

AMCANA NEWSLETTER



ANDHRA MEDICAL COLLEGE ALUMNI OF NORTH AMERICA

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SAVE THE DATE
EIGHTH AMCANA MEET
in Washington DC
Jul-31st to Aug-2nd, 2026

AMCANA

Message from the President



Dear Esteemed Alumni and Friends,

It gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 8th AMCANA Biannual Meet, to be held in Washington, DC, bringing together our distinguished alumni from across the globe for a memorable weekend of connection, collaboration, and celebration.

The AMCANA Biannual Meet has always been more than just a reunion—it is a celebration of our shared journeys, lifelong friendships, and our collective commitment to excellence in medicine and service. Each gathering strengthens the bonds that unite us and reaffirms the values instilled in us by our alma mater, Andhra Medical College.

We are pleased to host a Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, alongside a range of academic, social, and networking engagements. The meet will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dulles, Herndon, Virginia, with special room rates arranged for AMCANA members from July 30 to August 2, 2026.

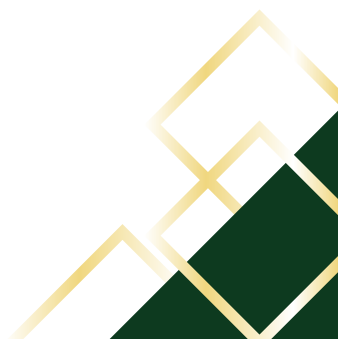
As part of this milestone gathering, we are also bringing out a Souvenir Publication to commemorate the occasion and celebrate the achievements, experiences, and creative expressions of our alumni community.

I warmly invite you to contribute to this souvenir by sharing articles, reflections, memoirs, poetry, professional insights and achievements, artwork, photography, or any creative expression. Advertisements to support this initiative are welcome and has the potential to reach a global alumni audience, reconnect with the AMC fraternity, and contribute to a publication that will serve as a lasting keepsake of our shared legacy.

I also encourage you to actively participate in the meet with your family and friends. Your presence will truly enrich the spirit of this gathering.

Let us come together to reconnect, celebrate, and continue to make a meaningful difference.

With warm regards,
Dr. Manikyam Mutyala
President, AMCANA



Honoring Leadership, Celebrating Service AMCANA Executive Committee



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Mutyala (87)**

President



**Dr. Nagendra
Myneni (86)**

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Pichika (92)**

President - Elect



**Dr. Mallareddy
Maddula (87)**

Treasurer



**Dr. Vijaya
Voruganti (81)**

Joint treasurer



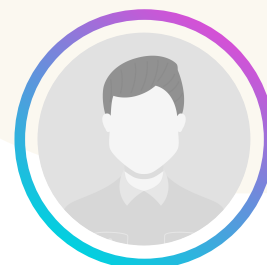
**Dr. Suresh
Kankanala**

Secretary



**Dr. Prasad
Chalasani (81)**

Member



Dr. K C Rao

Member



**Dr. Harathi
Bandaru**

Member



**Dr. Balaji
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Member



**Dr. Sudha Naidu
Thota**

Member



**Dr. Anu
Chirala (82)**

Member

As we present this edition of the AMCANA Newsletter, we also mark a moment of transition. This will be the final newsletter under the leadership of the current Executive Committee. Over the past term, the EC has worked with dedication, vision, and a deep sense of commitment to strengthening our alumni community, fostering meaningful engagement, and upholding the values of our alma mater.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of each member of the Executive Committee. Their contributions—often behind the scenes—have played a vital role in advancing AMCANA's mission and expanding its reach.



1985 batch reunion in Dubai, January 2026.

ఎడారి కమలం

తొలి జామున కణ కణమని నాట్యమాడు చలిమంట
మలి జామున నివురుగప్పి నినుగాచు హవమంట
తెల్లవారిన యౌవనపు తొలి వెలుగులు తొలగిననూ
గుండె నిండ వెచ్చనైన తొలి వలపుల తలపులలా

ఊట బావి తేట నీరు మధురమైన మన స్నేహం
ఎంత తోడు ఎంత తాగు ఎన్నటికీ తీరదు ఈ దాహం
మరలి రాము మరల రాము ఈ బాటన మనమెవరం
ప్రోగు చేయు జ్ఞాపకాలు అవి మధురం అతి మధురం

ఈ సైకత నడిబొడ్డున విరిసిన ఈ సరసిజము
వెదజల్లును స్నేహబంధ పరిమళాలు చిరకాలము
ఈ బంధపు ఈ యశస్సు ఖలీఫా బురుజు వోలె
ఆకసమును అంటుచుండు మనకొరకు కలకాలం

డా. మూర్తి జొన్నలగెడ్డ
సాత్ పోర్ట్, యునైటెడ్ కింగ్డమ్

Poem by Dr. Jonnalagadda
Veeravenkata Satyanarayana
Murty (AMC'85)



