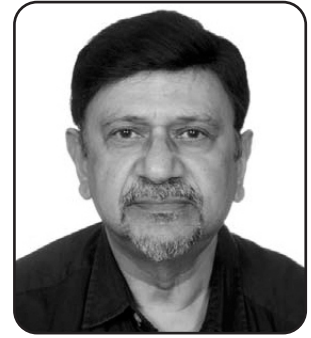


Shri Madanmohan Ramanlal

GCRI Luminary Oration Award - 2024

Dr. Kiran Kothari
MS, DNB, PGDHHM

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Educational Background and Early Career

My journey in medicine began at St. Xavier's School in Ahmedabad, followed by medical education at Baroda Medical College. I completed MBBS in 1978 and went on to earn MS in General Surgery in 1981. My passion for oncology led me to the Gujarat Cancer & Research Institute (GCRI), where I started as a Junior Lecturer in 1982. Over the years at GCRI, I advanced through various roles, including Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and ultimately, Professor of Surgical Oncology. My career at GCRI spanned 35 years and 5 months, culminating in my role as Deputy Director, where I significantly influenced the institute's clinical and administrative functions.

International Training and Influence

Throughout my career, I always sought to expand my knowledge and skills by obtaining training from some of the most renowned cancer centers globally. My international exposure included visits to the Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo, MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in New York, among others. During my tenure at MSKCC, I worked closely with Dr. Jatin P. Shah, a world-renowned head and neck surgeon, which profoundly impacted my approach to surgical oncology.

These international experiences helped me to bring advanced techniques to GCRI, particularly in head and neck oncology. I was an early adopter of the pectoralis major myocutaneous flap for reconstructive surgery in head and neck cancer patients, a technique that was essential for patients presenting with advanced stages of cancer in India.

Pioneering Minimally Invasive Surgery at GCRI

My vision and leadership were instrumental in pioneering minimally invasive surgical techniques at GCRI. In 2003, I established the Department of Minimal Invasive Surgery, reflecting my commitment

to adopting new surgical modalities that improve patient outcomes. This department was inaugurated under my leadership and quickly became a center for advanced laparoscopic procedures.

My work in minimally invasive surgery extended to various oncological procedures, including esophagectomies, gastrectomies, and colorectal surgeries. I also emphasized the importance of these techniques in reducing patient recovery times, minimizing surgical trauma, and improving overall survival rates in cancer patients. Ultimately these efforts significantly contributed to the popularization and acceptance of laparoscopy in oncology across India.

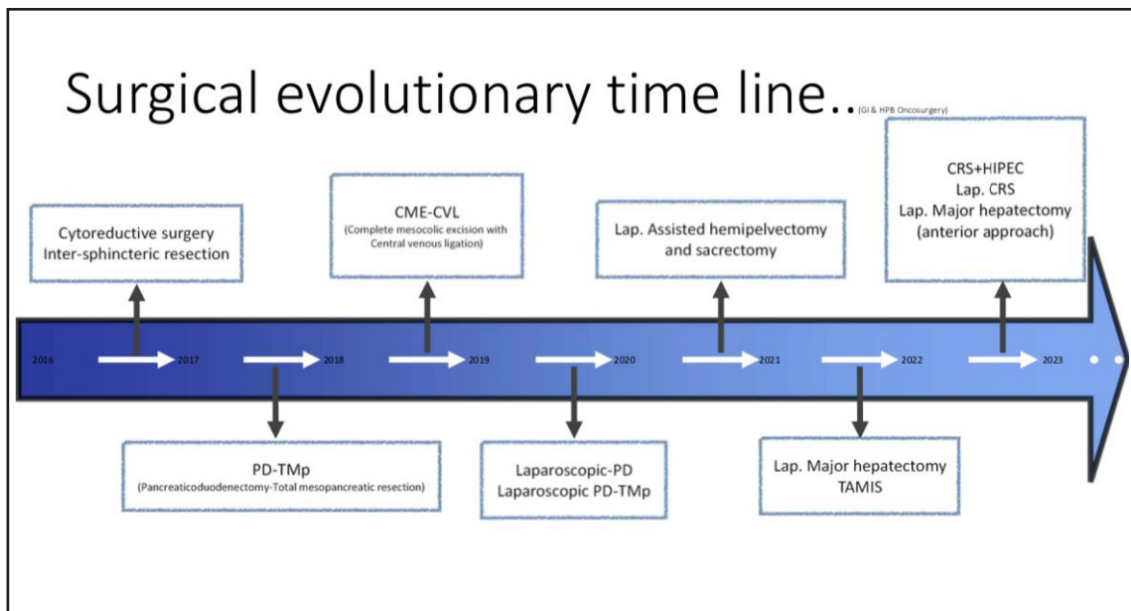
Leadership and Contributions to Medical Education

Apart from being a skilled surgeon, I was also a dedicated educator. I have held numerous leadership positions within professional associations, such as the Indian Association of Surgical Oncology, where I served as President. My involvement in academic activities included serving as an examiner and coordinator for surgical oncology programs at multiple institutions across India, including Tata Memorial Hospital, AIIMS, and other prestigious medical universities.

I also played a crucial role in organizing national and international conferences, workshops, and training programs at GCRI, helping to elevate the institute's status as a leading cancer research and treatment center. My commitment to education extended to my work as a faculty member at various international forums, where I shared my expertise in minimally invasive oncology surgeries.

Contributions to Research and Innovation

I was actively involved in research throughout my career. I participated in and led several clinical trials and research projects at GCRI, focusing on



improving surgical techniques and patient outcomes in oncology. Notable projects included studies on the use of depot progesterone in high-risk breast cancer and trials assessing novel approaches to neck dissections in oral cancer.

My dedication to advancing the field was further demonstrated through involvement in developing and implementing hospital management information systems at GCRI, streamlining administrative processes, and improving patient care services.

Recognition and Legacy

My contributions to oncology have been widely recognized, earning me numerous awards and honors, including life memberships in esteemed medical societies and fellowships from international surgical organizations.

Conclusion

As I reflect on this journey, I credit my mentors, colleagues, and the GCRI community for their support and collaboration throughout my career. I wish my legacy of excellence, compassion and leadership will continue to inspire future generations of oncology professionals, ensuring the impact on cancer care will endure for years to come.