



Triumphs, Legacies & Milestones  
of  
**Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew**

*Edited by Dr. Sudesh Sivarasu*



*Triumphs, Legacies & Milestones (TLM)*  
*of*

**DR. THALAKKOTUR LAZAR MATHEW (TLM)**

**Most Rev. Anil J. T. Couto**  
**Archbishop of Delhi**



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## Message

The greatness of a person is gauged by his/her character, not by wealth or popularity or power garnered during life's journey.

Prof. Dr. Lazar Mathew whom I have known almost for the last four decades is a man endowed with the finest qualities one would want to see in a human being—a profound Christian spirituality combined with human virtues of high order and an out-of-the-ordinary academic excellence, which has made him an esteemed teacher, mentor, and friend to so many people young and old.

During the 82 years of his life, he has served the nation with dedication and loyalty both in the government and private sectors; and being a faithful son of the Church he has been in the forefront in the service to the poor and marginalized through the St. Vincent de Paul society of which he has been a pillar. The Archdiocese of Delhi is deeply indebted to him for his exemplary Christian life and availability to serve the Church at all times.

I am glad that a commemorative volume is being published in May 2024 to mark 60 years of his dedicated service to the nation and his 82nd birthday on July 12, 2024.

His dynamic leadership has been a source of inspiration to many. May he continue to be a beacon of love and hope to human society for many more years to come.

(+ Anil Couto)  
**Archbishop of Delhi**

March 26, 2024

**Lt Gen (Dr) M. D. Venkatesh, VSM (Retd)**  
**Vice Chancellor**  
**Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)**





# MANIPAL

ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION

(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)

Lt Gen (Dr) M. D. Venkatesh, VSM (Retd)  
Vice Chancellor

## Foreword

I am delighted to learn that a Book of Tribute is being dedicated to Dr. Lazar Mathew, Professor and Senior Advisor of Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), and Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics (DAMP) of our University, on the occasion of his completion of 60 years of yeoman service, both in the government and private sector. Generally, people retire at the age of 60. A few, especially doctors and academicians continue to serve the nation even afterwards; mostly on a part time basis. Dr. Mathew is a man of energy and enthusiasm; and enjoys working tirelessly for long hours; hence this exception.

Even though my official association with him is of recent nature, I have known about his achievements and contributions from scientists of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). As he has been Director at multiple establishments of DRDO and also a close associate of our former President, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, he had an excellent opportunity to make an indelible mark in his career.

One day, the Dean of MCHP along with the HoD of DAMP introduced Dr. Mathew to me. During the meeting, I learned that the initial years of his medical career began as a Lecturer in Physiology at Kasturba Medical College in January 1965 (after a brief stint at Bombay Veterinary College and at Amul Dairy). He also did his post-graduation during that period at KMC, Manipal. Dr. Mathew explained that as an alumnus of our University, he would like to make a significant contribution. His proposal was to establish a Centre for design, development, limited manufacture and marketing of medical devices on a PPP (Public-Private-Partnership) model. He assured me that half the funds would be obtained from the Government of India, and MAHE should provide the other half. During the discussion, I was amazed to see his clarity of thought, genuineness of purpose, depth of knowledge and commitment. I also perceived his vast experience, expertise, networking ability, and the genuine support from both our senior professors for the success of the proposed centre. Without hesitation I consented to the proposal and agreed to shoulder the responsibility as Head of the Institution.

The proposal went ahead. It took some time to get the approvals and financial sanction from the Government. Today, we have the DST-MAHE Hub designated as 'Medical Instruments Devices And Allied Services' (MIDAS) - the first of its kind in the private sector. This will revolutionize the indigenous production of medical devices in our country. The credit goes to Dr. Mathew.

Besides the MIDAS Hub, Dr. Mathew has been a source of inspiration and strength to many of our researchers. He is very approachable and always ready to lend a helping hand in writing grant proposals, to improve the content and guide the right approach to obtain funds. His ability to mentor and monitor research projects of varying disciplines is marvelous. People flock to his special lectures during conferences and seminars, and even otherwise also.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Sudesh Sivarasu and all those responsible for the release of this Tribute Book. I also wish Dr. Mathew many more years of a healthy, happy and productive life.

Lt Gen (Dr) M. D. Venkatesh  
Vice-Chancellor





# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

## *The Origin of the Story of TLM of TLM*



In the hallowed halls of the University of Cape Town, where knowledge and wisdom intertwine, a remarkable story began to unfold. It was the tale of a visionary, a pioneer, and a mentor extraordinaire - Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew, affectionately known as TLM or simply, Dr. Mathew.

As the sun cast its golden rays upon the university grounds, Dr. Mathew graced our 'Science to Society' podcast with his presence. His words, laden with the weight of over five and a half decades of academic and research experience, resonated through the airwaves, captivating listeners with every syllable. Dr. Mathew's journey was a tapestry woven with threads of brilliance, resilience, and an unwavering

commitment to the pursuit of knowledge. From his early days as a curious student to his rise as a luminary in his field, his path was paved with milestones that would forever shape the landscape of academia.

As he spoke, his eyes sparkled with the same passion that had guided him through the years. He recounted the challenges he had faced, the breakthroughs he had achieved, and the lives he had touched along the way. Dr. Mathew's words painted a vivid picture of a life dedicated to the noble cause of education and research. Little did we know that the podcast would be the catalyst for something extraordinary. As the episode aired, a flood of messages poured in from every corner of the globe. Former students and colleagues, each with a story to tell, reached out to share the profound impact Dr. Mathew had made on their lives.

Their testimonies were a symphony of gratitude, admiration, and reverence. They spoke of a mentor who had not only imparted knowledge but had also ignited a fire within their souls. Dr. Mathew had been a guiding light, illuminating their paths and nurturing their potential. As the messages continued to flow, it became clear that Dr. Mathew's legacy extended far beyond the realm of academia. He had touched hearts, transformed lives, and left an indelible

mark on the fabric of society. His influence had transcended the boundaries of time and space, leaving a trail of inspiration in its wake.

