



**Prof .Dr.T.RAVI RAJU, MD, DM.,
Vice-Chancellor**

Dr. N.T.R. University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada,

Dr.T.Ravi Raju started his career as a Nephrologist after completing DM from the prestigious Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh in 1985. Subsequently, he worked in Andhra Pradesh Medical Education Services in various capacities for over three decades as Assistant Professor, Professor, Additional Director of Medical Education (Superintendent & Principal of Medical College) and Director of Medical Education. Presently, he is one of the senior most Nephrologists in the country, rendering his services as Professor Emeritus in Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.

In a career spanning over three long decades, he achieved several distinctions as a medical teacher as well as a clinician. As one of the first qualified nephrologists in the State of Andhra Pradesh, he was closely associated with establishing the Dept. of Nephrology at Andhra Medical College / King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam. During his tenure, the department has grown from a ten-bedded shared ward to a fully functional thirty-bedded postgraduate training facility with all the latest equipment with sophisticated diagnostics and super specialty patient services. As a Professor of Nephrology, he started DM super specialty course at Andhra Medical College in the year 2001-02 itself. At present, the Department trains three DM students every year. In terms of nephrologists trained, infrastructure, amenities, and patient care, the department has become the largest and number one department in the State of AP.

He is associated with active clinical research and presented a good number of papers at both national and international fora as lead researcher as well as co-author.

Epidemiological Study of National Importance: He is presently associated as Principal Investigator with the ongoing epidemiological study on the prevalence of kidney diseases in North Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh, conducted jointly in collaboration with Harvard University, USA. He has drawn the attention of Government and Media to the high prevalence of this disabling and chronic disease affecting the health and economy. With his initiating the study, this drew the attention of international community of nephrologists and it has been christened as "Uddanam Nephropathy" in the World Congress of Nephrology-2013 at Hong Kong. He was a co-investigator in another nation-wide epidemiological study of chronic kidney diseases, SEEK (Screening & Early Evaluation of Kidney diseases), published in BMC Nephrology, USA.

His research work at Weil Cornell Medical College, New York has led to the identification of one of the Signature Genes, IP10, for diagnosis of rejection after organ transplantation. His pioneering work on diagnosis of organ rejection has paved the way for publication of major breakthrough research work in New England Journal of Medicine. Advanced research work is in progress, which is likely to lead to the production of a simple diagnostic kit for detection of organ rejection after transplantation.

His contribution to the field of nephrology helped him rise to the position of President of Indian Society of Nephrology, the apex professional body of nephrologists of the country.

During his tenure as Director of Medical Education, Govt. of AP (2008- 2011), he was of assistance to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh in the following major initiatives:

- Establishment of Rajiv Aarogyasri Hemodialysis Centres across AP: Prior to this initiative, 90% of dialysis had been going on in private sector which was both inaccessible and unaffordable. As a DME and Nephrologist, he conceived the innovative scheme of organizing Hemodialysis Centers under Aarogyasri. With the approval of the Government and under leadership of the Chief Secretary, FM&HW, he has planned, designed and started 11 dialysis Centers in the State. With this scheme, dialysis was made available in government sector across the state. Presently, 18 such centers are running successfully, catering to the needs of thousands of patients of Chronic Kidney Diseases. Several states in the country emulated the scheme after its successful implementation in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- Jeevandan: Cadaver Organ Donation Programme "Jeevandan", was started in 2010 when he was the Director of Medical Education, and it facilitated streamlined retrieval and allocation of cadaver organs for needy patients.. He being a Transplant Physician, realized the need for such a scheme directly under control of the Government. He was instrumental in shaping of the GO "Jeevandan Scheme" again under the leadership of the Chief Secetary

HM&FW, when he was the DME. This scientific and transparent mechanism being the first in the country, has again become a model for several other states in the country.

- As a President of Indian Society of Nephrology and Senior Nephrologist in the country, he could spread the message of the need and feasibility of free and widely accessible Hemodialysis Centers in all the districts in the country. With the result, several state governments have started hemodialysis centers at subsidized costs.
- Advanced Radiological Services: Expensive investigations such as CT and MRI Colour Doppler, interventional radiology and Mammography, have been made available free of charge, with the introduction of these facilities in various government colleges in the state since 2010. These centers have been functioning very effectively obviating the need to go to private centers.
- As DME, he was associated with various academic / administrative initiatives like enhancing seats in paramedical courses, UG and PG medical seats in various government colleges, helping medical colleges come up to the norms of MCI and streamlining promotions and appointments of faculty in government medical colleges.
 - As Chairman, Board of Super Specialities and later, as DME- Academic and Senate Member of NTR UHS, he was closely associated with functioning of the University and he is well conversant with various admission procedures and MCI regulations. He has been on the Selection and Examination Boards of various universities / institutes.
 - While working in Andhra Medical College / King George Hospital, as Professor and Superintendent, he contributed to initiation of several landmark projects like starting kidney transplantation unit and coronary bypass graft surgery, commissioning of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory and Superspecialty Block in KG Hospital.
 - Considering the contributions made by him to the society, he was honored with Best Citizen Award by Visakha Journalists Forum and Ugadi Puraskaram as DME in Hyderabad by the then Chief Minister.

Because of his long experience as undergraduate, post graduate and super speciality teacher and Director of Medical Education, he has a good understanding of the problems in medical education and administration. During the past three decades, he had the opportunity to visit a good number of medical colleges, hospitals and research organizations in the country and beyond as speaker, examiner and member of inspecting bodies on various occasions. This exposure has helped him form a holistic perspective of medical education.