A Life Where Medicine, Literature, and Art Meet with Grace

Dr. Jonnalagadda Veeravenkata Satyanarayana Murty

Dr. Jonnalagadda Veeravenkata Satyanarayana Murty works in an environment where precision is sacred and silence carries weight, yet he can pause mid-procedure to be ambushed by a line of poetry. He responds to it with the same authority and emotion that shape his language. Moments later, he returns to the calm focus of a doctor who knows how to hold a life steady. Still in scrubs, he may jot down those haunting lines, and by evening, step onto a small stage to deliver a mischievous monologue that makes his audience forget they are watching a doctor moonlighting as an actor.

This duality — anaesthetist by day, playwright, poet, and irrepressible wit by night — is not a contradiction for him. It is simply the way he breathes. Introducing Dr. Murty Jonnalagedda is both a pleasure and a privilege: a “cerebral yet creative” star of Andhra Medical College whose life is woven with poetry, drama, innovation, and purpose. His work was previously featured in *Shining Stars of AMC, Volume 2 (2024)*.

Early Life

Dr. Murty was the youngest of five children born to Smt. Annapurna Devi and Sri Viswanadham. He completed his schooling in Amalapuram before joining the prestigious Andhra Medical College. His creative journey began long before his medical one — he still remembers the first poem that earned praise, the first play that drew applause, and the first skit that won him honours.

He often says, “As a child, I discovered that every poem whispered a meaning, every play revealed a hidden truth, and every act of healing a direction — a trio that still guides how I understand life.”

One of his earliest inspirations came at age six, when he won a storytelling prize from the late Dr. T. V. S. Raman, an AMC alumnus and celebrated child prodigy. He fondly recalls listening to Kavi Sammelanam on Radio Vijayawada every Ugadi, and being captivated by dramas like Chintamani, which taught him how humour can carry deep philosophical messages.

Years later, fate brought him back to AIR Vijayawada — this time not as a child listener, but as the poet on air, reciting a humorous poem on spinal anaesthesia.

Professional Journey

Dr. Jonnalagedda Murty, affectionately known as JVS, entered Andhra Medical College in 1985 after securing a place through a highly competitive state entrance examination. The men’s hostel became the heart of his student life, where friendships formed through shared rooms, late-night study sessions, and endless debates. These bonds became an extended family that stayed with him long after graduation.

After completing his MBBS, he specialised in Anaesthesia and soon distinguished himself in the field. His pursuit of excellence led him to the renowned Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry, where he spent three years refining his clinical skills.

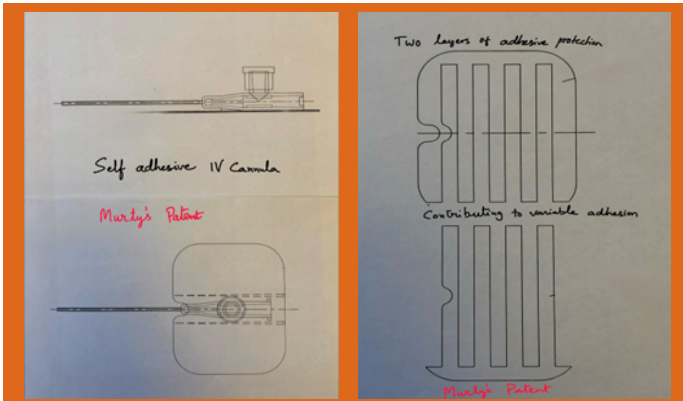
In 1999, driven by a passion for medical innovation and advanced training, he moved to the United Kingdom. Alongside his academic and clinical growth, he developed a strong interest in leadership within the National Health Service (NHS). To prepare for senior leadership roles, he completed a postgraduate certification at the Business School of Middlesex University, London.

Device Development

With characteristic humour, Dr. Murty often says the only lack of clarity in his life is deciding whether poetry shaped his medical device ideas or the devices shaped his poetry.

Between 2000 and 2002, while working at Glan Clwyd Hospital in Wales, he developed and patented an intravenous cannula. He also patented a novel concept on medical device adhesiveness and holds copyrights for a paper anaesthetic record and an anaesthetic information management system.

His principle — controlling adhesion by limiting exposed adhesive and using a zigzag thread for clean, low trauma removal — was later adopted commercially by companies such as 3M. It offered the rare combination of strong attachment with easy release, a simple yet elegant solution.



Dr. Murty showed that adhesion can be controlled by limiting exposed adhesive and by using a zigzag thread that allows clean, low trauma removal. This principle—later adopted commercially by 3M and others—enables strong attachment with easy release.