It was at this moment that the idea for “Triumphs, Legacies, and Milestones (TLM) of Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew (TLM)” was born. A masterpiece in the making, this book would serve as a testament to the extraordinary life and contributions of a true mastermind. The pages would be filled with stories of his triumphs, tales of his legacies, and accounts of the countless milestones he had achieved. Each chapter would be a tribute to the man who had dedicated his life to the pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of humanity.

As the project took shape, it became evident that this was not just a book, but a celebration of a life well-lived. It was a love letter to a mentor, a friend, and a visionary who had left an indelible mark on the world.

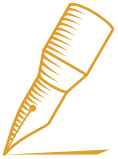
Through the pages of “TLM of TLM,” Dr. Mathew’s wisdom would continue to inspire generations to come. His words would echo through the ages, a timeless reminder of the power of knowledge, the importance of mentorship, and the transformative potential of a single life.

And so, as the sun sets on the University of Cape Town, the legacy of Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew lives on. His triumphs, his legacies, and his milestones will forever be etched in the annals of history, a testament to the enduring impact of a true master.

In the end, “TLM of TLM” stands as a tribute to a life that has touched countless others, a beacon of hope and inspiration for generations to come. It is a masterpiece born from the heart, a love letter to a man who has left an indelible mark on the world, and a celebration of the timeless legacy of Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew.

## **Professor Sudesh Sivasu, Ph.D.**

South African Research Chair in Biomedical Engineering & Innovation,  
Director-Biomedical Engineering Research Centre,  
University of Cape Town



# A NOTE ON THE CHAPTER SEQUENCE:

*Honouring the Timeless  
Legacy of Dr. Mathew*

## **Dear Friends,**

As I embarked on the journey of compiling this remarkable book, “Triumphs, Legacies and Milestones of Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew” (TLM of TLM), I found myself faced with a unique challenge: determining the ideal sequence for the chapters contributed by his esteemed colleagues, students, mentees, and individuals who have been profoundly influenced by his wisdom and guidance. Each author, a stalwart and thought leader in their respective domain, has poured their heart and soul into sharing their experiences and the indelible mark Dr. Mathew has left on their lives.

Initially, I found myself at a crossroads, contemplating various approaches to organizing these invaluable contributions. The depth of insight, the breadth of expertise, and the sheer magnitude of Dr. Mathew’s influence on each author made the task of arranging the chapters a daunting one. It was a humbling realization that no matter how I chose to structure the book, the essence of Dr. Mathew’s legacy would shine through in every page.

After much deliberation and with the guidance of my dedicated team, we arrived at a solution that we believed would serve as a fair and unbiased approach: arranging the chapters in the order in

which the submissions were received. By utilizing the metric of time, which cannot be reversed or altered, we aimed to create a balanced representation of Dr. Mathew's impact across the years and the diverse individuals he has touched.

I recognize that this approach may not be the conventional or expected method of organizing a book of this nature. However, I humbly request your understanding and forgiveness if our chosen sequence does not align with your expectations. Our intention is not to prioritize or diminish any contribution but rather to celebrate the timeless nature of Dr. Mathew's influence, which transcends any particular order or hierarchy.

As you delve into the pages that follow, I invite you to embark on a journey through the eyes of our esteemed authors, each offering a unique perspective on the profound impact Dr. Mathew has had on their lives and careers. From the earliest submission to the most recent, each chapter is a testament to the enduring legacy of a remarkable mentor, teacher, and friend.

I am confident that as you read through these heartfelt accounts, you will discover the common threads that bind these sto-

ries together: the unwavering dedication, the invaluable wisdom, and the transformative power of Dr. Mathew's guidance. His legacy is not confined to the pages of this book; it lives on in the lives he has touched, the careers he has shaped, and the countless individuals who have been inspired by his example.

So, dear reader, I invite you to approach this book with an open heart and mind, allowing the stories within to resonate with you in their own unique way. Whether you are a long-time admirer of Dr. Mathew or someone who is discovering his legacy for the first time, I trust that you will find inspiration, guidance, and a renewed appreciation of the power of mentorship within these pages.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of celebration and reflection. May the legacy of Dr. Mathew continue to inspire and guide us all, now and for generations to come.

With gratitude and humility,

**Sudesh Sivarasu**

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## **c) Biodata of Dr. Sudesh Sivasasu**



# BIOSKETCH OF DR. THALAKKOTUR LAZAR MATHEW

*(in interview form)*

Usually the biosketch of the esteemed person on whom the tribute is being prepared, is included in the book, but my professor and mentor was not willing to write such a chapter. However, he was willing to answer my questions in the form of an interview.

Hence, the biosketch of Dr. Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew is summarized in the form of an interview.



*Sudesh Sivarasu (SS) asks and  
Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew (TLM) replies*

**SS:**

In the timeless classic “The Sound of Music,” Maria wisely proclaims, “Let’s start at the very beginning.” Taking a page from her book, Sir, I would love to hear about the story of your beginning. Paint me a picture of the people and place that shaped you in your earliest days. Sir, will you please briefly describe your beginning, your lineage, your parents, your roots... I would love to take a little stroll down memory lane and get to know the real you, starting from square one.

