



Obituary



Dr. Mrs. Irene Manorama Thomas, BSc (Hons), MBBS, MS (Anatomy), FAMS, Emeritus, Former Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.

Dr. I.M. Thomas attained the lotus feet of God on Sunday, 21st February 2016, after a brief illness. She was a dedicated teacher, committed researcher and a good hearted, charming person. She was born on 12th October 1935. She graduated (MBBS) from CMC Vellore (1962) and MS (Anatomy) from Govt. Medical College, Dharbangha. She joined the Anatomy Department, St. John's Medical College, Bangalore (1966) as Tutor and served this institution for nearly three decades. She was made Head of Anatomy and Genetics from 1st September 1984 – a post she held till her retirement in October 2000. She availed sabbatical leave and worked for short durations in Libya (1986) and Brunei (1999).

She was well known and highly respected in national and international circles for her contributions in the field of human genetics, anatomy, medical education and medical ethics. She piloted several research projects in human genetics funded by ICMR and DST, Govt. of India. She had several publications to her credit in reputed national and international journals. She has guided nine PhD scholars and a number of postgraduate students in anatomy. She was instrumental in piloting the Anatomy Department into a center of excellence in research (Liza Chako award 1988 by the Anatomical Society of India). She used to regularly attend national conferences of the ASI for several years till 2000.

She established and nurtured the genetics lab at St. John's Medical College – today this lab has grown into an important tertiary referral center for genetic counseling and related diagnostics. She had trained a number of doctors from all over the country in the field of human genetics – many of whom have subsequently started their own genetic lab. She was a member of the technical subcommittee-pre-natal diagnostic techniques and prohibition of sex selection, Govt. of India. Post-retirement, she was the chairperson of the Independent Ethics Committee consultants, Bangalore.

She was honored with BC Roy award from the MCI (1992) and IMA Doctors Day Award (1993). The Anatomical Society of India has honored her with Fellow of Anatomical Society of India (2013) and Professor Inderjit Dewan Life Time Achievement Award (2016).

It has been my proud privilege to work under her able dynamic leadership. She was my mentor and post-graduate guide.

She is survived by her husband, son and sister. I pray to God to give them the strength to bear this loss.

May her soul rest in peace.

V. Balasubramanyam

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