

CONFERMENT OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, HONORIS CAUSA ON PADMASHRI PROF. K. MATHANGI RAMAKRISHNAN

Padmashri Prof K Mathangi Ramakrishnan, a renowned Plastic Surgeon, Director, Intensive Care Burns Unit, Head, Department of Plastic Surgery, Kanchi Kamakoti Child Trust Hospital, Chennai, who by virtue of her long and outstanding contributions in the field of Plastic Surgery, has worthily merited recognition of the Academic Council of the Banaras Hindu University for the award of the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa.

Professor K Mathangi Ramakrishnan, MB, FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Edin), MCh, DSc, FAMS, a renowned Plastic Surgeon was born on November 5, 1934 at Chennai. She graduated from Madras Medical college in 1958 securing the Blue Ribbon of the College and University of Madras as the best outgoing student. She had her postgraduate training in Surgery in UK wherein she became a Fellow of Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1961.

Dr Ramakrishnan rejoined her alma mater and qualified for MCh in Plastic Surgery from the Madras Medical College in 1968. Starting her professional career as Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery in the same college, she happens to be the first Plastic Surgeon in the country to get the coveted PhD degree of the University of Madras in 1979. In 1989, she became Fellow of National Academy of Medical Sciences. As Professor & Head of the Plastic Surgery at Kilpauk Medical College she, due to her persistent research work in Burns, earned herself the distinction of being the only plastic surgeon in the country to be honoured with the degree of D.Sc by Tamil Nadu Dr M G R Medical University in 1992. She became Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin) in the year 2000 thus adding another feather to her already



adorned cap.

Professor Ramakrishnan however chose to specialize in Burn Management. The credit of establishing a fully equipped comprehensive intensive burn care unit in India goes to her. She has treated and rehabilitated over 30000 burn victims during her service career spanning over 30 years. In recognition of her services she was assured the prestigious BC Roy Award just before her superannuation, for establishing the speciality of burns at Kilpauk Medical college Hospital, Chennai.

Dr Ramakrishnan is a person of great academic stature. Her numerous research publications in national and international journals, her chapter contributions in books and her presentation of papers at conferences have won her many laurels. She is recipient of numerous awards noteworthy amongst which are the Hari Om Ashram Alembic Award instituted by the Association of Surgeons of India and Arnott Lectureship of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. She has visited eighteen countries in different

capacities.

Her academic brilliance entitled her to become the Emeritus Scientist of Central Leather Research Institute, an unit of CSIR and Emeritus Professor of Tamil Nadu Dr M G R Medical University, Chennai. Prof Ramakrishnan also held the coveted positions of President of Association of Plastic Surgeons of India; President of National Academy of Medical Sciences; President of National Academy of Burns; Vice-President of Indian Association for Advancement of Medical Education and Chairperson, Child's Trust Medical Research Foundation, Chennai.

Her contribution in the social sector too is immense and highly commendable. Helping and rehabilitating burnt victims and implementing burn preventing programmes is her commitment in life. In recognition of her pioneering work in burns, the government of India awarded her the PADMASHRI which she received from His Excellency, the President of India in the year 2002.