**TLM:**

Oh yes! It is interesting indeed. I was born as the oldest of six children in a traditional Catholic family in Kerala. My parents Mathew and Eliswamma were both school teachers. My mother was the first working woman among the many villages around our little hamlet. We were three boys and three girls. One is no more and so we are five at present. Except for me, all are well settled in Kerala. We belong to the original converts of the St. Thomas era; the lineage from what is called the Thalakkoturillam, a Namboodiri family. This is why my Tharavadu (House name) is Thalakkotur. The original property of my lineage belongs to a Muslim family now. My mother was from another St. Thomas clan called Eluvathingal. She was the last child of her parents. In fact, her family is related to a saint by the name of St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW WITH HIS PARENTS

*SS:*

Ah, so you're the firstborn of a family of educators! That's quite the pedigree. I bet you were surrounded by books and learning from day one. It is really interesting to see that you have a thorough knowledge of your lineage. Well, let us leave it at that. Being the eldest son of school teachers, you might have received a very good school education. I am sure you've got some great stories to share about how your parents' profession influenced your own path. Did you follow in their footsteps, rebel against the chalkboard, or find your own way entirely? Could you elaborate?

*TLM:*

Yes, the background suggests that I might have had a good school education. However, it is not so. My grandfather was a great farmer; with a lot of land and several pairs of bullocks, buffalos, cows, and other animals. Ours was a joint family. In my childhood, we were twenty-four members in our household. The only earning members were my parents. Everyone had to do some work connected to cultivation. In my case, I had to carry breakfast for the people working in the field, a couple of kilometres away from home and only thereafter go to school. My high school was 5 kms away from home. I often had to race to school, so as to be there in the nick of time.

*SS:*

It appears that your childhood has been not very easy. Despite facing a challenging childhood, you demonstrated remarkable resilience and intelligence by consistently achieving the top rank in your class throughout your academic career.

*TLM:*

Not really! Our school standards were not so high. More than that, we had a system in our family wherein we all got up early each morning, around half past five, washed our face, brushed our teeth, had a glass of black tea, and started studying. All the children in the joint family sat on the verandah and studied for two hours, and then began the daily routine. This habit helps many to get ahead in studies even today. In those chimney days (no electricity) we, the children used to be in bed, or rather on the mat by 9 pm. Of course, I was lucky as a student; always scored high marks; may be because of my presentation style. I had a way of attracting the attention of the examiners.

*SS:*

This means you had a straight path up to matriculation. Beyond your stellar academic performance, I am curious about the other passions that filled your school days. What extracurricular activities caught your fancy and added colour to your educational journey? I would love to hear about the pursuits outside the classroom that sparked your enthusiasm and rounded out your formative years.

*TLM:*

You may find it strange to believe that we started the morning with studies, and then farm-work; but the evenings were spent on the football field. After playing for more than an hour, we went for a swim in the temple pond. Holidays were predictably our happiest days- the ten-day Onam break (the harvest festival of Kerala) and the two-month long summer holidays (April and May). These holidays were spent at my mother's house, which was near the sea shore. I spent my time there mostly reading books, writing poems and participating in church-related activities and cultural events. My uncle was a Malayalam poet and writer. His library had a good collection of books. I read voraciously, and penned several literary works which were published in the *Balarangam* columns of the *Mathrubhumi* daily and *Satyadeepam* weekly. I also developed a taste for *Kadhaprasangam*. To be honest, as a child, my ambition was to become a poet and an artist.

*SS:*

That sounds really surprising! You wanted to be a poet/artist; but ended up becoming a well-known scientist. Your university years probably marked a fascinating turning point - a pivot from artistic aspirations to scientific pursuits. I am intrigued by the journey that led you from dreaming of life as a poet or an artist to becoming a renowned figure in the world of science. Could you shed some light on how this remarkable transformation unfolded, and the experiences or influences that steered you towards your ultimate calling?

*TLM:*

That is another story. After my SSLC Exam, I went for holidays to my mother's house as usual. My mother's oldest brother - 'the poet uncle' whom I greatly respected, enquired about my future plans. I said that I wished to follow him- become a poet, do a B.A. in Malayalam, and move on to become a school teacher cum poet - two in one. He kept silent for a while; then told me not to take that route; but to go for science; to become a doctor; to earn money; and look after my mother and her children. He said it so seriously that I accepted it like a lamb.

With this incident, my plan to become a poet was over. I took science for my pre-university programme, got a first class and applied for the medical course. Due to a peculiar admission procedure brought in by the first communist government, I remained on the waiting list in the interview.

*SS:*

This may be the reason for you to opt for Veterinary Medicine. I would love to hear more about how these seemingly disparate interests converged and led you to pursue a career dedicated to animal health and well-being.

*TLM:*

Yes, I joined the B.V.Sc. course. Fortunately, I did very well. I got a first class and the first rank from the university. The course was definitely lighter than medicine. I had enough time to indulge in sociocultural activities. In those days, our college was the university champion in sports. I was not a sportsperson, just played football for fun; but I became the secretary of the college association in the pre-final year. I lived in the hostel; it was indeed a fun period; a real contrast from the tough time in school.



VISIT OF PROF. LAZAR MATHEO TO HIS OLD CAMPUS

*SS:*

Sir, you got a degree in Veterinary Science, that too with first class, first rank and all gold medals from the university. Your exceptional achievements in veterinary science, graduating with top honors and numerous accolades, are truly impressive. However, I am intrigued by the pivotal moment or series of events that prompted you to shift gears and delve into the world of medical science and technology research. Could you shed light on the thought process and circumstances that led you to embark on this new journey, applying your scientific brilliance to human health and cutting-edge advancements? How is it that you changed paths and got into research in medical science and technology?

*TLM:*

That is a very interesting story- uncommon, extraordinary or abnormal, I don't know. After graduation, it was mandatory for B.V.Sc. graduates from Kerala, to complete a 9 months internship. I applied for an academic job to Madras (Chennai) and Bombay (Mumbai) Veterinary colleges; with the recommendation of my professors and on the strength of my performance in the examination. The Veterinary Director General of Madras posted me to Kanyakumari as a surgeon and I chose not to accept the offer. I went to Bombay and then to Poona (Pune) and met the Director General; who posted me to Bombay Veterinary College. I joined there on the 15th of April 1964; and that was my first appointment.