Drama and Telugu Literature

Dr. Murty’s love for the Telugu language is deep and enduring. Over the years, he has hosted and participated in numerous literary and poetic programmes across the world, both on stage and online. His greatest strength lies in his mastery of expression – the ability to turn complex ideas into clear, engaging language infused with wit, humour, and a powerful message.

He has hosted prestigious events for the Andhra Medical Graduates Reunion, the Vanguri Foundation of America, the Singapore Telugu Association, CP Brown Telugu foundation, and the Australasian Telugu Association. Through these platforms, he interacted with eminent literary and cultural figures such as Sirivennela, Bhuvanachandra, Vennelakanti, Ashok Teja, Tanikella Bharani, Gollapudi Maruthi Rao, Vanguri Chitten Raju, and Prof. Kolakaluri Enoch.

He has also presented at university seminars in Telugu departments and, during his theatre years, worked with legendary director K. Raghavendra Rao and actors like Gollapudi Maruthi Rao, Tanikella Bharani, Dharmavarapu Subramanyam, and Kota Srinivasa Rao.

All the Southport photos were accepted by the Council, with a view to use them in promoting tourism to the area

His contributions to Telugu literature span poems, short stories, cartoons, monthly columns, playlets, essays, and articles exploring village life, education, the environment, and human relationships. Notably, he coined the Telugu term for Anaesthesiology – “Sammohana Vaidya Sastram” – now included in the technical terminology dictionary.

Among his memorable creations are Anda ka Funda, a parody song with a message, and Dosedu Kastalu, a humorous poem that humanises everyday food items.

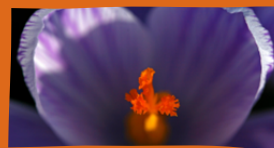
Photography and Art

Dr. Murty also nurtured a deep passion for photography, especially experimental work. He studied photographic theory extensively and worked as a professional photographer for weddings and events. His colleagues affectionately nicknamed him “David Bailey,” after the celebrated English fashion photographer.

Several of his photographs gained commercial value and were sold at local fundraising events and on platforms such as Adobe Stock. He also created meaningful cartoons that reflect his sharp observational humour.



A black and white film photo of a chrysanthemum bud taken using a vintage camera and lens extension tubes.



Macro photo of a Crocus flower



A swan and a signet



Red arrows at Southport air show

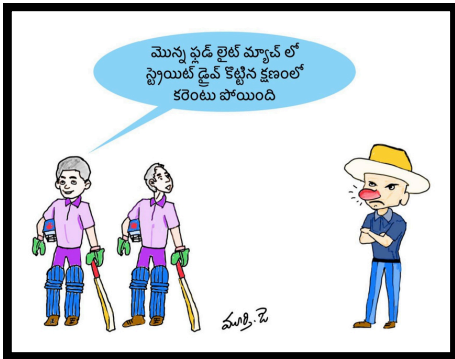
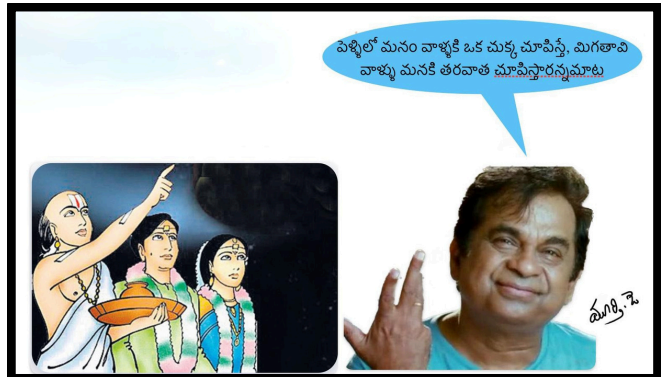
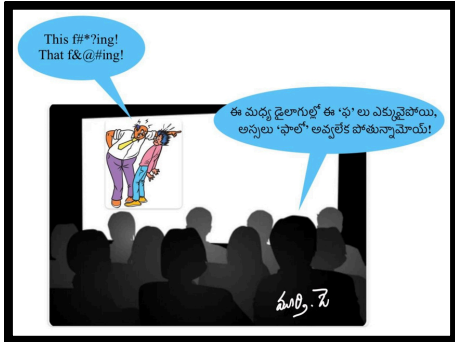
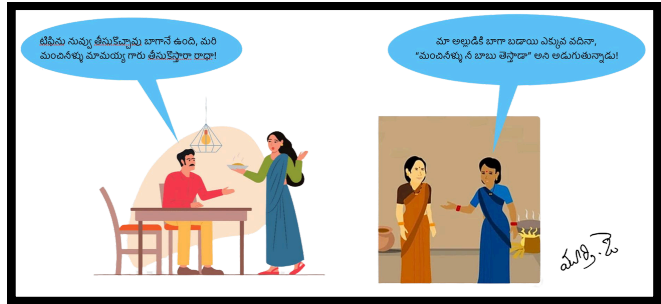
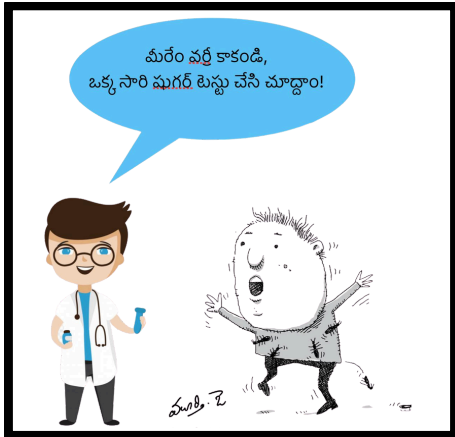


