

# UBF Diary

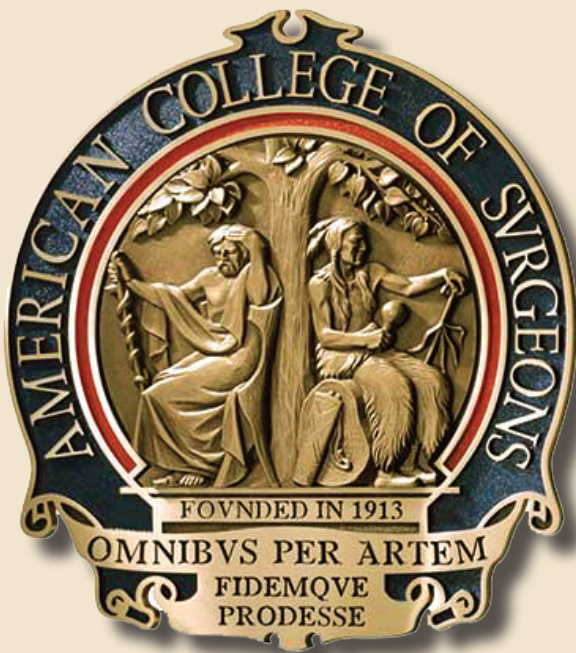
## Disrupting Breast Healthcare in India

**A Rare Distinction—Dr Raghu Ram becomes the only surgeon outside the USA, handpicked to deliver one of the 11 ‘Named Lectures’ alongside Dr Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to the President of the United States and nine other world-renowned surgeons from the USA at the 107th Annual Congress held from October 23-27, 2021. This event was organised by the world’s largest and prestigious organisation, the American College of Surgeons**

Dr Raghu Ram, OBE, director, KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases became the first surgeon from south Asia to have delivered the ‘Distinguished Lecture’ of the United States Chapter of International Society of Surgery at the 107th annual Congress of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The title of his 55-minute talk was “Disrupting Breast Healthcare in India”.

Medical Advisor to the President of the United States and nine other world-renowned surgeons from the USA to deliver the prestigious “Named Lecture” at the annual scientific Congress this year, which was held on a virtual platform over five days from October 23-27, 2021.

In his keynote address, Dr Raghu Ram shared the revolutionary changes he has brought to the field of breast healthcare in India.



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY (ISS/SIC)

The Distinguished Lecture of the International Society of Surgery was established in 1990 and endowed by the US Chapter of the International Society of Surgery to recognise the Society’s worthwhile activities by honouring reputed international surgeons.

Dr Raghu Ram happens to be the only surgeon from outside USA to be handpicked alongside Dr Anthony Fauci, Chief

The ACS 2021 Congress theme was “Resilience in the Pursuit of Excellence” and his presentation brought to the fore his resilience in the face of enormous challenges and in the relentless pursuit of excellence to improve breast cancer care in India through a number of unique and innovative initiatives.

Over the past 14 years since he relocated to India after he discovered his mother had breast cancer, Dr Raghu

## Relocated to India to fulfil my Dreams (2007)

1. Establish Breast Cancer Foundation – *create awareness*
2. Introduce “Breast Centre” concept – *standardise care*
3. Implement a population based Screening Programme – *early detection*
4. Develop Breast surgery as a Subspecialty in India - *improve outcomes*

### Dreams before relocating to India

Ram has been serving as a ‘living bridge’ between the UK and India. He has been committed to replicate the best of British practices in an earnest endeavour to improve the delivery of breast healthcare in the country he was born in and raised. He expressed hope that with time, the disruptive, innovative, and unique strategies coupled with a vision to find ‘Indian solutions’ that he outlined in his keynote address, would pave the path towards saving many lives and serve as a benchmark to improve the delivery of breast healthcare in south Asia.

As someone whose “heart beats for early detection of breast cancer,” Dr Raghu Ram said his inspiration can be summed up by a passage from a speech given by former Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam: “Ask what we can do for India and do what has to be done to make India what America and other western countries are today.”

The American College of Surgeons summarised in a feature story Dr Raghu Ram’s extensive contribution in augmenting breast healthcare in India, including his address at the 2021 ACS Congress. Click on the link to read the feature:

#### LINK

<https://www.acscnews.org/iss-lecturer-has-dedicated-his-career-to-breast-health-innovation-and-awareness-in-india/>




In his address, Dr Raghu Ram highlighted the four visionary achievements accomplished over the past 14 years:

- Establishing KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases (2007) - south Asia’s first free standing comprehensive breast centre in Hyderabad. This landmark initiative has paved the path for a revolutionary change in the way a “Breast Health Centre” is understood in India
- Founding Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation (2007), a not-for-profit Breast Cancer Charity based out of Hyderabad, which has been working with missionary zeal towards breaking the ‘taboo’ around the word ‘breast cancer’ and creating the much-needed awareness about the importance of ‘early detection’ through a number of innovative initiatives which has attracted national and international appreciation
- Spearheading south Asia’s largest population-based breast cancer screening programme (2012 – 2016) and reaching out to over 200,000 under-privileged women spread across 4,000 villages in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This programme is being currently expanded into a nationwide initiative by India’s National Health Mission Programme
- Recognising the need for standardising breast healthcare in the country and playing a pivotal role in the formation of The Association of Breast Surgeons of India (ABSI)—south Asia’s first organisation that has brought together general surgeons, surgical oncologists and plastic surgeons treating patients with breast disease (2011). Over the past ten years, ABSI has evolved to become the ‘voice for breast surgery’ in the country

Founded in 1913, with over 84,000 members from the USA and 140 countries worldwide, The American College of Surgeons is the single strongest voice for surgeons across all surgical specialties across the globe.

In addition to featuring hundreds of scientific presentations highlighting research in progress in all surgical specialties and 105 panel discussions on relevant and timely topics, the annual 2021 ACS Congress offered ‘11 Named Lectures’ on a variety of surgical and medical topics given by renowned experts.

Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation is celebrating  
15 positively eventful years ( 2007 - 2022)

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