*SS:*

This seems to be a good job for a youngster in those days, isn't it Sir? Your transition from a promising career in veterinary medicine to teaching in a medical college is quite intriguing. Could you walk me through the thought process and key experiences that motivated you to make this significant shift, applying your expertise to educating future healthcare professionals? How did you change from this career to teaching in a medical college?

*TLM:*

My original ambition to become a doctor was always there. So, I was on the lookout for opportunities. My application for admission to the M.B.B.S course in the subsequent year was rejected by the Kerala government on the ground that once selected for a professional course, one would not be considered for another. One day, I happened to see an advertisement from Kasturba Medical College, Manipal for a lecturer's position in the Department of Physiology; the qualification required was M.B.B.S., but at the end it was written that candidates with B.V.Sc. (rank holders) could also apply. I sent an application on a plain piece of paper, answering the ad. Surprisingly, I got an appointment letter (not an interview call) asking me to join on the 1st of January 1965! I accepted the offer; but just couldn't believe it. So, I requested a cousin of mine to go over to Manipal and verify this offer. He did go to the Dean's office; Dr. Krishna Rao, the Dean told him to send me on the first of January. The salary was good and my cousin's report about the place was very positive. So I came and joined as a lecturer. In fact, I loved Manipal, loved my job and later fell in love with a girl and got married here. Manipal became a second home for me for quite some time. It was a wonderful life.



THE SOLEMN EXCHANGE OF WEDDING RINGS - 14TH MAY 1970, CHRIST CHURCH, MANIPAL

*SS:*

Your return to Manipal now seems to be rooted in compelling reasons, but I am curious about what initially prompted you to leave. Could you shed some light on the circumstances or aspirations that led you to venture away from this place that now beckons you back?

*TLM:*

See Dr. Sudesh, as I always say, the license for an academician is a Ph.D.; I could do my M.Sc. (Med) course here; but there was no chance for further studies. Even for the PG course, it was my personal initiative and several trips to Mysore University that gave recognition for the M.Sc. course. Of course, Dr. Krishna Rao was very supportive. In 1970, after our marriage, we left for Delhi for my Ph.D.; under the famous physiologist, Dr. A. S. Paintal. Fortunately, I had a distinction and the university first rank and the interview went very well. So Dr. Paintal (his name was under consideration for the Nobel Prize at that time) was happy to accept me. My wife got a position for house-surgency at Hindu Rao hospital, later for an M.D. Thus, immediately after our wedding, we left for Delhi. Unlike Manipal, life became very hard there. The harsh and fast life of Delhi was in stark contrast to the quiet and beautiful life of Manipal. In spite of all the difficulties, we settled there and became “Dilliwallahs”.

*SS:*

Sir, your move to Delhi opened the door to becoming a DRDO scientist, a path that may not have unfolded had you remained in the comfort zone of Manipal. It seems that stepping out of familiarity and embracing new challenges was the catalyst for your inspiring journey into the realm of scientific research and innovation. Delhi gave you a chance to become a DRDO scientist; may be your continued stay at Manipal might not have given that inspiration; as you were in a comfort zone.

*Unless you leave your comfort zone and struggle for a while, you can't climb to greater heights.*

*TLM:*

You are right. Unless you leave your comfort zone and struggle for a while, you can't climb to greater heights. Most of my students like you or Dr. Gideon are in a better position than many of your classmates here in India. This is because of new challenges that we encounter in a new place. While I was halfway through my doctoral studies, I got a chance to enter into DRDO. With a family to look after, I needed money very badly. So, I took up the job and postponed my Ph.D.; which I completed a few years later.

*SS:*

Your remarkable accomplishments as a Defence scientist at DRDO are truly awe-inspiring. I can only imagine the exhilarating experiences and ground-breaking projects you were involved in during your tenure there. Could you share some insights into the highlights of your time at DRDO and the impact your work had on advancing the field of defence technology?

*TLM:*

DRDO gave me fantastic opportunities. Life was both enjoyable and painful. Jealousy of some of my colleagues was very significant, and it created a toxic environment at times. I spent 31 years at DRDO; climbed up pretty fast. I was Director in three positions, spanning over 12 years. Very few have had the opportunity to be a director in DRDO, that too in 3 establishments. I was instrumental in establishing the High-Altitude Medical Research Centre (HAMRC) at Leh and the Society for Bio-Medical Technology (SBMT) at Bangalore. Both these ventures have done yeoman service to humanity; one mainly for our soldiers and the other for the common man. My work was recognized by peers, I published more than 200 papers and received several awards and honours, based on the research and development done in the DRDO days. I also represented our country in various international meetings, in places such as Russia, US, France, UK, Germany, Cuba, Italy and so on. Surprisingly, South Africa and Israel were forbidden for us in those days.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW IN  
FRONT OF THE HIGH ALTITUDE  
MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE  
(HAMRC), LEH

---



A DISCUSSION WITH RUSSIAN  
DELEGATES ON SCIENTIFIC  
COLLABORATIONS

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DREAMING BIG WITH  
THE EIFFEL TOWER IN  
THE BACKDROP

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*SS:*

Your friendship with the esteemed Bharat Ratna Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, likely forged during your time at DRDO, is widely regarded as a defining moment in your life. Many, including myself, have noticed a striking resemblance between you and Dr. Kalam, not just in appearance but perhaps in spirit and intellect as well. Could you shed some light on the nature of your relationship with this iconic figure and the impact he had on your personal and professional journey?

