

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Ramana Dhannapuneni

A cry from a tiny baby with a heart problem! A distressed mother! Here comes the reassuring presence of Dr. Ramana Dhannapuneni or 'Ram the Man' as he is sometimes fondly called at his hospital. He is a Consultant Cardiac Surgeon with special expertise in Neonatal Cardiac Surgery.

Dr. Dhannapuneni qualified from Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada AP. Subsequently, he was trained in hospitals in the UK including London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Edinburgh and obtained FRCS & FRCS (CTh) and MBA (Health Executive). Currently he works at Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. He is an expert in carrying out complex reconstructive heart surgery in babies with structural heart defects. These high risk operations often last more than ten hours.

Dr. Dhannapuneni strives to balance his time between family and his passion for work which extends far beyond his hospital as he does a great deal for charitable organisations. He is the Lead Cardiac Surgeon and Trustee for 'Healing Little Hearts', a UK registered charity. With his team, he has performed approximately 225 free heart operations in children through 21 charity missions in India, Tanzania, Palestine and Africa. He has performed operations across India in Kashmir, Mumbai, Bengal, Vijayawada and other places. He has helped to establish a, now, well run paediatric cardiac surgical service in Vijayawada and held five surgical camps in Karimnagar. The charity has performed over 1700 surgeries, 1000 of which were in India in about 100 camps.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Dhannapuneni's relentless work at his hospital and in other countries through charity has attracted media attention. His work was featured in the BBC 2 'Hospital' series, BBC's 'Keeping Britain Alive: NHS in a Day' and



CBBC's 'Operation Ouch' and in a number of other TV programmes. His interviews and articles have been published in The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mail and other News media.

He received the Highest Achiever award at Andhra Medical Graduate Reunion UK 2017, Pravasi Excellence Award 2016 by Coalition of Overseas Telangana Association (COTA) and Pravasi Mitra, Hyderabad and Sushrutha Award (International) at India World Poetry Festival 2017, Hyderabad. He was felicitated by Bromley and Kent Telugu Association, South Yorkshire Telugu Association and was a Guest of Honour at the Yorkshire Indian Association fund raising ball 2019

He was nominated for British Heart Foundation Heart Hero (Healthcare) 2019

Dr. Dhannapuneni comes from Jagtiala town in Telagana. His primary school education was in Sankenapelly Village, secondary school education was in Jagtiala and the Intermediate College education was in Guntur.

His parents are Smt. Aruna garu and Sri Vekateshwar Rao garu. His wife is Dr. Sireesha Dhannapuneni and they have two daughters, Hrudita and Manhita.

He says, he relaxes with current English pop, Bollywood and Telugu songs and his interests are cricket and cooking.

TAL congratulates Dr Dhannapuneni for his extraordinary work with children and their families. It is our privilege to have him among us and to honour him with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award.