A wing walker at the Southport air show

Philanthropy and Felicitations

A quiet philanthropist, Dr. Murty has supported many individuals and institutions, often choosing to do so anonymously.

His contributions have earned him numerous honours, including the Cultural Personality of the Year Award from Asian Lite Magazine (presented by the Mayor of Manchester), the ANR Vamsee Vaidya Ratna Puraskar, the title "Sammohana Geervani – Bahumukha Pragna Vani" from the Birmingham Telugu community, and felicitations from the Vanguri Foundation of America and the World Telugu Congress.



Dr. Jonnalagedda Veeravenkata Satyanarayana Murty's life is a testament to how deeply one person can touch the world — through healing, through words, through art, and through the quiet strength of compassion. As an anaesthetist, he stood beside people in their most fragile moments. As a poet, playwright, and guardian of the Telugu language, he lit paths of thought, laughter, and reflection for countless others. His journey shows that a life lived with curiosity and courage becomes a gift to everyone it touches.

He now resides in Southport, in the Northwest of England, with his beloved consort, Smt. Subbalakshmi. Their daughter, Chandralekha, remains a source of joy and pride. He continues to inspire as a shining star of Andhra Medical College — a man whose brilliance lies not only in his achievements, but in the humanity, he brings to everything he does.

Dr. Murty can be reached at telugukiranam@gmail.com.

Recent events in AMC



**CAB committee Felicitating senior Alumni.
Dr. Narayana Murthy 1960 batch and Dr. Parameswari.**

SUSHENA
HEALTH FOUNDATION



"Mother's milk is life's first lifeline — every drop is liquid Gold."

Andhra Pradesh Largest Human Milk Bank in KGH Hospital, Visakhapatnam

Bhoomi Puja

**COMPREHENSIVE LACTATION MANAGEMENT CENTRE (CLMC)
DHAATRI MOTHERS' (HUMAN) MILK BANK**

Time :

Thursday, 30th April 2026 at 11:07 AM

Venue:

CEmOC (Comprehensive
Emergency Obstetrics Care) Block,
Opp. Blood Bank King George Hospital (KGH),
Visakhapatnam



With Gratitude: Dr. JVS Subba Rao Garu

We sincerely thank Dr. JVS Subba Rao Garu for his generous \$5,000 contribution in support of AMCANA and the Human Milk Project.

His support strengthens our mission to give every infant a healthy start and reflects a deep commitment to community well-being.

Recent events in AMC



Visit to Our Revered Guru's Residence Dr. K. Veerabhadraiah – A "Teacher of Teachers"

గురుసన్నిధి పర్యటన

తేదీ: 19-04-2026, ఆదివారం

డా. కె. వీరభద్రయ్య గారు - ఉపాధ్యాయులకు ఉపాధ్యాయుడు



గురుసన్నిధి కార్యక్రమంలో భాగంగా మా బృందం మన అందరి ఆరాధ్య గురువు, "Teacher of Teachers" డా. కె. వీరభద్రయ్య గారి నివాసాన్ని సందర్శించాము. సర్ మరియు మేడం గారు మాకు ఆప్యాయంగా స్వాగతం పలికారు.

జననం: 1934. ప్రస్తుత వయసు 92 సంవత్సరాలు. వెంట్రుకలు నెరసినా తప్ప మరే మార్పు లేదు. ఆ చిరపరిచితమైన ఫ్రెంచ్ కట్ మీసం, పదునైన చూపులు, ముఖంలోని తేజస్సు ఇప్పటికీ అలాగే ఉన్నాయి.

విద్య: గుంటూరు వైద్య కళాశాలలో పీ-క్లినికల్, 1950-1955 మధ్య ఎ.ఎం.సిలో ఎం.బి.బి.ఎస్ పూర్తి చేశారు.

వృత్తి ప్రస్థానం: మొదటి పోస్టింగ్ తిరుపతి, తరువాత కర్నూలు. ప్రఖ్యాత లింగం సూర్యనారాయణ గారి వద్ద అసిస్టెంట్ ప్రొఫెసర్ గా పనిచేశారు.