*TLM:*

Yes, I too consider my association with Dr. Kalam as a major event in my life. Actually, I was Director of Life Sciences at DRDO headquarters, under Dr. V. S. Arunachalam, a very famous physicist, when Dr. Kalam joined as our boss (Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Secretary, Defence Research). He was happy with my work. One day, he called me to his office and told me that he was sending me to Bangalore. I asked him about the kind of work I would have to do there. He said that I was being posted as Director, DEBEL (Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro Medical Laboratory). I politely replied that I was from the medical background and, hence would probably not be the right person. He said, that was why I was being posted there. His ways were always different, extraordinary logic. Anyway by the Grace of God, I did extremely well as DEBEL Director; got a new building and many other facilities & infrastructure, established the Society for Bio-Medical Technology, developed the HAPO (High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema) Bag; a life-saving device, developed a respiratory mask against biological and chemical warfare, initiated a major program of life support system for the Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas) and many other items, in order to protect the man behind the weapon. It is this 6-year tenure which was probably the most productive part of my career. I became an excellent science manager during this period.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW IN  
A SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH  
DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

*SS:*

All of us are excited to hear about your functioning under the supervision of Dr. Kalam, our former president. Having had the privilege of working closely with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, during your time at DRDO, you have a unique perspective on his leadership and vision. While much has been written about this iconic figure, hearing insights from a trusted confidante like yourself would be truly invaluable. We are all eager to learn from your first-hand experiences about Dr. Kalam's approach to scientific innovation, his management style, and the profound impact he had on those fortunate enough to work under his guidance.

*TLM:*

As a matter of fact, I too have contributed a couple of pages in one of the books on Dr. Kalam. I had the privilege to travel with him in his aeroplane, not only as my boss but also during his presidency. He had visited my home at Ajmer and had lunch with us. No words would be enough to describe his extra-ordinary persona. He was truly a great human being, an excellent man manager, and people felt privileged to work extra hours to satisfy his official commitments. I myself have walked and worked with him from morning, till 01.30 A.M. in the night without much break, on many occasions. One never felt fatigued with him. I learned many managerial techniques from him: how to get extraordinary work from ordinary people. His practical ways of motivating people were unparalleled. You may find it hard to believe, but I had predicted that he would become the President of India, when I was Director, INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences), Delhi. Despite his gentle and friendly behaviour, Dr. Kalam made it clear that he was the boss and had to be obeyed at all costs. Thanks to his genuine leadership qualities, everyone loved to work under his patronage.



WELCOMING DR. APJ ABDUL  
KALAM TO THE INSTITUTE



*I had the privilege to travel with him in his aeroplane, not only as my boss but also during his presidency.*

**SS:**

Sir, it appears that your work as DEBEL Director might have been the reason for your transformation from life sciences to engineering and technology. This crucial shift in your career path, though challenging, is something that students like us should be immensely grateful for. Your ability to adapt and excel in a new field has undoubtedly paved the way for ground-breaking contributions and serves as an inspiration to aspiring scientists and engineers. In a sense, students like us should be grateful for this difficult but important transition.

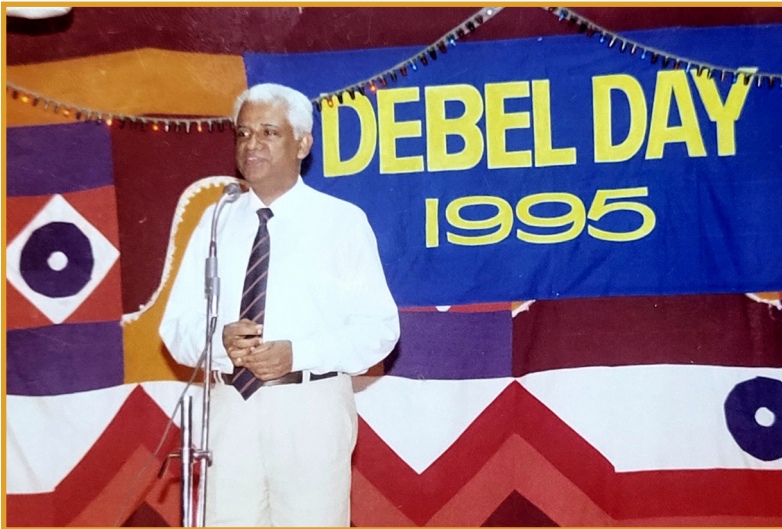
**TLM:**

Dr. Sudesh, you are absolutely right. I had to learn a lot of things. Biomedical engineering was a new subject for me. I did learn and also taught, both at Bangalore and Mysore universities. I had M.Tech students doing their 9 months project work at DEBEL, under my guidance. I learnt a lot from them too. I was alone at Bangalore in those days staying in the guest house; my day began at 08.30 am and ended at 08.30 pm. A few of my colleagues did help me. We had three major projects. Once they were in the right direction, we started the Society for Bio-Medical Technology under the chairmanship of Dr. Kalam. SBMT was an inter-ministerial initiative with 5 secretaries of the government of India as members and I happened to be the member secretary and the chief executive officer. The aim of SBMT was to use defence spin off technologies to make medical devices and equipment. We did produce a few items such as the ventilator, ECG analyser, Cytoscan, floor reaction orthosis and the famous Kalam-Raju coronary stent. Actually, the real contribution of SBMT has been its role in creating an awareness of the need for indigenous development of medical devices. Today, it is a buzz word but in 1994 it was news. Also, I was privileged to prepare a draft called Indian Medical Devices Regulatory Authority (IMDRA) which formed the basis for the current parliamentary act.



DEMONSTRATION OF  
THE FIRST INDIGENOUS  
EXERCISE TEST SYSTEM  
DESIGNED BY SBMT

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CELEBRATING DEBEL DAY:  
A DAY OF FESTIVITY

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*SS:*

Your journey from medical science to engineering and technology is a fascinating one, but it's intriguing to note that you also served as the director of a hospital at one point. This diversification in your career path raises questions about how you managed to bridge the gap between these seemingly disparate fields. Could you elaborate on the circumstances that led you to take on this role and how your unique blend of expertise in both medicine and technology contributed to your success as a hospital director?

