



National Institution for Quality and Reliability

80, NUNGAMBAKKAM HIGH ROAD, CHENNAI - 600 034

15th NIQR National Convention



Dr. Vishwanathan Shanta, Chairperson of Cancer Institute, Chennai, Winner of the Prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, and recipient of Padma Vibushan, India's Second highest Civilian Award, was born on March 11, 1927 in Mylapore, Chennai. Dr. Shanta also represents a glorious and cultured family of name and fame, which include eminent scientists and Noble laureates Dr. C.V.Raman and Dr. R. Chandrasekar, being her maternal uncles. Dr. Shanta graduated from Madras University in 1949 and followed it up with a Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 1952 and M.D. in 1955. She joined the Cancer Institute around the time of its inception, as its first Residential Medical Officer.

The Cancer Institute was started in 1954 with 12 beds through the woman's Indian Association's Cancer Relief Fund by Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddy, the first woman medical graduate in our country. An empowered woman, Dr. (Mrs.) Reddy had nurtured the dream of starting this Institute ever since she lost her younger sister to cancer in the year 1923. The growth of the Institute is a reflection of her vision and wisdom and of her unyielding selfless desire to see such an Institution taking shape. When Dr. Shanta joined the Cancer Institute, she and Dr. Krishna Murthy, son of Dr. (Mrs.) Reddy were the only two doctors. Initially they survived with the help from International philanthropy. The first Cobalt unit in the whole of South East Asia came as a gift to the Institute from Atomic Energy of Canada.

With a resolute and captive mind, Dr. Shanta pursued a Fellowship between 1957-1958 with Ontario Cancer Foundation for specialised training in the use of Super Voltage radiation in Cancer Therapy. Returning to India, Dr. Shanta pioneered several concepts in Cancer detection and therapy in our country such as conducting the country's first cancer survey and setting up the first comprehensive paediatric cancer clinic, first Radiation Oncology department among others. The Institute focuses on six core principles – Commitment, Compassion, Care, Cure, Challenge and Change and is committed to stand by these principles to serve the cancer patients, particularly the under privileged. She took over as Director of the Cancer Institute in 1980 and later became Chairperson of the Institute in 2000.

The sources of inspiration in her own words are, “cured patients are big inspiration to us. We gain a lot of happiness from them. When we see a child who was treated by us grown up, go to school, become a Doctor, get married and lead a normal life, that to us is the greatest reward. There can be no greater happiness than this. We only wish that every patient who gets treated experiences the same results. **“The Institute is my Temple and my work is my worship.”** Her dreams, desires and aspirations are all for her patients and the Cancer Institute. In the initial years she has struggled hard, often gone on one meal a day and spent sleepless nights only to ensure that her patients get due care and attention.

It is not every day that we come across such a relentless and resolute octogenarian doctor, performing surgeries with passion to serve patients and looking forward to doing more to the Society. Dr. Shanta has become synonymous with the trials and tribulations of the Institute to which she has devoted her life. **Indeed she is an institution by herself.** Through her determination, dedication and compassion towards humanity, she has risen to the sterling level of what she is today.

In appreciation of her life long commitment to cancer care and cure, We, the members of NIQR, are privileged to present the **NIQR-India Pistons, Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 to Dr. V. Shanta**, the chairperson of Cancer Institute, Chennai, on this day, 11th June 2016, at Chennai.

S. Rajasekaran
Convention Chairman – NIQR

R. Sivanesan
National President – NIQR