

Dr S. Kalyanaraman – April 2018 :

Twenty years have passed since the first volume of biographical sketches of past presidents of NSI was published. These twenty years have been a smooth transition, stage by stage, from a very clinical and operative neurosurgical practice for fifteen hours a day to a life of outpatient consultations only for three hours a day. Such consultations are often for a second, third or even fourth opinion for difficult neurological and neurosurgical problems with multiple comorbidities. After building up a very good teaching department in Apollo Hospitals recognised for training for three candidates for DNB (Neurosurgery) every year, I handed over the administration to Prof J Reginald.



I gave up attending to emergencies when I was seventy-five and I stopped operating when I reached the age of eighty years. During my tenure of two decades in Apollo hospitals, I encouraged subspecialisation in Neurosurgery, I referred my private cases to many of my junior colleagues who had become senior consultants with very good clinical acumen and operative surgical experience. Cerebrovascular surgery, paediatric neurosurgery, spinal surgery and stereotaxic radiosurgery developed very well in Chennai. It is a matter of great pride and joy for me that my former students and assistants have become heads of departments and senior consultants in neurology and neurosurgery in various medical college hospitals and tertiary care private hospitals.

During the past two decades, fifteen different organisations and institutions have thought it fit to honour me with awards recognizing my lifetime contributions. I dedicate these awards to my family members and numerous colleagues who always helped me in my endeavours to help patients. Perhaps the one award I prize most is the Acharya Seva Rathnam Award conferred by His Holiness Shri Shankaracharya Swamiji of Sri KanchiKamakoti Mutt. As neurosurgeons, we have always recognised that surgical success is not only governed by the surgical techniques but also influenced by various other factors. During my post retirement years I have realised this more and more. Compliance with doctors' instructions and life style modifications are very vital in the cure of patients. Bearing this in mind, I have prepared small pamphlets on the medical surgical and other aspects of common conditions like seizures, post traumatic sequelae, spondylosis, headache and Parkinsonism. I have found them very useful to make patients follow the doctors' instructions properly and achieve maximum possible relief from their symptoms.

At the age of eighty-four, I find great satisfaction, happiness and peace of mind in devoting several hours every day to prayers and pooja at home and visits to temples and holy places.



The Famous Five : S Kalyanaraman, B Ramamurthi, V Balasubramaniam, K. Jagannathan & G Arjundas



Mrs. Kalyanaraman, Prof Ramamurthi, Prof Kalyanaraman and Dr. K. Ganapathy @
Panmunjom Seoul 1991 AASNS conference