*TLM:*


Yes, it was really an out-of-turn event. Dr. Kalam wanted me to be at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS). By then, he was confident that I could manage conflict situations. As I was interested in being back in Delhi, for family reasons, I consented to this posting as Director INMAS. By the Grace of God, I did well at INMAS; SBMT was shifted to Delhi to facilitate its successful management. At the time of my retirement, the Mission Sisters of Ajmer (MSA) were looking for a suitable person to run their hospital and I accepted that offer. Fortunately, with the help of the sisters, the hospital did turn around. We also started an AIDS centre, there. The four years spent there was another period of peaceful, successful and prayerful days. My attachment to Ajmer became so intense that I bought a house and now intend to settle there.

*SS:*

Your career trajectory is truly fascinating, and it's remarkable to see how it led you from Ajmer, Rajasthan to VIT in Vellore, Tamil Nadu, where our paths crossed. I am curious about the motivation behind this significant geographical shift and the circumstances that brought about this change in your professional journey.

## *TLM:*

True. When I was at Ajmer, Dr. Radhakrishnan, my friend, was the vice chancellor of VIT, Vellore. He invited me to visit his university. We were going to Vailankanni shrine of Mother Mary; my wife and I went there and spent a day at VIT. The VC took me to the chancellor, Dr. Vishwanathan, who told me that I should not leave academics, so early in life. That was a statement which struck me and I agreed to spend 3-4 days every month as an advisor at VIT. Initially, we started M.Tech. in Biomedical Engineering and gradually, my activities grew and I had to accept the Dean's position and shift to VIT. Later I was also given the post of Director, Sponsored Research. I was probably the only faculty who worked as Dean and Director at VIT at the same time. My tenure at VIT was not only enjoyable but very productive. The chancellor and VC were very supportive. We developed a bio-school, which became the largest with 3500 students, 125 teachers and 170 Ph.D. scholars. A centre for biomedical research was also established.



HANDLING ALL TASKS WITH A  
TRANQUIL SMILE AS ALWAYS

*SS:*

Of course, I know you left VIT when you completed 70 years. I remember the day of your farewell celebrations at VIT, the room was filled with several tear-filled eyes. The chancellor was keen on retaining you as Advisor, but you left and joined PSG institutions at Coimbatore. How were your innings at PSG as Advisor, Medical Sciences and Technology?

*TLM:*

I left VIT after spending 7 years there; and joining the same place as Advisor was not an ideal option. Dr. Radhakrishnan left VIT and was Director at PSG Institute of Advanced Studies. He was keen on my joining his team. At PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, my role was to help faculty to apply for research projects, monitor the progress of research and mentor the faculty and doctoral students. I didn't have any administrative work. I was spending only one week each month there. I was free to indulge in other activities. During this period, I also worked as an Advisor to the Nanoelectronics Research Centre at IIT, Bombay, the Biomedical Centre at IISER, Kolkata and Vidhyanikethan at Tirupati. Those were the days of hectic travelling. So, when I was offered a position as Pro VC at Karunya University, I accepted the offer and spent some time in their semi-rural and beautiful campus. Life was very comfortable there.

*SS:*

Your return to Manipal, or "GharVapasi," after a distinguished career in various institutions across the country, is an intriguing decision that likely holds a deep personal significance. I am curious to understand the specific factors or realizations that prompted this transformative move and drew you back to your roots.

## *TLM:*

Yes, in a sense it is a personal decision. During the past several years I had been acting as chairman of various scientific committees of DST, DRDO, MICT, NPMAS and so on. I happened to visit Manipal (MAHE) as chairman of a DST committee. Some senior professors, especially Dr. Arun Maiya and Dr. Santhosh Chidangil who knew me earlier were keen on my joining Manipal; they took me to the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Vinod Bhatt. He offered me the position of Sr. Advisor and I accepted it without any conditions. Initially, it was only one week in a month. Gradually, my work expanded, and eventually both my wife and I moved into the campus. Here I had the humble privilege of initiating a centre called DST-MAHE Hub on Medical Instruments, Devices and Allied Services (MIDAS); the MIDAS Hub.



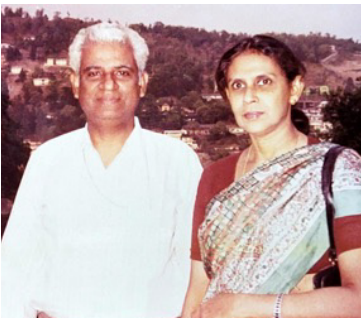
A HOUSE FULL OF MEMORIES – STANDING IN FRONT OF WHAT USED TO BE HOUSE NO. 22, KMC MANIPAL (IN 1965) – DR. LAZAR MATHEW'S ORIGINAL ABODE

*SS:*

Sir, I know Madam Martins Mathew, your wife, quite well. She has been always with you. We consider that you are a remarkable couple keeping the bond between husband and wife going strong. If you don't mind, could I ask a personal question? What is the secret of your eternal bond?

*TLM:*

My dear Sudesh, you have seen us together for the last several years. As I mentioned earlier, we met at Manipal, and got married in Christ Church, a couple of miles from KMC. Incidentally ours was the first marriage in the local church in 1970. Despite our very diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, we have always been together in ups and downs; the real credit goes to my wife. She has an extraordinary ability to accept difficulties and sufferings in the real Christian spirit. Many of my students, colleagues and friends consider her more of an affectionate mother or sister whenever there is a problem. The simple secret of our harmonious relationship is that when I get upset or angry, she simply keeps quiet and vice-versa. It's not easy at times, but it has kept us united always.



TOGETHER ALWAYS, DOWN THE YEARS....

