

Foreword

I am very happy to write this foreword for this publication of the works of Academician Dr. Manacadu Kumar Rajakumar, a beloved friend and mentor. He has been an icon for me since the days of my first joining the then College of General Practitioners of Malaysia (later the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia) and an inspiration to my life in the College.

Dr. Rajakumar has been a man with deep passion for the cause he believed in. He has been a born leader all his life, from his early years at home, his school, his University days, and later, during his professional life. He was always able to see ahead of his time and this ability sometimes got him into some difficulties. He was influential on many issues relating to family medicine and society at the international stage. Despite the international acclaim, he has always maintained a humble self.

He has led the Malaysian medical profession into new frontiers. He was able to see general practice develop into a specialty. His presidency of Malaysian Medical Association, his adjunct Professorship at University Kebangsaan Malaysia and his leadership calling in China and also the Presidency of WONCA were all leadership roles he took on in order to promote general practice – all this while continues to be the Chairman of the Council of the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia. His constant reminder that our College/Academy and examination, although recognised internationally, could not be recognised at home!

These talks and publications which have been compiled here is a good testament of the passion and the vision of the man who has devoted his entire life to the development and betterment of the general practitioner, by promoting the discipline of family medicine through education and examination. All the members who have had the good fortune to understudy him are now making it a reality by implementing what he stood for during his life-time of service. He still continues to inspire us, recently even from his hospital bed!

The words of Ralph Waldo Emerson are apt to describe him as follows:

“To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition:

*To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.
That is to have succeeded."*

The publication is a reflection of the life of the man, what he has believed in and what he hopes for and it is hoped that every one will benefit from his faith, his hope and his charity for the world.

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