

## **Prof. S. Kalyanaraman; The great Neurosurgical teacher, philosopher and mentor**



Professor S. Kalyanaraman, M.S., M.S (Neuro), F.R.C.S (Eng), F.R.C.S (Edin), PhD (Edin).., F.M.M.C., F.A.I.S., F.I.C.A., F.I.C.S., F.A.C.S., F.I.A.M.S., F.I.M.S.A., F.A.M.S., F.T.N.A.Sc., F.A.Sc., was born in Trichy, Tamilnadu, India in 1934. He had an excellent academic record starting from his school and intermediate education days. He qualified in MBBS from Stanley Medical College, Chennai, India, passing out as the best outgoing student of both Stanley Medical College and University of Madras in 1956. After completing his M.S. (General Surgery) at Madras Medical College, University of Madras in 1959, he went to U.K. and passed the F.R.C.S. (England & Edinburgh) in 1961. He had his Neurosurgical training in Edinburgh, U.K. under Prof. F.J.Gillingham and Prof. Norman M.Dott, the pioneer Neurosurgeons in U.K. He was awarded Ph.D. (Neurosurgery) by the University of Edinburgh in 1964 for his pioneering work in Stereotactic surgery under the guidance of Prof. Gillingham. He was the first Ph.D. in Neurosurgery in the whole of U.K. and India. He continued his work under Prof. B. Ramamurthi at the Madras Medical College and Government General Hospital in Chennai and passed his M.S. (Neurosurgery) examination of University of Madras in 1965. He started the first Head Injury Unit in India in 1966 at Chennai in association with Prof. B. Ramamurthi. He along with Prof. B. Ramamurthi, Prof. V. Balasubramaniam worked for the establishment of Neurosurgery as a specialty in this part of the country and a center of excellence for Stereotactic surgery, which culminated in the establishment of the Madras Institute of Neurology. He became Professor of Neurosurgery and subsequently the Head of the Madras Institute of Neurology from 1986 to 1991. After this, he continued as Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon at the Apollo Hospitals, Chennai and was instrumental in starting and establishing Neurosurgery training program there. He had trained several batches of Neurosurgical trainees over the years and was a very passionate teacher. His lectures and clinical classes had been very popular. His way of making even complex topics very simple, clinical symptom analysis, clinical diagnostic skills and imparting the same to several batches of neurosurgical trainees made him one of the best Neurosurgical teachers ever. He had been examiner to several Institutes and Universities. He had published several articles in reputed

Journal and contributed chapters in textbooks. He is the first to initiate the concept of Continuing Medical Education in India and started the same in Neurological Society of India in 1977 and continued as CME convener till 1984. He had been the Editor of *Neurology India* Journal from 1985 to 1990. He was the President of Neurological Society of India in 1987. He has been holding the post of President/Vice President in several other National and International societies including the Indian Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery and Indian Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Asian Australasian Society of Neurosurgeons, etc. He had been the Member, International Editorial Advisory Board, British Journal of Neurosurgery from 1987 to 1997. He has many more awards and laurels to his credit. His areas of special interest include Neurotrauma, Brain Tumors, CNS Tuberculosis, Failed Back Surgery, Cervical and Lumbar Spondylosis, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Epilepsy and functional stereotactic surgery. He had also been involved in social service activities, medicolegal and ethical aspects of neurosurgical practice. He had been teacher, philosopher and guide to many neurosurgeons including the author. He passed away at the age of 92 on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2026. He will be missed by all of us.

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