



# Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation

(A Registered Canadian Charity – BN 89002 4995 RR0001)

**Autumn Issue**

**MSMF Newsletter**

**September 2008**

## **Happy Thanksgiving**

We are fortunate because we have many donors and volunteers to thank all across Canada.

In British Columbia, Mrs. Ann and Dr. Hubert King, and the Anglican Parish, who hosted Dr. Chandra in Salt Spring Island.

In week-long festivities in Vancouver, Mrs. Gulbanu and Mr. Noordin Madatali raised awareness among their family and friends, and in the community with interviews on Radio, TV and print media,.

Mrs Vilma and Dr. Dube, in Nanaimo, invited press and friends, mostly educators, who had a lively discussion on schools.

It was wonderful meeting Ms. Mary Leslie and volunteers from Bowen Island in a beautiful setting in Horseshoe Bay.

Mr. Bahman Fattahi, also in Vancouver, introduced Dr. Chandra to his family and friends in an awareness raising meeting he arranged. Please read his article in page 4.

In Alberta, Mr. Chandrakant Lad facilitated a community meeting in Calgary. Ms. Asha Rao, who knew Dr. Chandra well and visited Kakinada, coordinated a meeting in the University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Dr. Rao Adduri and friends organized a fascinating fundraising event in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ms. Meera Suresh, Mr. Vikram Sundar, Ms. Sangeeta, Ms. Meena, and Mrs. Manjul Bhatnagar were responsible for the excellent awareness raising program in the Community Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

Ottawa has a wonderful team of volunteers, too many to mention. Dr. Geeta Chowdhury and Mr. Gautam Shaw conducted the much appreciated Karaoke program in the annual picnic. The picnic was a labour of love of Bala Brahmanandam Madaparthi and all of those who assisted him.

There are many more we could not include here - *lots of appreciation and thanks.*

- MSMF

## **MSMF Humanitarian Award to Mr. Noordin Madatali**

In his own words, he is "looking forward to total retirement by the year end 2008 and assisting Dr. Chandra further with his Foundation". On his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, this tireless supporter treated family, friends and guests to a series of splendid functions with Dr. Chandra as special guest. On this occasion he spoke enthusiastically of Dr. Chandra's programs and urged the support of all present.

Mr. Madatali was born in Kenya, East Africa, and had his early education in Kenya and India. Later, he completed his certification as a Chartered Accountant in London, England. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. He practiced as a Chartered Accountant in East Africa and Europe, before settling in Canada in 1975. After nine years with the Government of Canada, he entered public practice, and became involved with many business and real estate projects.

Mr. Madatali's community involvement in Vancouver includes: Founding Governor and Treasurer of Collingwood School (1984); Governor and Treasurer of West Vancouver Montessori School (1985/1986); Joint Secretary of Fund-Raising Committee for construction of Ismaili Community Mosque (1983); Volunteer, Palliative Care Services, Lions Gate Hospital.

He and his wife Gulbanu are blessed with a son, a daughter, and two lovely grand daughters.

We feel privileged to be associated with him in our goal to making MSMF programs increasingly effective and sustainable. MSMF is proud to honour such a wonderful person with its Humanitarian Award in 2008. Congratulations, Mr. Madatali. (Picture in pg. 3)

### Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology – University of Ottawa Collaboration



Dr. Marie Louise Lapointe, MD FRCS

It is a pleasure for me to present to your donors an update on my involvement with the Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (SIO).

For the last 15 years, as your readers know, SIO has provided high quality eye care to over 5 million patients, with emphasis on being a center of excellence in the domain of cataract surgery under the tutelage of Dr Chandra Sankurathri. Now Dr Sankurathri wants to strengthen the SIO by increasing the number of Ophthalmology services such as Glaucoma, Cornea, Retina, Low Vision Rehabilitation, Pediatrics and Oculoplastics, offered to the population in the region, while of course continuing to provide excellent cataract surgery. There is also a plan for establishing a microbiology lab. As services expand more ophthalmologists will be recruited. Considering the amount of pathology seen and the quantity and quality of new services offered this would be a good time to start a residency training program at the SIO and at the same time revamp the existing excellent ophthalmic assistant/technicians program and bring it up to an international level of excellence.

As many of your readers know already from past MSMF Newsletters there has always been a natural affinity between the staff at the University of Ottawa Eye Institute (EI) and the Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (SIO). Since 2001 several physicians as well as nurses have participated in highly rewarding educational

trips to SIO. These exchanges have continued spontaneously over the years to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. Last fall Dr Sankurathri approached the EI with the idea of a more detailed partnership structured by both Institutions to their satisfaction and benefit. The goal of this partnership would also be to help the SIO develop into a center of international excellence in all spheres of activity.

This spring I travelled to Srikiran with a nurse, Rosemary Bickerton and an ophthalmic technologist, Carla Barber, i.e. the EI team in charge of assessing the needs of the SIO and the EI as well as the feasibility and opportunities that would constitute the foundation of such a partnership.

