

Presidential Acceptance Speech – Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association

Respected seniors, esteemed colleagues, dear members of the Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, distinguished dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen,

Vanakkam.

A warm and respectful greeting to each one of you.

It is with profound humility, immense gratitude, and a deep sense of responsibility that I stand before you today as the newly elected President of our Association. I thank each one of you from the bottom of my heart for placing your trust in me.

To the outgoing leadership, Dr Sujatha mohanrajan , I extend my sincere appreciation for your tireless service, visionary guidance, and the strong foundation you have built. Your efforts have elevated our association and advanced eye care across Tamil Nadu and beyond.

My sincere thanks to all the previous Presidents . They have made my job easier

My respects to my father's elder brother (Periappa) who took care of my Education till my final year (UG)

My father was a freedom fighter .He was in jail in early 1940s.I learnt discipline from him . I learnt the importance of giving respects to all from my mother. . My wife has been guiding me in all my activities

My journey in education began here in Chennai. My schooling started at

P S High School , Mylapore , Chennai where the seeds of discipline, curiosity, and service were first sown. From there, I embarked on a memorable journey at Stanley Medical College—a journey I entered after many struggles, including legal battles that reached the High Court and Supreme Court.

After graduation, I served for a period in the Army Medical Corps. That phase of my life taught me discipline, resilience, and gave me the confidence to face life's challenges.

After my release from the Army, my true ophthalmology journey began at the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital

(RIOGOH), Chennai, and at Stanley Medical College. I was fortunate to train under some of the greatest doyens in ophthalmology.

Those formative years were truly enriching. I had the rare privilege of learning directly from illustrious teachers like Prof. VML, , Prof. A.K., Prof. T.R.S., Prof. Rajappa, and many others. Their wisdom, clinical acumen, and commitment to excellence continue to inspire me every single day. Whatever I am today is because of the strong foundation they laid and the values they instilled. I remain eternally grateful to them.

I consider prof VML as my mentor and in fact he is more than a mentor .

My sincere thanks to Dr M.Srinivasan and Dr V Panneerselvam for their guidance during my PG days at Stanley medical college .

To My Friends and Colleagues — My Strength Through the Years

The journey through medicine is long, demanding, and at times lonely. What makes it bearable—and indeed joyful—is the fellowship of like-minded companions who walk alongside us.

To my dear friends in the ophthalmic community across Tamil Nadu: you have been my sounding board, my support system, and my source of strength during the most challenging times. Your confidence in me, your encouragement, and your generosity of spirit have brought me to this podium today. For that, I am deeply grateful.

Special Acknowledgement — Dr. Rajiv Sukumaran, President, KSOS

It gives me immense joy to acknowledge and thank one of my favourite students, Dr. Rajiv Sukumaran, who is currently serving as the President of the Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons.

The bond between Tamil Nadu and Kerala ophthalmology has always been one of warmth, mutual respect, and shared purpose. Dr. Rajiv exemplifies this bond beautifully. His presence and support on this occasion remind us that the spirit of our profession knows no state boundaries—we are united in our mission to preserve and restore sight.

Dr. Rajiv, your friendship means a great deal to me, and I sincerely hope that during my tenure, the collaboration between TNOA and KSOS will grow even stronger.

Special Acknowledgement — Dr. D. Chandrasekar, Honorary Secretary, TNOA

I must also offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Dr. D. Chandrasekar, the Honorary Secretary of our beloved Association.

Dr. Chandrasekar, your tireless work behind the scenes, your meticulous attention to the affairs of TNOA, and your unwavering commitment to the welfare of our members form the backbone of this organisation. As I step into this role, I do so with the comfort and confidence of knowing that you stand beside me. I am truly fortunate, and I thank you sincerely.

Tamil Nadu has a rich and proud legacy in ophthalmology—from the pioneering work of our stalwarts to the cutting-edge subspecialty care delivered today across our centres. As your President, I pledge to build upon this legacy with sincerity and purpose.

My Focus During This Term

1. Strengthening academic activities—conferences, workshops, and CMEs that truly elevate clinical practice.
2. Reaching the underserved—expanding outreach so that quality eye care is not limited by geography.
3. Empowering younger ophthalmologists—creating platforms for the next generation to learn, contribute, and lead.
4. Encouraging collaboration between institutions and neighbouring state associations.
5. Promoting innovation, research, and adoption of new technologies in ophthalmology.
6. Make the residents to know more about the importance of low visual aids

Dear colleagues, the road ahead is challenging, but I am confident that with your collective wisdom, energy, and commitment, we can make Tamil Nadu—and India—a global model in eliminating avoidable blindness.

Let us work not as individuals, but as one united family of eye care professionals.

A Mission Close to My Heart

My dear friends, while we continue to excel in cutting-edge ophthalmology, research, teaching, and surgical innovation, I firmly believe it is our moral and professional duty to extend our expertise to those who need it the most.

During my term, I wish to focus our collective energy and resources on one very important cause: helping intellectually challenged children in our state.

We will give special importance to children with Down syndrome. Many of these children face significant ophthalmic challenges—refractive errors, cataracts, strabismus, nystagmus, and other vision-threatening conditions—which often go undetected and untreated, further isolating them from the world.

As ophthalmologists, we are uniquely positioned to identify these problems early, provide timely intervention, and improve their quality of life.

For this noble initiative, we will extend our full support and collaboration to all associations and organisations in our state that are working tirelessly for the welfare of intellectually challenged children.

I My Thanks to Prof T P DAS and Dr Avinash of L V P institute. They

invited me for an oration and named a tree in my name at LVP Institute Bhuvaneshwar campus .

Thank you to this esteemed association for the trust you have placed in me.

Thank you to my teachers, my friends, and my family.

And thank you, each one of you, for being here today.

With your blessings and support, let us move forward—together—in the service of sight.

Jai TNOA.

Vanakkam.