*SS:*

Sir, as we celebrate your achievements, we would love to hear about the personal side of your journey. Could you share how your family, including your wife (Madam), children, and grandchildren, have influenced and contributed to your career and life? Specifically, how has Madam's support and encouragement played a role in your professional endeavors? Additionally, how have your children and grandchildren inspired and impacted your work and overall growth—professionally, personally, and spiritually?

*TLM:*

My family is the greatest blessing that I have. As you well know, my wife has always been with me through thick and thin, a pillar of support standing by me in all the decisions I have taken. As a doctor, her deep empathy and desire to help others, as well as her resilience have been a great beacon of inspiration for me. Together we raised our children who, largely inspired by her, took up the same profession. Both my children and their spouses have been a source of unflinching support to me. My grandchildren brought loads of love and laughter into my life. Today, seeing them grow and blossom is my greatest joy and gives me the greatest sense of purpose and fulfillment in my life. And I believe, that wherever in the world they may be, they will always be with me because “the family that prays together, stays together.” I have observed in my life that if you do things diligently and faithfully, God takes care of you and your family.

*I have observed in my life that if you do things, diligently and faithfully, God takes care of you and your family.*



DR. LAZAR MATHEW WITH HIS WIFE DR. ARTIMIZIA, AND CHILDREN DR. JOSEPH AND DR. MARIA



DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. (MRS) ARTIMIZIA MARTINS MATHEW WITH THEIR CHILDREN, CHILDREN-IN-LAW, AND GRANDCHILDREN.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. ARTIMIZIA MATHEW WITH DR. SUDESH SIVARASU AND HIS FAMILY.



LIFE'S FULL CIRCLE: BACK TO MANIPAL (1965-2024)

*SS:*

As we conclude this fascinating journey through Prof. Mathew's remarkable life and career, we have gained invaluable insights into the experiences, decisions, and transformations that have shaped him into the distinguished figure we know today. From his humble beginnings as the oldest son of school teachers to his rise as a top student, his transition from veterinary medicine to medical science and technology, and his influential roles at various prestigious institutions, Prof. Mathew's story is one of unwavering dedication, adaptability, and the relentless pursuit of knowledge.

Now, as we move forward, we have the privilege of hearing from those who have worked closely with Prof. Mathew throughout his illustrious career. In the following section, we will be sharing tributes and experiences from his colleagues, peers, and students, who have had the opportunity to witness his brilliance, leadership, and mentorship first-hand. These personal accounts will undoubtedly provide us with a deeper understanding of the impact Prof. Mathew has had on the lives of those around him and the indelible mark he has left on the scientific community.

So let us now turn our attention to the words of those who have been inspired, guided, and transformed by Prof. Mathew's presence in their lives. Through their stories, we will gain a more comprehensive picture of the man behind the accolades and the legacy he has built throughout his remarkable journey.

*Contributions from*

**COLLEAGUES  
AND STUDENTS**



## *Major General Dr. J.K. Bansal*

Vishisht Seva Medal, Chikitsa Ratan

### **Designation**

Senior Consultant, Thyroid and Diabetes;  
Member (Minister of State) NDMA,  
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TV Debate Defence Expert

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## **BioSketch**

After MBBS, Dr. Bansal joined the Indian Army in 1975, completed post-graduation from AFMC Pune, WHO Fellowship in Thyroidology and Endocrinology from USA and UK, Diploma CBRN Sweden, Occupational health, Australia.

Positions held: Member (Status: Minister of State) National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India; Personal physician to Hon'ble Dr Abdul Kalam, former President of India; Head, Thyroidology Department/ Division; INMAS; Director DRDO Health Project; Head CBRN DRDE, Gwalior

Contributions: Headed CBRN Security for Commonwealth Games 2010, CBRN training Parliament Security, Participated in Round Table Discussion on Bioterrorism Threats at Chatham House London, was invited to visit CDC Atlanta, DTRA & USAID, Washington, NNSA Las Vegas, Biocontainment Laboratory Chicago. Also visited CBRN facilities in Moscow, Serbia, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Holland, Muscat.



*I found in him a guide, friend, philosopher,  
and a great supporter for quality research work.*

## Tribute

I have a very long association with Dr. Lazar Mathew since 1982, when I was posted as a medical specialist in Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. At that time Dr. Mathew was a scientist in Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Science (DIPAS). Although my personal interaction with him was limited, a senior colleague of mine, Colonel RS Tiwary, DIPAS always used to talk very highly about him.

In 1986 when I joined INMAS, DRDO, he was Director Life Sciences, DRDO. Since then, I had a very close interaction with him. I found in him a guide, friend, philosopher, and a great supporter for quality research work. I put up a project proposal on DRDO employees' occupational health risk factors & health profile with a special reference to emerging coronary risk prevention of coronary artery disease by Life Style Modification. He got the project sanctioned from DRDO headquarters on fast track and guided me for the implementation of the project. Subsequently, when he took over as Director DEBEL Bangalore, he ensured implementation of projects in DRDO laboratories in South India.

As Chief of the Society for Biomedical Technology, he developed many equipments for medical use. One of them was the ECG analyser, which was given to the Health Department of INMAS. It proved to be a great boon for the diagnosis of heart related problems. Another equipment was the Cyto-scan, specifically used for the early detection of cervical cancer in women. I had the opportunity to visit DEBEL during his tenure as Director. I was highly impressed seeing the demonstration of life support system for LCA, which was developed under the direct supervision and guidance of Dr. Mathew.

Subsequently he was appointed Director, INMAS as my direct boss. During his tenure there was exponential growth of scientific work in INMAS. In my view he is a great researcher, academician, teacher, and professional par-excellence. Over and above, he is a great soul, and good human being with helping nature. He has made tremendous contributions for the betterment of society. I pray to Almighty God for his happy, healthy, long life.



