

## Alumni Award of Distinction 2012

Dr. A.S. Kanagasabapathy began his career in CMC in 1966 and took over leadership of the Clinical Biochemistry Department as Professor and Head in 1975 till his retirement in 2000. For over three decades he was deeply involved in promoting the quality of laboratory services and also in teaching and research.

Dr. Kanagasabapathy can be truly called the father of quality control in India. He started a national level external quality assurance program 30 years ago with 50 laboratories, which today has almost 3000 participating laboratories. The quality control (QC) program is something he has always been and still is passionate about. He has visited hundreds of laboratories and scores of Mission hospitals throughout the length and breadth of India and conducted QC seminars for them. His goal has been to create an impact at the grassroots level, covering all strata, both urban and more importantly semi urban labs which cater to the rural population.

He has been associated with the WHO in various laboratory quality control activities and has authored 3 WHO documents. In 1997, he was the Chairman of the Technical Committee constituted by the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) for formulating specific guidelines for accreditation of medical laboratories and has contributed significantly towards the preparation of an NABL document. He has been part of the member of the QC working group of the Asia - Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry. He was a member of the Expert Committee for formulating standards for GCLP of ICMR and part of the Task Force of ICMR's Project on National Reference Interval. Even after retirement, he continues to be engaged in spreading the concept of laboratory standards for accreditation among the clinical laboratories. He is presently associated with Quality Council of India in promoting standards of performance towards accreditation of the State government hospital laboratories.

He became a Fellow of the Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in 1985 and a member of the Association of the Clinical Biochemists of India in 1975. He was its President in 2000-2001. He received the Awadesh Saran Memorial Award from the same scientific body in 2003 and was also the recipient of the Sir A.J. Thakur Distinguished Clinical Biochemists Award in 2007. He has served as a member of the American Association of Clinical Chemists and on Scientific Advisory Committees and task forces of the ICMR over these years.

Education has been his passion. He has had a significant impact on a large cross section of students ranging from laboratory technologists to medical postgraduates. His enthusiastic, vibrant and lucid style has endeared him to all of them. He has served as supervisor-guide to 8 PhD students and has over 100 publications in scientific journals.

His valuable contribution towards the CMC centenary celebrations needs special mention. His warm relationship with the citizens of Vellore yielded truly generous contributions, particularly by the business community. As part of his fund raising rally, he visited numerous educational institutions in North Arcot District and spoke to the staff and students, creating increased awareness about the services of CMC. He requested all students to contribute Rs.1 per head as a token of their appreciation of the institution. His effervescent interaction with the children resulted in an incredible contribution from them towards the Centenary fund.

His relationship with students extended beyond academics. His many foster children, some of whom are present today will vouch for the fact that he has been a much loved foster father whose heart and home was always open to them. As Secretary of the Faculty Students Association, in collaboration with SPICMACAY he organized several cultural programs. He always encouraged active involvement of the students to help conduct these events. Dr. Kanagasabapathy is an active Rotarian and during his tenure as President of the Rotary Club of Vellore he carried out several community service projects involving CMC students. A great number of students enthusiastically participated in the Rotary's rural health camps, youth leadership and vocational service programs.

In recognition of his exemplary contribution to quality in clinical laboratories in this country, his excellent interaction and motivation of students and his contribution to the CMC community and Vellore town, the Alumni Association is proud to confer on him the Alumni Award of Distinction for the year 2012.