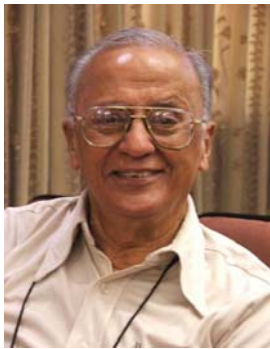


## Stop Press



**Dr WG Rama Rao  
1915-2010**

It would be hard to find a post-graduate in PMR who would not have been amazed at the zeal with which Dr WG Rama Rao used to come in smiling and talking with them, teaching, asking questions, telling them how to study, demonstrate signs, refer to what came up recently in the literature and the least to tell them the importance of the speciality. I was taken aback the first time I was

reading a paper on 'Gait Analysis in Hemiplegia' at NIRTAR in 1982. Dr Rama Rao had remarked, if a person with hemiplegia can walk is good enough, it does not matter how he walks. At that time being young and over enthusiastic and new to the speciality, I was eager to come out with an anecdote that won't it be nice if he could walk better. Now with years gone into rehabilitation, I realized, how true and practical he was. He was not pulling my leg that I thought at that time but teaching me the realities of rehabilitation.

Everytime Dr Rama Rao entered our department, he would carry a load of journals, he used to be the editor of two, and requested us to please have those delivered to the persons nearby. I used to wonder why does he have to carry such a load all the way from Mumbai, now I realize after being into this how much effort and money is saved which is always short to publish and post a journal. He had showed me his room filled with journals, papers, old envelopes he used to keep to be used for rough work not very different from Mahatma Gandhi's ideologies of not to waste a thing. True to have the great man's name "Gandhi" in his own.

Even though he came into PMR much later in his life, he devoted more than his full attention to it in addition to being an active member of the IOA and founder member of IAPMR. Formulations of rules and regulations of IAPMR to the memorandum of association was all a gift of Dr Rama Rao. He was the know all person for any dispute or a dilemma and would be able to cite the rule straight out of his memories. That is the reason he was always looked up to for any constitutional matter in the association.

How many of us write to fellow members or to any governmental or other organizations about what we feel strongly about. Dr Rama Rao never ever missed an opportunity he had or any thing that he felt needed to be

changed or brought about. He would seek an appointment with any conceivable person and say what needed to be done for the speciality, for the association or a member of the association. Earlier days, his famous Inland Letters were a treasure. In the recent years, changing with times, he moved over to the modern method of communication over the emails. Not many even younger to him could adapt to that change though with great humility he would say that he just knows how to press a button and reply.

Love for the young ones and any one was ample right from his heart. We hardly offer to drop our seniors or friends off to a place if they are visiting us. The last time I visited his place a couple of years ago, he came down from his building to say good bye to me but instead ended up dropping me off to the Railway Station in his car while saying that his dear wife does not allow him to drive during the night but it is all right once in a while since it was getting late for me and the station far off. He himself used to walk over two kilometers to Dadar Station from his home and encouraged me to do that a few years ago while I was about to hail a taxi.

We stick on to the worldly things and never ever think of sharing. His love of traveling to various centres and love for those new to the speciality to learn more did not make him think twice before traveling himself to all the corners of the country on his own and interact with everyone but also made others go around at his cost by initiating such a novel fellowship, Dr WG Rama Rao's Fellowship, to enable young physiatrists to go around and gain knowledge and spread knowledge. Most of us have availed that. Donating a huge amount of money, more than a hundred times the salary of a PG at that time was donated by him to the association. How many can ever think of doing that leave aside even setting aside a month's salary for this kind of purpose or any philanthropic cause..

Such a great human being did not wish to bother even his family running around the hospital knowing very well that his time had come, he had to suffer any way but he did not wish anyone in his family to suffer along with him. He chose his right to be at home and right to not being investigated or treated against his will. He wanted to be at home, at peace, with his family. Prayers poured in from all corners of the world for his recovery. He did recover fully, from his pains and sufferings and had a wonderful end to his most wonderfully fulfilling life people only dream of having. Rightly called the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of IAPMR. The 'Physiatrist of the Century' would be remembered not only for centuries but probably for ever. IAPMR salutes this great personality with a heavy heart..

*Dr U Singh  
Editor*