



Short Bio/CV

N Gopalakrishnan MD DM FRCP, FISN, FISOT

I have been fortunate to have contributed in all domains Nephrology viz., Academics, Clinical service, Research, Advocacy & Administration, spanning over three decades.

After passing MD General Medicine from Madurai Medical College (South India) in 1991, my services began in a remote village in Tamil Nadu, which provided a glimpse of rural Indian life, the needs and aspirations of the people, the strengths and faultlines of the societal design and the stark urban-rural differences in health care access and facilities. Exposure to rural India during the first stint of my Government service has wielded a definite influence on whatever I did subsequently during the next three decades with emphasis on transformation of system.

I trained in Nephrology under the legendary teacher Prof M A Muthusethupathi, in Madras Medical College (1994-96) and since then have been serving in the Government institutions (Medical College Hospitals) of Tamilnadu in different designations.

During my tenure at Government Chengalpattu Medical College, I could start the dialysis services, for the first ever time, in 2007.

The stint at Madras Medical College, as the Head of Nephrology (upgraded as Institute of Nephrology in 2016) from 2011 – 2024 has been remarkable with several contributions in academics, infrastructure development and research viz., Direct mentorship for 78 Nephrology trainees, Bringing up Kidney block with 8 storeys, 10 bedded Renal Intensive Care Unit, Strengthening CAPD services, Starting the first ever Maintenance Hemodialysis Unit in the Government sector (2013), participating in multi-centric trials (CREDENCE, TESTING, ACHIEVE, etc.,) galvanising research culminating in several publications. Conducted the first ever population based CKD prevalence survey of Tamil Nadu (STEPS survey)

Have been author/co-author in 180 publications (H index 28), author of 20 book chapters and recipient of 15 Oration awards, including Service Excellence Award from ISN-ANIO (American Nephrologists of Indian Origin)

Served as member of Scientific Committees of Indian Society of Nephrology, ISN-Southern Chapter, Peritoneal Dialysis Society of India and Indian Society of Organ Transplantation. Currently, Chairman, Scientific Committee of Indian Society of Nephrology since 2022.

I have been the Member Secretary of Ethics Committee, Madras Medical College and Chairman, Ethics Committee, Govt Multi-Super speciality Hospital, Chennai. Have served as the Chairman, Research Board, Tamilnadu Dr MGR Medical University.

Served as member of the Institute Body & Selection Committee of AIIMS, Delhi (2017-2022) CKD Core Committee, ICMR & South Asia Regional Board, International Society of Nephrology

Served as Nodal Officer, COVID care at MMC, the largest COVID care hospital of South India

Recently, elevated as the highest 4th Tier Global Burden of Disease Collaborator

As Nodal Officer, Renal Health, TamilNadu state, I contributed for enhancement of kidney care in different strata of the Government of Tamil Nadu – Promoting CAPD programme (provision of CAPD bags at the doorstep of patients), screening of high risk adults for proteinuria, etc.,

During the past one year, in my role as the Member Secretary, Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu, enhanced the Deceased Donor Transplant Programme of the state by 30% and received the prestigious Good Governance Award from the Government of Tamilnadu.

Candidate's Statement

My Wish List -- if elected as ISN Regional Board Leader...

I shall strive to accomplish the following in different domains of Kidney care

Academics

- Periodic virtual academic sessions – for the trainees / practitioners. The academic programmes would be differently designed to address the unique issues – more of problem solving and interactive sessions, rather than didactic lectures
- Creation of interactive academic platforms for seamless flow of information among Nephrologists of South Asian countries

Research

- Multi-centric research in clinical Nephrology and epidemiology
- Focus on issues relevant to SA countries
Infection Related Glomerulonephritis (we have done the first RCT on utility of steroids),
Snake envenoming,
Toxic nephropathies, including complementary/alternative medicine – related diseases,
CKDu
Obstetric AKI, etc
- Validation / devising formula for eGFR for South Asian population
- Support for publications

System Enhancement

- Support for establishing newer renal service centres
- 'Low cost model' of Tamilnadu for providing comprehensive Kidney care at a subsidised cost would be shared to the needy states
- Support in establishing Deceased Donor Kidney Transplantation -- by sharing the successful models of India
- Creating more opportunities for imparting focused training for the students/junior Nephrologists

Strengthening Bond among SA countries

- Frequent virtual/physical interaction beyond borders
- Combined research and publications with more inclusivity