

UBF Diary



A Rare Recognition for a Dedicated Surgeon



Prof Neil Mortensen, president, Royal College of Surgeons of England at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London conferring the Honorary FRCS to Dr Raghu Ram

In July, Dr P Raghu Ram was conferred with the Honorary FRCS by The Royal College of Surgeons of England in London. It is the highest recognition bestowed by one of the world's oldest and most prestigious surgical colleges in the British Isles

Dr P Raghu Ram, director, KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases and founder/CEO of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation has achieved the rare distinction to become the youngest surgeon of Indian origin to be conferred the Honorary FRCS in the 482-year history of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

This is the highest recognition bestowed by The Royal College in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the art and science of surgery. The award was presented by Prof Neil Mortensen, president, The Royal College of Surgeons of England during a glittering 'Diplomates Ceremony' held on July 6, in the Conference Suite at the Royal College in London.

Dr Raghu Ram joins a select group of 156 other world-renowned distinguished surgeons and personalities from the world over, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II & His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, who have been bestowed with this prestigious honour in the past.

As a recipient of the Honorary Fellowship, Dr Raghu Ram was also given the singular honour to address the Diplomates, who had recently passed the MRCS and Intercollegiate FRCS examinations, where he highlighted the importance of safeguarding the 'Trust' that patients place in their doctors and being ethical not just in the medical profession, but in all aspects of life.

Professor Neil Mortensen, president, RCS broke hundred years of protocol with a "Namaste" to Dr Raghu Ram for his outstanding achievement (Pic enclosed)

Expressing his remarks on being conferred the Honorary Fellowship, Dr Raghu Ram said, "I am deeply grateful to the College Council for conferring me this high honour. Over the past 15 years, I have strived to replicate the best





Prof Neil Mortensen, president RCS England alongside replica of John Hunter, one of the renowned surgeons



At the dinner hosted by Prof Neil Mortensen in the College Library

of British practices in my motherland and feel immensely proud to have been a 'living bridge' between the UK and India. I dedicate this high honour to my family, my patients, my colleagues at KIMS Hospitals and to the Indian surgical fraternity the world over. Proud to represent my motherland at the Royal College today in the traditional bandhgala, proudly displaying India's tricolour pocket square representing Bharath."

A world-renowned surgeon, Dr Raghu Ram is also one of the youngest recipients of the prestigious Padma Shri and Dr BC Roy National awards conferred by the President of India in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Besides a string of degrees and Fellowships attached to his name, Dr Raghu Ram is a Fellow of all four surgical Royal Colleges in the British Isles (London, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Ireland), the Fellow of American College of Surgeons, and he has been conferred Honorary Fellowships from several other international prestigious surgical organisations. This includes the Hon Fellowship from the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, Hon FRCS (Thailand), Hon FCSSL (Sri Lanka) and Hon FCCS (China).

Dr Raghu Ram's distinguished academic track record, love for his motherland and passion for social service are his strong characteristics and what sets him apart in the medical fraternity. He has been an advocate of best practices in his chosen field, coupled with a human touch and altruistic values. His significant contribution over the past 15 years towards improving breast healthcare and surgical education in India through his strong links with the United Kingdom, is laudatory.

Further, Dr Raghu Ram established south Asia's first dedicated comprehensive Breast Health Centre, founded a breast cancer charity to raise awareness about the importance of early detection, implemented south Asia's largest population-based breast cancer screening programme in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, which has saved many lives.

Also, he has been the driving force behind the formation of The Association of Breast Surgeons of India, a dedicated organisation that brings together surgeons practising the art and science of breast surgery under one platform. He championed several life-transforming initiatives in his adopted village, Ibrahimpur through personal philanthropy in addition to raising money and spearheading a major pan India initiative to procure and distribute the much-needed PPEs to healthcare workers in response to the COVID-19 crisis.