In Memory of Dr. Sengamedu Srinivasa Badrinath (1940-2023)



It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Dr. Sengamedu Srinivasa Badrinath, a widely respected vitreoretinal surgeon from India who touched the lives of countless individuals by making eye care more affordable and accessible.

Dr. Badrinath graduated from Madras Medical College in 1962 and completed his postgraduate education in the United States. After returning to India, he founded Sankara Nethralaya (SN), a non-profit ophthalmic organization in 1978, with the mission to provide high-quality eye care to all. With his relentless efforts over the years, SN grew from a small charity into the comprehensive hospital, research center, and postgraduate institute it is today, serving countless patients in need.

While subspecialty practice in ophthalmology was in its infancy at the time of SN's establishment, Dr. Badrinath demonstrated visionary leadership by developing different subspecialties, advancing professional development, and nurturing a cadre of highly skilled ophthalmologists. He also set up the Vision Research Foundation as a state-of-the-art basic science research facility. Dedicated to improving ophthalmic services, he guided SN to achieve many firsts, for example, launching the country's first teleophthalmology van, and creating the first mobile surgical van for cataract surgeries in rural India.

Dr. Badrinath's outstanding leadership and services earned him numerous accolades. In 1999, the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) presented him with the De Ocampo Lecture Award, our highest award for excellent academic achievements in clinical or basic eye research, and the Holmes Lecture Award, the highest award for exceptional contributions to preventive ophthalmology. In 2006, he was further honored with the ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award, initiated by the International Council of Ophthalmology to recognize the most dedicated teacher of clinical ophthalmology in the Asia-Pacific region.

On Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Dr. Badrinath passed away peacefully at his residence in Chennai at the age of 83. He is survived by his wife, Dr Vasanthi Iyengar, and their two sons, Ananth and Seshu. Our thoughts and condolences extend to his family and loved ones.

India and the world of Ophthalmology are poorer with the passing away of Prof. Badrinath. The Obituary reflects our homage to the great soul. We pledge to continue his legacy.

Taraprasad Das

APAO Vice-President

We are very sorry to hear about the passing of Dr. Sengamedu Srinivasa Badrinath, We will all miss him. We, Chinese Vireo-Retina Society, would like to offer our deepest condolences. May his soul rest in peace.

Xiaoxin Li

Chair of APAO Practice Guidelines Standing Committee

My deepest condolences to his family.

Wanicha Chuenkongkaew

APAO Regional Secretary & President, Royal College of Ophthalmologists of Thailand

Deepest condolences to his family from the Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan.

Muhammad Moin

Chair of APAO Leadership Development Program Standing Committee

My deepest condolences to his family.

Chi Chun Lai

President, Chinese Taipei Ophthalmological Society

Our deepest condolences from Nepalese ophthalmologists to his family.

Rohit Saiju

APAO Regional Secretary, Nepal Ophthalmic Society

Our deepest condolences from Taiwan Ophthalmological Society to his family.

An-Guor Wang

APAO Regional Secretary, Chinese Taipei Ophthalmological Society

My deepest condolences to their family members and friends on behalf of the Afghanistan Society of Ophthalmology.

Sayed Shahpoor Sadat President, Afghanistan Society of Ophthalmology

Deepest condolences to the family from the Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan.

Abdul Qayyum

President, Ophthalmological Society of Pakistan

The Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology sends its deepest sympathies.

Vicente Victor Ocampo Jr.
President, Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology

Deepest condolences from the Chinese Ophthalmological Society.

Yao Ke

President, Chinese Ophthalmological Society (COS)

He was a wonderful person and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Hungwon Tchah

APAO Regional Secretary, Korean Ophthalmological Society

On behalf of the College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka, please accept our condolences on demise of such a great person, Dr Badrinath who is in our memories.

He reminded us as a great ophthalmologist. The loss of a person like him is something that never be recovered.

May he rest in peace.

Lalitha Senerath

APAO Regional Secretary, College of Ophthalmologists of Sri Lanka