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.