

### **PROF RN RATH ORATION-2023**

Air Vice Marshal (Dr) Subramanian Shankar is an outstanding Rheumatologist in the Armed Forces and currently serving as the the Director and Commandant of Command Hospital (Air Force), Bengaluru, the largest hospital of the Indian Air Force. He was formerly the Professor & Head of Internal Medicine at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. He later served in a policy making role with the DGAFMS, Ministry of Defense, New Delhi.

Dr Shankar had completed his MBBS from AFMC, Pune where he was the University Gold Medalist. He did his postgraduation from the same Institute and later trained in Rheumatology & Clinical Immunology from AIIMS, New Delhi.

Dr Shankar is a multifaceted personality who is a physician, rheumatologist, academician, researcher, administrator, mathematician, systems thinker, and ecosystem creator and manages to excel in all of them. A distinguished physician and rheumatologist with 34 years of experience in his field of expertise, he has been a teacher at AFMC and other PG hospitals for most of his career and trained over 2500 Doctors of Armed Forces. He has also been a UG, PG and DM examiner for multiple universities including AIIMS and PGI, Chandigarh.

An avid researcher with over 150 publications in various national and international medical journals and books to his credit. He is one of the very few Indian scientists with a research paper in the prestigious journal "Nature", that most scientists and researchers dream of publishing but rarely achieve. His h index of 27 and 4000 citations speak volumes about his research quality. His deep interest in mathematics has enabled him to work and publish extensively in diverse fields like biomarker discovery in arthritis using proteomics, cellular pathways, biocuration, HIV drug resistance, mathematical modeling of COVID pandemic and Artificial Intelligence in health. He is one of those rare individuals who quit an option to join IIT, the ultimate aspiration for youngsters interested in engineering for Medicine.

He served on the editorial committee of Indian Journal of Rheumatology for over 7 years and was its Editor-in-Chief from 2009-2013. He is an out of the box thinker. To inculcate research ethos among undergraduates, he established an all-India platform 'Illuminati' in 2010 at AFMC, Pune. This has been attracting over 800 students and more than 150 papers annually from medical colleges for over a decade.

A creator of ecosystems, he established the Dr SD Deodhar quiz for postgraduates and Rheuma-whiz for post-doctoral residents of Rheumatology over a decade ago and conducted them for almost 5-7 years before handing it over to his colleagues.

His contributions to medical science has been recognized by several awards and prizes including MN Sen Oration award by Indian Council of Medical Research, General Amir Chand Award by National Academy of Medical Sciences, IRA Oration by Indian Rheumatology Association, Dr PJ Mehta Oration by API and the Capital Foundation award, New Delhi. He was conferred FRCP (Glasgow) in 2012 by Royal College of Physicians for his contributions to Rheumatology and the Chief of Air Staff Award in 2013 for his distinguished service.

On behalf of the IRA-Odisha, we are privileged and honored to bestow the Prof R N Rath Oration for the year 2023 for your outstanding contributions. We pray Lord Jagannath to bless you with a long, healthy, and productive life ahead.