స్వర్ణ యుగం: 70వ దశకపు బ్యాచ్ లు మర్చిపోలేని రోజులు అవి. సర్వరీ విభాగం డా. జి.ఎం. నారాయణస్వామి గారు, డా. పిచ్చయ్య గారు, డా. ఇ.ఎన్.బి. శర్మ గారు, డా. వీరభద్రయ్య గారు మరియు డా. ఎన్.ఆర్. రంగనాథం గార్ల ఆధ్వర్యంలో వెలిగిపోయింది.

జ్ఞాపకాలు: ఆ రోజుల్లో S3 వార్డులో సర్ క్లినిక్స్ కోసం పరుగులు తీసేవాళ్ళం. AOT బాల్కనీ నుండి సర్ అసాధారణ శస్త్రచికిత్సా నైపుణ్యాన్ని తిలకించేవాళ్ళం.

మా సన్మానాన్ని సర్ సంతోషంగా స్వీకరించి, "నా విద్యార్థులను కలవడం చాలా ఆనందంగా ఉంది" అని అన్నారు.

మా స్పందన: మాస్టారితో గడిపిన ఆ కొద్ది సమయం మేము ఎప్పటికీ మరువలేని అనుభూతి. 92 ఏళ్ల వయసులోనూ ఆ తేజస్సు, ఆ జ్ఞాపకశక్తి, ఆ ఆప్యాయత - నిజంగా గురువు అనే పదానికి నిలువెత్తు నిదర్శనం

Written by Dr. Uday Kumar Boddapalli
April 19, 2026

Recent events in AMC

Uddanam gets biomarker facility for renal ailments

A state-of-the-art lab set up at KGH as part of ICMR research proj

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

@ Vijayawada

FOR the first time, biomarker-based urine testing has been introduced in Uddanam to identify early signs of kidney disease among local residents. A dedicated research team has begun collecting blood and urine samples, aiming to uncover the root causes of the region's high incidence of renal disorders.

A state-of-the-art laboratory has been set up at King George Hospital (KGH), Vizag, equipped with centrifuges, analytical instruments, deep freezers, and biosafety-compliant storage systems, valued at nearly ₹80 lakh. The facility was established following approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which sanctioned a ₹6.2 crore grant last November for a three-year study.

Senior nephrologist Prof Tatapudi Raviraju is mentoring the project, with Andhra Medical College's Dr G Prasad serving as principal investiga-



The biomarker-based urine testing was introduced in Uddanam to identify early signs of kidney disease among residents | EXPRESS

tor. The team has collected samples from 1,500 residents, stored at the Palasa Kidney Research Centre before being transferred to KGH for advanced testing.

Biomarker analysis will allow doctors to detect kidney disease risk up to four years in advance, offering patients the chance to take key measures. "This is the first time such large-scale biomarker testing is being carried out in Uddanam," said Dr Raviraju and Dr Prasad.

Health Minister Y Sathya Ku-

mar Yadav, who was briefed on the progress, urged the team to accelerate research and ensure that affected families receive timely support.

He emphasised that the findings should help prevent disease progression and reduce suffering in the region. It marks a revival of research efforts.

With renewed government backing and ICMR's support, scientists are now moving forward with a structured plan to complete the study within the stipulated timeframe.

Amateurs Hike Kilimanjaro: A Journey of Grit, Friendship, and Rediscovery

The idea to climb Mount Kilimanjaro began with a simple phone call from a former classmate who had developed a passion for high-altitude trekking over the years. She reached out to a handful of AMC batchmates who shared a similar spirit for adventure. Some of us had not spoken since graduating from medical school nearly twenty-five years earlier, yet the connection felt immediate and effortless. This trip offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to step outside our comfort zones and attempt something extraordinary.

There were plenty of limitations. Our fitness levels were far from ideal; rusted bodies that had not been physically challenged in years made committing to this endeavor intimidating. Still, enthusiasm triumphed over hesitation. Ultimately, twelve medicos from AMC signed up for the expedition. After multiple Zoom meetings discussing training plans, gear, clothing, and travel logistics, we identified the essentials. Most started endurance and strength training 3 months prior.

Setting the Stage

We entrusted the logistics to Altezza Travel, whose professionalism and organization were exemplary throughout the journey. Nearly fifty staff members: guides, porters, camp managers, and sanitation attendants, supported our climb. From carrying equipment and setting up tents to preparing meals and maintaining hygiene facilities, they allowed us to focus entirely on the physical and mental challenges ahead. The role of porters is profoundly underappreciated; without them, there is neither the hike, nor the success to talk about.

