positions, achievements and contributions:**

Professor Emeritus – The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. University - from 1999 to date. Honorary Professor - Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati – from 2002 to date. Formerly Professor of Neurology and Head of the Dept., Institute of Neurology, Madras Medical College & Govt. Gen. Hospital, Chennai. Present Designation – Chairman and Director of Neurology Department, Sri Ramachandra University, Porur, Chennai – from 2008 to date.

Member, Academic Senate Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute (Deemed University) (2003-2005). Member, Board of Studies, Madras University, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Chennai, NIMHANS, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai (1999-2001). Selection Committee – Professor and Assistant Professor – Several Universities. Inspector - Indian Medical Council, The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University, Madras University, National Board of Examination. Examiner in Neurology, Neuro Surgery, Psychiatry for various universities. Has delivered several orations. Founder Fellow, Indian Academy of Neurology – 1990. Endowment Oration instituted in the name of Prof. C.U. Velmurugendran at Madras Medical College. Presented 150 papers in National & International meets. Published more than 70 papers in National & International meets. Contributed two books – Co-author, Diseases of the Spinal Cord-Clinical Medicine & Nervous system series edited by EMR. Critchley, A Eiser – Chapter Tropical diseases published by Springer London. Chaired Scientific Sessions in National & International conferences. Organised several regional and national conferences. Established 30 Endowment prizes mainly for science subjects in Hindu Educational Organizations, to enthuse children in science. Founder President, Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Neurology (1989), Founder Fellow, International Medical Sciences Academy (1985), Secretary, Indian Epilepsy Association, Tamil Nadu Chapter (25 years) (1970-1995), Governing Council Member, Indian Epilepsy Association (Central Body) (1997-2000), Vice President, Indian



*Awarded Padma Shri in  
January 2008*

Society of Headache (1998), Secretary, Indian Academy of Neurology (1991-1995), President, Indian Academy of Neurology (1999), President NSI (2005), Governing Council Member, Hindu Educational Organization (1978), Governing Council Member, Diabetic Research Centre, Chennai (1978-1984), Editor, Proceedings of the Institute of Neurology, Madras. Associate Editor – Neurology India, Editorial Board – Annals of Indian Academy of Neurology.

### **Championing Social Causes:**

Created a sheltered Workshop for Chronic Epileptic Patients. The only one available in the country, it gives training for chronic epileptic patients in handicrafts to get themselves self-employed while taking treatment. Member, Hindu Educational Organisation which maintains three schools and President, Hindu Senior Secondary School, President, Civic Exnora, Chepauk, which is responsible for maintenance of hygiene and green revolution. Pioneer in Public Media on Professional Specifics – Given 12 programmes in A.I.R., 16 programmes in TV, made Tamil Nadu Film Division make a film on Epilepsy. Write-ups in Paper & Periodicals more than 30. Distribution of booklets to public more than 10 formats (total 10,000 copies).

### **Lessons learnt as a Post Graduate:**

Art of Medicine and Neurology, patient care, courtesy to patients and colleagues, English accent, platform manners, discipline, modesty, art of presenting papers at National and International Conferences, leadership qualities which I imbibed from my teachers – Profs. B. Ramamurthi, K. Jagannathan, G. Arjundas, V. Balasubramaniam, S. Kalyanaraman and T. S. Kanaka. The authoritative way of talking, gentle behavior, kindness to patients and colleagues, humane nature, hard work - these qualities were already imbibed from Prof. Rathnavel Subramaniam during the MD Program.

### Illustrative cases:

Cognitive Neurology fascinated me right from my early days in Neurology. I had the opportunity to see a Phantom limb in 1968 in a patient with a parietal tumor. He was wearing socks over his shoes, as he was under the impression that there was another limb. In 1986, I met a patient with a parietal lobe tumor who was seeing a child in front of her, whose dimensions she could describe. After the tumor was removed, the child started to shrink in size and disappear. In 2000, a patient came with vague complaints of having left the sandals belonging to her right foot, in the canteen. She was later found to have a parietal lobe infarct.



### Contributions to Neurosciences:

Established DM Neurology course at Stanley Medical College 1976-85. Helped commence PhD programme in Neurology at Stanley Medical College (Neurology). Helped in starting Neurophysiology certificate course. Established Department of Neurology and a PhD programme at Sri Ramachandra Medical College.

### Activities with NSI:

Helped in conducting the 20<sup>th</sup> NSI Meeting (1970) in Chennai, was organizing secretary for the NSI conference in 1993, part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations Committee NSI, was the President Elect, President and Past President of NSI during 2004-2006.

### Take Home Message:

*If you were to start life all over again now what would you do?* I enjoyed my stay as a student in Madras Medical College, and later enjoyed being an Assistant Professor, Professor and later Head of the Department of Neurology. Every moment was precious. If I had to relive, I would like to relive my life with my own teachers at Madras Medical College. ■