We, the team visited the SIO for 7 days from March 21-31, 2008. We were very warmly received by all our different counterparts i.e. ophthalmologists, nurses and ophthalmic technicians and held frank discussions about organization, protocols, sterility, techniques, teaching, continuing medical education etc. All involved worked very hard to assess all the needs and goals to be met.

Upon our return the EI team reviewed all the obtained notes, comments and detailed observations and came up with the following recommendations, which formed the basis of our report:

1. Promotion of Continuous Professional Education
  - a) Prioritized subspecialty development
  - b) Using IT Centre with the help of a librarian
  - c) English language training and development
2. Inculcation of Global Best Practice Standards
  - a) Infection control
  - b) Microbiology lab
  - c) Training and certification of Out Patient Department (OPD) and OR theatre staff
  - d) Standards of Practice
    - i) Leadership and supervision of OPD and OR theatre staff
    - ii) Availability of protocols and learning material
3. Initiation of a Resident Training Program

The EI would gain the following from its partnership with SIO:

1. Acquisition of expertise in Small Incision Cataract Surgery. (2-minute expert procedure developed in India to remove very advanced white cataracts)
2. Exposure to International Ophthalmology.
  - a) The diagnosis and management of tropical disease
  - b) The experience in alternate health care delivery systems with limited resources e.g. eye camps, clinics and ORs
  - c) The learning of intercultural sensitivities for delivery of knowledge and skills
3. Opportunity/privilege of being involved in the growth of Srikan as a center of excellence within the developing world.
4. A 3 week elective (visit) for residents in their last year before graduation

The team recommends implementing the above in phases, starting this fall with the development of a culture of continuous professional education. The team suggests the visit of 3 subspecialists plus one ophthalmic technician per year to ensure success. Individuals from the EI would share their time and knowledge. The team recommends that SIO begins implementing global best practices related to infection control and standards of practice. A microbiologist has been identified to launch this, and personnel from the EI would assist in setting-up / monitoring protocols / practices. The Residency training program will start officially this September 2008 and the EI Program Director will act in a consultative role. The launching of a Professional Development Centre, which consists of a computer in a library setting with an English-speaking computer-trained health care professional capable of looking up the most recent articles on best practice patterns, for example, will be key factor to ensure success.

The proposed partnership aims to strengthen key human resources at SIO and

the EI, as well as provide opportunities for ongoing, beneficial professional development.

The report was presented to Dr Sankurathri and accepted without changes during the second week of July 2008 and then presented to the Executive of the EI and accepted without changes July 15<sup>th</sup> 2008.

We look forward with great anticipation to all of the great changes in the years to come.

Dr Marie Louise Lapointe, MD, FRCS©



Volunteers from Bowen Island with Dr. Chandra



Dr. Chandra and Mr. Noordin Madatali

### In memory of Natalie E. Pinch



We are pleased to be informed that the new high school/vocational school in Kakinada – India, is in its last stages of completion.

It was sometime in fall 2007 when Natalie and I were first introduced to MSMF by watching the CBC documentary: “A Ray of Light”. We were deeply touched by what we saw.

We had a common understanding that our global village and entire world is in serious crisis, and that the meaning or even existence of justice, humanity or wisdom, will remain questionable as long as poverty and lack of food, shelter, education, health care, etc., exists anywhere in the world. Natalie, who was diagnosed with cancer at the time, was an active advocate of social justice and women’s rights and always spoke for the unprivileged.

A few days before she passed away, I told her that we will find and support a library somewhere in the world where it is most needed, to keep her passion for people in need and her beautiful wishes alive. Natalie, in her life, was a very humble person who lived lightly on the earth. She did not think of herself or her work with people as extraordinary in any way, and she was happy and humbled that she

would be remembered through the support for a library.

Further research about MSMF confirmed that this is a well-respected organization, with dedicated and humble volunteers and staff, with minimal administration costs and a clear record of success of bringing health and education to the poor in the province of Andhra Pradesh in India.

The Idea of supporting a library in Kakinada as a memorial for Natalie has generated much support among those who knew and loved her.

On behalf of Pinch family and myself, I want to sincerely thank all of the people who have morally or financially supported MSMF or the Natalie E. Pinch Memorial Library.

MSMF is a success for humanity. We are pleased with our involvement and will continue to support and stand beside it in their ongoing struggle to change that region of India for the better.

Sincerely  
Bahman Fattahi

#### ***Please Donate ...***

*We urge you to support generously our education, eye care and disaster relief programs. MSMF is a registered charity in Canada and donations to MSMF qualify for tax credits in Canada.*

*To send a donation by mail, please complete the enclosed donation form and send it with your cheque or credit card information.*

*If you wish to donate on-line, please visit our website, <http://msmf.ca/>, select DONATE and the link to CanadaHelps.org.*

*You can also now donate publicly traded securities to MSMF. Please call for the details.*

*Your donation makes all the difference.  
Thank You.*

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