After landing at Kilimanjaro International Airport, we drove to Arusha, a small town that serves as the gateway to the mountain. A rest day there helped us recover from over twenty-four hours of travel across multiple time zones, inspect our gear, and rent essentials.

The following morning, we headed toward Kilimanjaro National Park's western entrance, the Londorosi Gate. The four-hour drive through the countryside was striking in its simplicity. Lush green valleys, mango trees and banana groves, calm, and timeless landscapes. Giraffes grazing in the distance, monkeys darted through trees, and children waved as our bus passed through small hamlets. The scenery evoked quite a nostalgia, reminiscent of childhood memories from India.

Start of the Ascent: Pole Pole

We chose the Lemosho Route, known for its scenic beauty and higher summit success rate. Beginning at approximately 11,500 feet, the mountain started testing us. Rain greeted us as soon as we stepped off the bus, and ponchos became constant companions. It rained almost daily, with snow reserved for summit night.

Our guides repeatedly reminded us of two Swahili phrases: "Hakuna Matata" (no worries) and "Pole pole" (slowly, slowly). Other chants, such as "One team, one dream," helped keep morale high. The first day's hike to Shira I Camp lasted about three hours and was intentionally kept short to aid acclimatization.

Altitude, Adaptation, and Fellowship

Over the next few days, we moved through Shira 2 Camp, past Lava Tower, and on to Barranco Camp. The landscape grew increasingly surreal, with vast valleys dotted with giant prehistoric plants often referred to as “Dr. Seuss trees.”

Day four brought the ascent of the Barranco Wall, a near-vertical rock scramble rising almost 1,000 feet from the valley. While exhilarating, it was equally intimidating, especially when glancing down at the drop below. We were at an elevation, nearing 14,000 feet, symptoms of altitude sickness became apparent. Headaches, nausea, fatigue, and loss of appetite affected many of us. We were encouraged to increase our hydration and take daily Diamox to reduce symptoms.

Evenings brought comfort in simple forms. Warm squash soups, served with white rice accompanied by Indian pickles and spices, created a sense of home. Jokes, childhood memories, and soft music filled our tents, fostering laughter and warmth amid the cold and fatigue.

Summit Night

On day five, we reached Kosovo Camp at nearly 16,000 feet by noon. Freezing temperatures, strong winds, and intermittent snow/sleet tested our resolve. Dinner was served at 2 p.m., followed by instructions to sleep early. Our summit attempt was scheduled for midnight. Few of us slept as questions lingered: Was our gear sufficient? Would our bodies endure the cold and altitude?

At 10 p.m., the porters' wake-up call jolted us into action. We layered up in merino wool, insulated down jackets, double gloved and double socks. Most wore at least five layers. One of the teammate withdrew at this stage, further dampened spirits. At midnight, under pitch-dark skies, we lined up to begin the final ascent. Glowing LED headlamps from other hikers lit up the path like firefly's in that darkness, quite a scene.

Reaching Uhuru Peak

The climb was relentless; nine hours of steep ascent over snow-covered terrain in subzero temperatures. Fatigue was overwhelming, stops were brief, for sips of water. Unexpectedly, music became our lifeline. Familiar Telugu classics by Ilaiyaraaja played from our phones, in the background, renewing our energy and lifting our spirits. As dawn broke, we realized the scale of what we had climbed. We were in alpine winter wonderland, snow blanketed the entire mountain top, and sunlight reflecting intensely off the surface, causing snow blindness. Wearing snow goggles, we hurried towards the summit.

While my guides whispered “Pole Pole”, I replied, Haraka, Haraka (fast, fast), and off I went racing to Stella pointe at 18,885 feet, and finally to the Summit, Uhuru Peak at 19341 ft, Africa's highest point and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world. As I welcomed my teammates to the summit, my emotions ran wild, euphoric, and crying in joy. I can see the relief in everyone's face. We finally did it. Self-doubts were casted away. Confidence gleamed at success. It was 9:15am, at the sunbathed summit peak. Tired, sleepless, inflated and deflated at the same time. After a few photo clicks and handshakes, my fellow hiker pulled up a banner reading “Grandma I made it at 65”, we were just in awe, a truly humbling moment for the entire team. No one thought he was 65. It was his second attempt at summiting; he did it so gracefully. He showed us how age is not an obstacle.

Descent and Reflection

The celebration was brief. The descent to Millennium Camp was equally punishing, nearly fourteen hours of continuous trekking, with close to 10,000 feet of elevation loss. After a night halt we started another 8 hours of hurried down stroll through lush tropical rainforest heading towards Mweke gate, the exit from Kilimanjaro National Park at 5381 feet. Although this was the most scenic part of the trip, no one is in a mood to enjoy it, as each one of us is tired and longing for a shower and sleep. Another record, (not to be proud of) 7 days of no shower.



