

Prof. Dr. R. Viswanathan



Prof. R. Viswanathan, born on April 1934, belongs to the first batch of dental wing of Madras Dental College. He completed his undergraduate program in 1959 and immediately joined the governmental medical services. In the year 1968, he secured the “Leverhulme Trust” Scholarship and trained for a year under Prof. Ivor Kramer at the Department of Oral Pathology and Medicine at the Institute of Dental Sciences, Eastman Dental School, London. On his return to Chennai, he proceeded to complete his Master’s program in Oral Pathology at Nair Dental College, Mumbai.

On completion of his masters, he returned to Chennai where he established the dedicated oral pathology department in his alma mater. He was later deputed to Al-Arab Medical University, Benghazi, Libya. On his return from Libya, he rejoined the governmental cadre and was instrumental in furthering the Oral Pathology Master’s Program at Tamil Nadu Government Dental College. He retired from governmental services as the principal of Tamil Nadu Government Dental College in 1992. During his active tenure in governmental service, he was the professor and guide for 15 batches of oral pathologists, and was involved actively in designing the academic curriculum for under- and post-graduate studies in the state of Tamil Nadu and at national level. He had served as the examiner to nearly all dental colleges in India.

After retirement, he joined Ragas Dental College and Hospital, Chennai, as its professor of oral pathology and dean. He went on to initiate the master’s program in the college and actively engaged in research. His passion for dental research was instrumental for publishing several international dental journals. He has contributed the topic “Helminthic Infections” in the textbook of “Oral diseases of the tropics” and edited the “HIV handbook for Dentists.” Also, he has guided seven research projects of Indian Council of Medical Research and the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

He is one of the founder members of the Indian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists. In his active life, he not only engaged in teaching and researching in oral pathology but also extended his services to the poor and needy along with several social service organizations. In recognition of his immense and valuable contribution to the field of oral pathology and Indian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathologists, an oration in his name has been instituted and has been running successfully for more than 20 years. Fondly referred as the “Bhishma of Oral Pathology” by his students and their students, he remains a beacon of inspiration to all aspiring oral pathologists.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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