



## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF SRI RAMACHANDRA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS**

### **HUMAN GENETICS ALUMNI MEET 2020**

M. Sc Human Genetics, the first post-graduate program under the Allied Health Sciences in Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute (SRMC & RI) was started in the year 1998 under the direction and mentorship of Prof. T.K. Parthasarathy, the Vice Chancellor of SRMC & RI at that time. The department started as Genetic Research Cell with two faculty members Dr.Vikram Jayanth and Dr.Solomon F.D. Paul, one technician Ms. Bhavani and 10 students in the first batch. Over the years the research cell grew into a department actively involved in the three thrust areas of academics, diagnostics and research activities. As of January 2020, 297 students from 20 batches have received their degree in Master of Human Genetics and 26 Ph.D degrees. It is noteworthy to mention that graduates of this department now serve as academicians, researchers, certified diagnostic consultants and genetic counselors across the globe. Keeping in mind the tremendous growth of the department in the last 20 years, it was decided to conduct an alumni meet with the aim to foster and strengthen the department - alumni bond. It provided a great opportunity for the present graduates to understand the opportunities and challenges in their chosen specialty in the competitive professional world. It gives us immense pleasure to present the report of Alumni Meet, Department of Human Genetics.

#### **Overview of the event:**

The alumni meet was conducted on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Dhanvanthri hall, SRIHER. A prior approval to conduct the event was obtained from the SRIHER Alumni Association and University Authorities. The date and programme was conveyed to the mentors, members of the board of study and alumni using various social platforms including Facebook, LinkedIn, E-mail and telephone calls. On the day of the event, the alumni gathered in the Hall between 9 and 10am to share their experiences. About 54 alumni participated along with the current batch of students and faculty of the department.

Inauguration of the event with University Anthem was started by 10.15am. The dignitaries on the Dias were as follows:

- ❖ Dr K. Balaji Singh, Dean of Students, SRIHER
- ❖ Prof. T.K. Parthasarathy, Professor of Eminence, & Director- International Relations, SRIHER.
- ❖ Dr. Vikram Jayanth, Founder- Department of Human Genetics (Currently, Canada)

- ❖ Dr. Sridevi Hegde, BOS- Member (Consultant Geneticist, Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru)
- ❖ Dr. P. Venkatesan – Mentor (Visiting faculty, SRIHER)
- ❖ Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan – Mentor (Director, WHO Centre, Associate Dean – Research, Professor, Faculty of Public Health, SRIHER)
- ❖ Dr Solomon. F.D. Paul, Professor and Head, Department of Human Genetics, SRIHER.
- ❖ Dr. P. Venkatachalam, Professor, Department of Human Genetics, SRIHER.
- ❖ Dr.P.Venkatachalam welcomed the gathering
- ❖ Dr.K.Balaji Singh highlighted the contribution of the Human Genetics department to the academics and diagnostics for the institution.
- ❖ Prof. T.K. Parthasarathy expanded on the genesis of the first paramedical PG programme the Human Genetics and the current Faculty of Biomedical Sciences.
- ❖ The BOS members and mentors which included Dr. Sridevi Hegde, Dr. P. Venkatesan and Dr. Kalpana Balakrishna enthralled the students with their anecdotes on their personal experiences with the department for the past 20 years.
- ❖ Dr K. Balaji Singh and Dr. Solomon F.D.Paul honored the dignitaries with customized mementos, to honor their long-standing contribution to the students and the department activities over the years.
- ❖ Dr. Vikram Jayanth gave the special address and touched on the emerging global developments in human genetics and career opportunities. He has also honored the alumni with plant saplings in a gesture for a green campus and environment.
- ❖ Dr. P. Venkatachalam presented the evolution of the department with his presentation titled” SRMC & RI, SRU and SRIHER”
- ❖ Each alumnus shared their personal and past experiences to the current batch of students. Video messages sent by the alumni who are not able to make it for the event were aired
- ❖ Along with lunch a cultural program was organized where the present first- and second- years student performed a variety of dance and song sequences
- ❖ The total number of participants for the event was 110.
- ❖ Dr M. Ravi, Professor, department of Human Genetics delivered vote of thanks.



**Registration Counter**



**Dignitaries on the Dias**



**Inauguration of Alumni Meet**

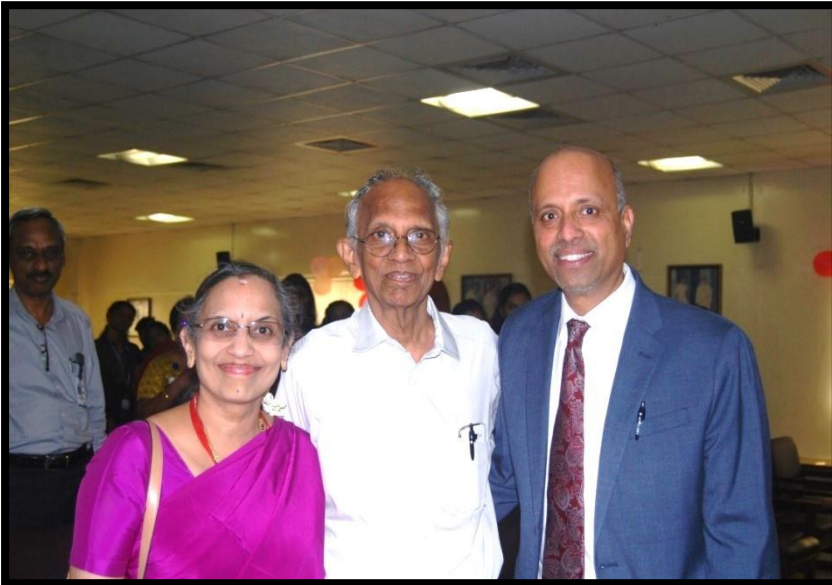


**Dr.P.Venkatachalam welcomed the gathering**



**Dr. Dr K. Balaji Singh and Dr. Solomon F.D.Paul honored the dignitaries**





**Honouring the Dignitaries and interaction with Speaker**



**Lighting of kuthuvilakku**



**Chief Guest sharing memories with alumni's, from clockwise: Dr.T.K.Parthasarathy, Dr.Sridevi Hedge, Dr.P.Venkatesan and Dr.Kaplana Balakrishnan**



**Dr. Vikram Jayanth addressing the gathering**





**Dr.T.K Parthasarthy  
honouring  
Dr.Vikram Jayanth**



**Dr.T.K Parthasarthy  
honouring  
Dr.Sridevi Hedge**



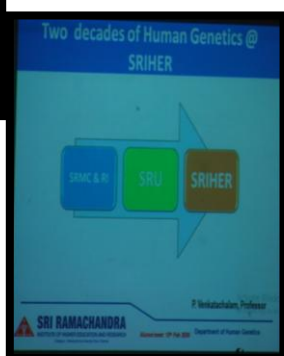
**Dr.T.K Parthasarthy  
honouring  
Dr.P.Venkatesan**



**Dr.Balaji Singh honouring  
Ms.Bhavani**



**Dr.Balaji Singh honouring  
Dr.Kalpana Balakrishnan**



**Growth of Human Genetics Department  
by Prof.P. Venkatachalam**



**Alumnus/Alumnae sharing their experience**



**Cultural Performance by students**



**Cake Cutting Celebration with the Alumni**



**Prof. Solomon F.D Paul, Head of the Department and Dr. T.K. Parthasarthy and Prof. P.Venkatachalam interacting with alumni**



**Dr.Vikram Jayanth presenting mementos to Alumni**





**Group picture of Human Genetics Alumni Meet**