- Geetha Devi Vallabhaneni (1994)
- Vamsi Ponnaganti (1994)
- Nagendra V Myneni (1986)
- Satti Reddy Velagal (1986)
- Vinay Kumar Godena (1994)
- Saikrishna V Aleti (1994)

What We Took Home

This journey rekindled old friendships and forged new ones. It reminded us that despite demanding careers and aging bodies, we remain capable of challenge, growth, and transformation. This was a shared experience that restored belief in ourselves, and in the power of collective purpose, and those memories will last a lifetime.

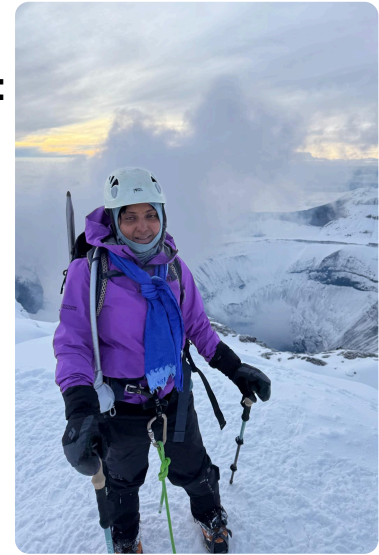
Author: Saikrishna V Aleti (1994)

From Kilimanjaro to Cotopaxi: A Continuing Journey of Strength and Summit

Following the inspiring Kilimanjaro expedition, Dr. Radha (Batch of 1999) continues to exemplify the spirit of adventure and resilience that defines the AMC alumni community.

After successfully summiting Mount Kilimanjaro in 2023 as part of a remarkable group of nine women physicians, Dr. Radha has taken her passion for high-altitude trekking even further. In January 2025, she achieved yet another extraordinary milestone by summiting Cotopaxi in Ecuador, one of the world’s tallest active volcanoes, rising to nearly 19,000 feet.

Dr. Radha’s journey reflects not only personal determination but also a commitment to empowering others. Each year, she leads hiking expeditions for women, creating spaces for strength, confidence, and camaraderie beyond the clinical world.



THANK YOU,
DR. JVS SUBBA RAO GARU

For your generous donation of

\$5,000



Your support empowers
AMCANA and the Human Milk
Project to give every infant a
healthy start.

Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi: Building a Home Beyond Borders

“Man can never be a woman’s equal in the spirit of selfless service with which nature has endowed her.”
— Mahatma Gandhi



In the bustling yet often isolating landscape of New York City, countless elderly South Asian immigrants silently grapple with loneliness, cognitive decline, and cultural disconnection. Stories like that of Mr. Naidu, a Sanskrit scholar lost to dementia, or Professor S. Kumari, a scientist confined by Alzheimer’s, reflect a deeply underserved reality—one that found a compassionate champion in Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi (AMC ’75).

A distinguished geriatric psychiatrist, Dr. Kalasapudi, transformed her clinical insight into a powerful social mission. Recognizing the urgent need for culturally sensitive care and companionship among aging South Asian immigrants, she founded India Home in 2007—a nonprofit dedicated to empowering and supporting this vulnerable community.

From Medicine to Mission

Born in Saluru and educated in Bobbili, Dr. Kalasapudi’s journey took her across continents—from molecular biology research in Paris and New York to a successful psychiatric practice spanning two decades. Yet, her true calling emerged beyond hospital walls. Witnessing the emotional and social struggles of elderly immigrants, she redirected her career toward building a community-centered support system.

Creating a Community of Care

What began as a small initiative grew into a pioneering model of senior care. In its early years, India Home collaborated with temples and community centers, offering weekly programs. Over time, it expanded into a multi-faceted organization with structured services and dedicated facilities.

A major milestone came in 2014, when India Home partnered with local leadership in Jamaica, Queens, to establish a senior center for the Bangladeshi community. This initiative marked the beginning of a broader, inclusive approach to South Asian elder care.

With over \$7.5 million in grants from city, state, and federal sources, India Home has since developed:

- Multiple senior centers across New York
- A co-living home for seniors (2022)
- Plans for 79 units of intergenerational affordable housing in Queens

Holistic Programs for Dignified Aging

Born in Saluru and educated in Bobbili, Dr. Kalasapudi's journey took her across continents—from molecular biology research in Paris and New York to a successful psychiatric practice spanning two decades. Yet, her true calling emerged beyond hospital walls. Witnessing the emotional and social struggles of elderly immigrants, she redirected her career toward building a community-centered support system.

India Home offers a vibrant ecosystem of services tailored to the unique needs of its community:

- Daily group meals and social engagement
- Creative aging and wellness programs
- Assistance with citizenship and benefits
- Health education, legal awareness, and financial literacy
- Cultural celebrations such as Diwali

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization played a critical role in prevention education, vaccinations, and health screenings, supported by federal and CDC grants.

