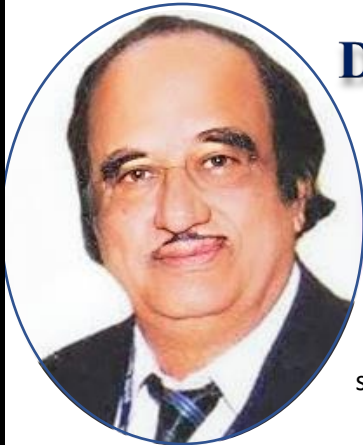




CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



DR. NACHIMUTHU GNANASUNDARAM

We, members of the Indian Academy of Oral Medicine and Radiology, would like to express our profound grief at the loss of one of our great teachers and the founding member of IAOMR, Dr Nachimuthu Gnanasundaram. He had an unmatched academic career with great charisma. We are truly indebted to Gnan Sir, as he is popularly known, for his immense contribution to the growth of our specialty in our country. We pledge that we shall continue to walk in the path shown by him and work for the betterment of our speciality

12.02.1940 – 29.05.2023

Dr. N. Gnanasundaram was born in Palani, on February 12th, 1940. He did his schooling at the Government school, Palani. At the tender age of ten, he lost both his parents and he was raised by his elder brother and his sister-in-law. Amid many struggles, he successfully graduated BDS from the dental wing of Madras medical college in 1964 as the best outgoing student of his batch. He then began his illustrious teaching career as a clinical lecturer in the Department of Oral Pathology and his teaching career extended for more than six decades. In 1975 he was selected and sent on deputation by the Government of Tamil Nadu to do his MDS in Oral Medicine, Diagnosis and Radiology at Government Dental College, Bangalore under the legendary Professor Dr B.K. Venkatraman was considered as Father of Oral Medicine and Radiology in India. On his return, he was appointed Professor and Head at Government Dental College, Chennai in the newly created Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology. Under his professorship, the MDS Oral Medicine and Radiology course was started from which numerous students graduated who became teachers and professors. It led to the specialty of oral medicine spreading its roots throughout India. After 36 years in government service in various capacities as Professor, and Vice Principal, he retired as Principal from the prestigious Tamilnadu Government Dental College in 1999. He then joined as Professor & Head, Dept. of Oral Medicine and radiology, Saveetha Dental College and commenced the MDS program in Oral Medicine and Radiology in 2000. After retirement from full-time teaching in 2012, he was appointed as Professor Emeritus at Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai.

He was an astute clinician, a diagnostician par excellence and a gifted teacher who could communicate the most difficult concepts in the simplest terms to the students, which they would remember for their lifetime. Just by observing his patient interaction and clinical examination skills, his students imbibed an ocean of knowledge that no text books can teach. A gifted orator who would keep his audience spellbound with his presentation which was reflected in more than 400 guest lectures he had delivered at various national and international platforms. He had the rare distinction of being a senate



member of Madras University and The Tamil Nadu Dr M.G.R medical university. He has been a member of the Dental Council of India for three consecutive terms for more than 15 years. He was one of the founder members of The Indian Academy of Oral Medicine and Radiology and has been the president of our academy twice. Since its inception, there has not been a single conference of IAOMR without Dr Gnanasundaram delivering a keynote lecture. He was a renowned researcher whose contributions were acknowledged by various state governments and the Government of India. Noted research projects undertaken by him included the epidemiological study of dental diseases in school children, fluoride toxicity in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, defluorination programs in Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh, first person in Tamil Nadu to record oral manifestations of AIDS, microangiopathy in diabetes, the biochemical study of fluorosed tooth and normal tooth, animal study for fluorosis, electron microscopic study of sub mucous fibrosis. His services extended to forensic odontology where he helped the government and judicial departments in various critical criminal cases and justice delivery. While at Saveetha Dental College he conducted the most extensive epidemiological study covering over one lakh rural population to screen for oral precancer and cancer. Numerous research activities are reflected in his innumerable scientific publications authored and guided by him.

His public service programs included conducting more than 2500 dental health camps in rural areas, orphanages and handicapped institutions to promote oral health in this population. His contribution to dentistry and oral medicine was recognized by The Tamil Nādu Dr M.G.R Medical University, which gave him the lifetime achievement award.

His passion and knowledge of Tamil literature were of the highest caliber and his lectures and oration in Tamil were a pleasure to listen. His mastery of the Tamil language enabled him to convey oral health-related issues and preventive measures to the common rural people in Tamilnadu. His spiritual inclinations saw him build a Shiva temple at the foothills of Palani Murugan temple. Above all, he was a simple, good-hearted, pious, humble teacher dedicated to the teaching profession who has motivated and inspired thousands of students and awed them with his deep knowledge of the subject and precise diagnostic skills. To sum it up Professor Dr. N. Gnanasundaram was a person who loved his students and in turn, the students loved him.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN ETERNAL PEACE & JOY

INDIAN ACADEMY OF ORAL MEDICINE AND RADIOLOGY

