

Remembrance - Dr. V. K. Vijayan (19.06.1948 to 28.01.2019)



Dr. V. K. Vijayan (19.06.1948 to 28.01.2019)

Obituaries are prepared in haste, in the fog of grief, and the stress of meeting a newspaper deadline.

Remembrance is for the living.

Born in the remote village of Thikotti in erstwhile Malabar in present-day State of Kerala to the late Sri V. K. Govindan Vaidyer and the late Smt P. P. Lakshmi. His father was a well-known practitioner of traditional Ayurvedic Medicine which left a lasting influence on Dr. Vijayan's approach to patients. He was soft-spoken and a man of few words. He remained an expert bedside clinician, who reveled in distinguishing the subtleties of respiratory sounds and patterns of breathing. He was respected for his clinical acumen and brought considerable common sense and a personal touch to the clinical decision and timely referrals for surgery.

Dr. V. K. Vijayan (MBBS, DTCD, MD [Med], MAMS, Ph.D. [Med], DSc, FAMS, FICC, FICS, FNCCP, FIAB, FAPSR, FCCP [USA]) was the Former Director of the Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI), University of Delhi (1998–2011), Advisor to Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at National Institute for Research in Environmental Health (2012–2015) and at Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (2012–2015), Bhopal. His final assignment was as Senior Consultant in Chest Diseases at Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode, Kerala.

Dr. Vijayan had his basic medical education in Calicut Medical College, Kerala and thereafter he took a post-graduate diploma course in Chest Diseases from VPCI and followed it with MD in General Medicine from the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. He then pursued advanced training in Pulmonology and Cardiology

from Brompton Hospital and National Heart Hospital, London and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, NIH, Bethesda, USA. He obtained Ph.D. in Medicine from the University of Madras and received the DSc degree from Dr. MGR Medical University, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Vijayan's major areas of research work included tropical eosinophilia, studies on Bhopal Gas Disaster victims, pulmonary function, chemotherapy of tuberculosis, exercise physiology, studies on tobacco cessation, rheumatic heart disease, bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, bronchoalveolar lavage studies, and sleep-related breathing disorders. Dr. Vijayan was the recipient of many awards/honors including ICMR National Awards; Silver Medal for the best paper presentation at the 9th International Conference on Occupational Respiratory Diseases, Kyoto, Japan; Best Chest Specialist of India from the National Chest Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi;

He has delivered prestigious orations – Sir Ronald Ross Memorial Oration at PGIMER, Kolkata, the Indian Association for Bronchology; the Tuberculosis Association of India, Biotechnology Society of India, Defense Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, Environmental Medical Association, National Institute of Pathology, ICMR, Indian Sleep Disorders Association, to name just a few.

He was the International Governor and the International Regent of the American College of Chest Physicians; Vice President, World Lung Foundation, South Asia; President, Indian Association for Bronchology; and Indian College of Allergy, Asthma and Applied Immunology. He has the unique distinction of having been the Founder Presidents of South Asia Association of Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology; Society for Tobacco Control; Society for Nitric Oxide and Allied Radicals; Founder Vice-president, Pulmonary Pathology Society of India; and South Asia Thoracic Society.

Dr. Vijayan was the Editor of "Lung India" (1991–1999), the official publication of the Indian Chest Society. He also served as Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of the Indian Journal of Chest Diseases and Allied Sciences of the National College of Chest Physicians (India). He was a member of the Editorial Board of many Journals including the Chest, the World Allergy Organisation Journal, and Austin Journal of Sleep Disorders. He has to his credit over 300 publications in reputed international journals.

He received the “Lifetime achievement award” from the Indian Association for Bronchology. The Governing Body of the VPCI has instituted a yearly oration named “Dr. VK Vijayan Oration” recognizing the outstanding contributions made by him in the field of research and clinical services.

The Vision Document for the National Institute for Research in Environmental Health under ICMR and a Guideline for Management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease in MIC exposed subjects at Bhopal were prepared under his Chairmanship. He was the Chairman of the “Sambhavna Trust” formed for the welfare of the MIC victims at Bhopal.

His inherent sense of duty to serve the rural community was realized by treating people of his native village in Thikkoti. In recognition, Dr. Vijayan received the coveted “Vocational Excellence Award 2015” from Rotary International.

Dr. V. K. Vijayan is survived by his wife Dr. Reetha who retired as Deputy Director, National Institute of Malaria Research, ICMR, Delhi. He leaves behind a legacy of students and a far larger number of people who knowingly or unknowingly owe their lives to his work. We will always carry his memory in our hearts.

Financial support and sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Nasser Yusuf^{1,2,3}, Parvaiz A Koul⁴

¹Department of Thoracic Surgery, Sunrise Hospital, Kochi, Kerala, India, ²Department of Thoracic Surgery, Chest Hospital, Kozhikode, Kerala, India, ³Department of Thoracic Surgery, Manipal University, Manipal, Karnataka, India, ⁴Department of Internal and Pulmonary Medicine, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Address for correspondence: Dr. Nasser Yusuf, Sunrise Hospital, Airport Seaport Road, Kakanad, Kochi. E-mail: drnasseryusuf@gmail.com

Submitted: 30-Jan-2021 **Accepted:** 31-Jan-2021

Published: 02-Mar-2021

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code: 	Website: www.lungindia.com
	DOI: 10.4103/lungindia.lungindia_65_21

How to cite this article: Yusuf N, Koul PA. Remembrance – Dr. V. K. Vijayan (19.06.1948 to 28.01.2019). Lung India 2021;38:206-7.