Bridging Community and Academia

Under Dr. Kalasapudi's leadership, India Home has collaborated with esteemed institutions such as:

- Brown University
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- Harvard University

These partnerships have advanced research in mental health and aging within South Asian populations—an area historically underrepresented in academic studies.

Recognition and Legacy

Dr. Kalasapudi's work has earned widespread recognition. Among her many honors:

- PBS Next Avenue Influencers in Aging
- Rising Star Award (Council of Senior Centers, New York)
- Fred Meyers Community Partner Award
- Excellence Award by TANA

Despite these accolades, she remains deeply grounded. Today, while she continues part-time psychiatric practice, her heart lies fully with India Home—where she describes herself as a “full-time homemaker.”

A Life of Impact

Living in Glen Oaks, New York, with her husband, Dr. Srinivasa Rao, a biomedical scientist, Dr. Kalasapudi balances family life with an unwavering commitment to service. Through her vision, thousands of seniors have found not just care—but dignity, belonging, and joy.

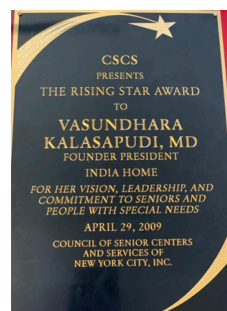
Her journey stands as a powerful reminder:

True medicine extends beyond treatment—it builds communities, restores purpose, and gives life meaning at every age.

Author Dr. Seshu Sarma



Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi with NYC's First Lady, Chirlane McCray.



India Home's Executive Director, Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi, at the 34th Annual AAPI Convention.



Dr. Vasundhara with her husband, Dr. K. Srinivasarao



Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi with other volunteers of India Home

In Memoriam

A Life of Service, Grace, & Compassion

Dr. E. Lakshmi, M.D.
Professor of Physiology
(October 1979 – September 2000)

With deep respect and heartfelt remembrance, we pay tribute to Dr. E. Lakshmi, a distinguished Professor of Physiology at Andhra Medical College.

Dr. Lakshmi was not only an accomplished academician but also a dedicated teacher who shaped the minds and careers of countless medical students. Her commitment to excellence, clarity in teaching, and compassionate approach left an enduring impact on all who had the privilege of learning from her.

Known for her gentle demeanor and unwavering dedication, she inspired generations of students to pursue medicine with integrity and purpose. Her legacy continues to live on through the many lives she touched—both within the classrooms and beyond.

As we remember her today, we honor her invaluable contributions to medical education and her lasting influence on the AMC community.

May her soul rest in peace.



Leadership Rooted in Service: The Journey of Dr. Sridhar Chilimuri

We are proud to feature Dr. Sridhar Chilimuri, Chairman of BronxCare's Department of Medicine.

At the heart of exceptional healthcare lies a rare combination of clinical excellence, compassionate leadership, and an unwavering commitment to community service. Few embody these qualities as profoundly as Dr. Sridhar Chilimuri of BronxCare Health System.

As Physician-In-Chief and Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Dr. Chilimuri leads one of the largest and most dynamic departments within BronxCare, overseeing hundreds of physicians, residents, fellows, and multidisciplinary teams dedicated to delivering quality patient care. His leadership has played a significant role in strengthening patient safety initiatives, expanding specialty services, and advancing medical education within the institution.

What makes Dr. Chilimuri's journey especially inspiring is its deeply human foundation. After graduating from Andhra Medical College, he arrived in the United States in 1988 as an intern at BronxCare, then known as Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center. What began as an opportunity to train in medicine evolved into a lifelong mission to serve one of New York's most diverse and underserved communities. Over the decades, he rose through the ranks through dedication, clinical expertise, and visionary leadership.



A distinguished gastroenterologist by specialty, Dr. Chilimuri is also recognized for his contributions to medical education and mentorship. Under his guidance, BronxCare's Internal Medicine Residency Program has earned recognition for academic rigor and innovation, helping shape the next generation of physicians. His passion for teaching and commitment to advancing healthcare standards continue to influence countless trainees and colleagues.

Beyond titles and achievements, colleagues often describe Dr. Chilimuri as a leader who leads with accessibility, humility, and purpose. His work reflects a larger vision — one where healthcare extends beyond treatment to dignity, trust, and community impact.

In a recent feature shared by BronxCare Health System, Dr. Chilimuri's enduring commitment to improving healthcare outcomes and strengthening medical excellence was once again highlighted — a testament to decades of service that continue to inspire both peers and future healthcare leaders.

As medicine continues to evolve, leaders like Dr. Chilimuri remind us that true impact is built not only through innovation and expertise, but through compassion, mentorship, and an unwavering dedication to humanity.