

Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal GCRI Luminary Oration Award - 2018

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More than Two Decades of Career at GCRI and GCS: My Strength as a Radiologist

I feel blessed by Shri Krishnabhagvan for being selected to deliver Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal GCRI luminary oration award. Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal ignited the flame of service to mankind and gave the impetus to one and all to surge ahead in building up an institution which has been a helping hand to the society in difficult time of fighting one of the still dreaded medical conditions like “The Cancer”. His excellence in business was extended to social service to build up an institute of excellence till date.

As the process of striving for excellence continued, the siblings of GCRI who have sacrificed the prime of their life and made exceptional contribution are awarded this prestigious Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal oration. I really feel honoured to be awarded this prestigious status.

If Shreedevi Patel is one side of the coin, the other side is Dr. Babu N. Patel, my husband. I would like to clarify that this prestigious oration equally belongs to my better half as he has been my mentor in my professional and academic carrier till date. Without his support I cannot imagine what I would have been...

My contribution to GCRI commenced in 1985 as assistant professor of radiology and incharge of CT scan department. The vision of late Dr. T. B. Patel the then director of GCRI gave me the opportunity to start my carrier in radiology department. Working under “SAHEB” the one and only Dr. Narendra Patel a great visionary in radiology and excellent teacher not only in academics but his foresight in keeping the radiology department at the forefront in western India taught me to keep the department updated.

The radiology department must be best equipped and the most efficient department has been the motto. With this zeal my contribution did not limit my skills just to one modality or specialty of radiology. In the initial days high frequency X ray unit with image intensifier system was a unique feature and IITV guided cine radiographic procedures like cerebral, aortic and peripheral angiography

procedures were unique feature at GCRI only. Procedures like lymphography were also done when USG and CT scan was not commonly available investigation tool. Mammography for breast cancer and screening was a rarity in the state of Gujarat. The first ever modality available in market would be imbibed at GCRI. Whether it be spiral CT, MRI, DSA, color Doppler or even OPG. I have seen a sea change and the metamorphosis of radiology from simple x ray to most recent MDCT and MRI or in other words when RADIOLOGY branch not very hot or preferred specialty to the most sought after branch of present time.

My broad vision in learning, experimenting and implementing new modalities came from my exposure for studying in London for DMRD in 1977 at Conjoint Board London and working for a short period as clinical assistant in Mount Vernon Hospital Northwood England in 1974 and in 1975 as a locum registrar in radiology for one year at Watford general hospital England. Prior to this I graduated in 1969 as MBBS, DMRD in 1972 and MD in radiology in 1973 from Gujarat University.

I had a spell of ill health and social responsibilities which kept me away from my professional carrier.

My conviction, perseverance and support from my husband Dr. Babu Patel followed by immense encouragement, trust and support from SAHEB/ Dr. N.L.Patel, Dr. D.D. Patel, Dr. Pankaj M. Shah set my stronger innings in professional carrier. I certainly feel blessed to work under such dynamic leadership.

Why Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute was the only preferred institute? As all of us are aware that patients with cancer need a multidisciplinary aggressive approach. Isolated piecemeal management by only surgery or chemotherapy is less than half the work done. A concomitant treatment with all possible modalities including rehabilitation under one roof is what cancer care is all about. Very few institutions in the country were established with such broad vision.

The visionaries who established this institute had the guts to attack the incurable disease like cancer received whole hearted support from philanthropic people, donors, doctors and society to shape the vision into reality. GCRI became the largest cancer care center in western India and the government of India recognized it as a “Regional Cancer Center”. It was not just the western India but patients as far as from Bihar, UP and MP came to receive state of art treatment at most affordable rate.

Radiology is always the backbone of any institute and plays a pivotal role in the development of patient care. This role is even more vital in cancer care.

The work culture at our institute was simple. No patient as far as possible should leave the radiology department without a possible conclusive radiological diagnosis. Utilize all possible radiological modalities to narrow down the differential diagnosis and if need be, do a tissue sampling to conclude the pathology whenever possible. The entire department is synchronized and tuned to achieve this goal.

For a reasonable number of years CT scan, MRI and even ultrasonography like modalities at GCRI was the only source for investigation available in the new civil hospital campus including Saurashtra and Kutch area. This gifted us a wide spectrum of pathologies from head to toe and our department became the final destination for diagnosis whether it be stroke, head injury or complex pathological conditions of the human body.

Radiology department being at the forefront of getting all the latest modalities, I had the opportunity in analyzing the specifications, technological qualities, cost, durability, service for the betterment of patient care and institute.

This experience of mine gave me the opportunity to be special advisor not only for Gujarat but to Jammu and Kashmir government for purchase of new CT scan units for medical colleges.

Academic activities to uplift the medical expertise have always been my passion. I have conducted various CME's like paediatric onco imaging, breast imaging, regular training sessions for post graduate students. Numerous case presentations in national and state conferences helped me to continuously upgrade my skills. Some of my exclusive achievements include as author of “Atlas of computed tomography – the eye and orbit” published in 2006 by GCRI and GCS at Ahmedabad. The atlas

was released by the present prime minister and the then chief minister of Gujarat honorable Shri Narendra Modi. Audiovisual presentation on pediatric GI radiology in national conference on pediatrics at Ahmedabad. I have attended and participated in more than a dozen international and national conferences and courses including the RSNA at Chicago in 1984 and NICER course held at New Delhi. I have contributed more than fifty odd publications and presentations at various conferences and in journals. My academic development was sharpened by opportunities of being trained for short period on CT scan at NYU under Dr. Norman Chase in 1984 in USA. In 1994 for a period of four months under ODA phase II project visited Royal Hallamshire Hospital Sheffield for special training on mammography, breast screening project, MRI and CT scan imaging in oncology. I had also been deputed in 1998 to visit Singapore for spiral CT & MRI training by Hitachi Company Ltd. and Sydney, Australia for training in “Radiosurgery” at Prince of Wales hospital in 1998.

If I look upon my journey as a MBBS graduate in 1969, a post graduate in Radiology in 1973, my qualifications in UK, work experience and academic exposure in western world and at home, my contribution at GCRI for about 22 years and as professor in Radiology at Waghodia, SBK Shah Medical Institute & Research centre, a crusade of around 50 years has passed, more than 2/3rd of my present age.

I experience a great sense of satisfaction as I have been a stepping stone in development of cancer care by my radiological skills. In this process I was able to be a guide to numerous post graduate students. Juniors and colleagues could interact with me and gain experience and excel in their professional carrier.

I know that there is no thank you or sorry in a family but from the bottom of my heart I value each and every one who has been with me, seniors, teachers, colleagues, students and staff with special mention to CT Scan department residents and doctor colleagues, technologists, nursing staff including class IV employees for making me worthy of standing before you all for this prestigious oration.

At this juncture, of कल , आज और कल (yesterday, today and tomorrow) of my professional carrier and my contribution to GCRI, I sincerely believe that someone from present generation will carry the torch of enlightening and GCRI will remain and cross the pinnacles of success in cancer care.