## *Dr. Arathi Rao P*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

I am a trained gynecologist turned public health specialist with a focus on adolescent and women's health for academics and research. I have a PhD and a Global Health Equity Scholar Fogarty postdoctoral fellowship from USA. Currently I am supervising PhDs and Masters students on research related to nutrition, cancer screening, cardiovascular diseases among women, peer support interventions for NCDs and yoga for public health. I am also involved in an Umbrella Review on guidelines for palliative care in India and in the Lancet Commission on the humanitarian crisis of cancer: palliative care in low resource settings.



*I was able to witness his vast field experience on science projects and its applicability and relevance to population which is so important for undertaking innovations by the communities.*

## **Tribute**

I had heard about Prof Lazar Mathew in the last decade in some conversations related to research and his immaculate advice for practical solutions for problems in science. He has several collaborative projects on the technical side and just last year (May-June 2023), I had an opportunity to interact with him to involve him as an Advisory Board Member for a community-based project on AI for cancer screening for which I am a Co-Principal Investigator. During this interaction I was able to witness his vast field experience on science projects and its applicability and relevance to population which is so important for undertaking innovations by the communities. Listening to the project for the first time, he was able to predict most of the field problems, bureaucracy issues, and management issues in a consortium, as well as give advice on the future sustenance of the project. The meeting lasted for around 2 hours but I knew I was sitting in front of a mine of real time information for scientific research and there was so much to learn from him.

Prof Mathew is extremely approachable and gave me an opportunity to express my wish. We hardly knew each other but he recounted his MAHE journey along with his projects and experiences with several organizations of Govt of India on scientific research. He has worked closely with Prof A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India. He has several accomplishments in his armour and yet he is extremely humble to impart his wealth of knowledge to those who seek it. His enthusiasm has failed to dwindle with age.

I have found a great teacher in him and he readily accepted to be a senior project advisor for one of my PhD scholars on the evaluation and enhancement of culturally acceptable young child feeding practices in an Indian tribal community. I always look forward to a rich and rewarding experience during our PhD meetings to learn many more things from him, apart from science. I wish him good health and a long life to train many more scholars in India and abroad.



*Dr. Gideon Praveen Kumar,  
PhD*

**Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

With nearly twenty years of experience in medical device design and development, I have a strong foundation in areas such as verification, validation, and risk management, aligning with global regulatory standards. My tenure at A\*STAR involved pioneering work in creating innovative medical devices and diagnostics, with a focus on successful commercialization and engagement with regulatory authorities across Asia-Pacific and Europe. Transitioning to a role as a MedTech business consultant at Frost & Sullivan, I furthered my expertise in market analysis, competitive intelligence, and key account management, gaining a deep understanding of the healthcare industry's complexities.

Beginning my career as a critical care clinician, I gained firsthand experience in patient care, enhancing my understanding of medical technology's practical application. Outside of my professional endeavors, I leverage my passion for healthcare through writing, exploring the intersection of technological advancements, economic dynamics, and geopolitical factors on the future of healthcare. With a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering, I offer a multidisciplinary approach to addressing healthcare challenges.

## Tribute

It is indeed an honour to write about a great personality who played a significant role in shaping both my professional and personal life. Thy name is Dr. Lazar Mathew fondly known to many as ‘Dean Sir’!

As I take a moment to reflect on my journey, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the profound impact you have had on my life, both personally and professionally. Your guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support have been invaluable to me, and I am deeply thankful for the opportunities you have provided me to grow and succeed. Your dedication to excellence and passion for your field have inspired me to strive for greatness in all that I do. Your mentorship has not only enriched my academic and professional endeavors but has also shaped me into the person I am today. Your belief in my potential instilled in me a sense of confidence and resilience that I carry with me in every aspect of my life.

Beyond the classroom or laboratory, you have been a source of encouragement and understanding, always willing to lend an ear or offer advice whenever I needed it most. Your genuine care and compassion have made a profound difference in my life, and for that, I am truly grateful. Throughout different stages of my professional and personal life, I always carried with me the lessons I have learned from you and the memories we have shared. Please know that your impact extends far beyond

the walls of our academic relationship, and I am forever grateful for the role you have played in shaping my future. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for everything you have done for me. I am honored and privileged to have had you as my Professor and PhD supervisor, and I will always cherish the memories and lessons you have imparted to me. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that you are the ONLY reason for who I am today and I will be indebted to you forever!

Thank you, SIR! Thank you very much!

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### Additional Remarks

Professor Mathew and his wife were Guests of Honor at my wedding, and he delivered the Guest of Honor address which I will never forget. In fact, my wife was also his student, and he took care of us like his own children. We were very fond of both Sir and Ma’am and were more like his own family.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. MARTINS MATHEW AT THE MARRIAGE DAY OF DR. GIDEON.



## *Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao*

### **Designation**

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Former Director, IIT Delhi

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## **BioSketch**

Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao is currently the Group Vice-Chancellor for the Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) Pilani campuses located in Pilani, Hyderabad, Goa, Dubai and Mumbai. Prior to joining the BITS Group in 2023, Prof. Rao had served as the Director of IIT Delhi for 6 years during 2016-2021 and as a Chair Professor for Nanoelectronics at both IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi.

Prof. Rao is an internationally acclaimed Nanoelectronics researcher with over 500 research papers and over 50 patents, which include 20 issued US patents. Fifteen of his patents have been licensed to industries for commercialization. For his research accomplishments, Dr. Rao has been elected a Fellow of IEEE, a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), the Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc), the National Academy of Sciences (NASI) & the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). 52 Ph.D. students have graduated so far under his supervision and are working in leading academic institutions, and semiconductor industries all over the world, including in India.

Prof. Rao's research and leadership contributions have been recognized with over 35 awards and honors in the country and abroad. He is a recipient of three honorary

doctorates. The recognitions Prof. Rao received include the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Engineering Sciences, Infosys Prize, IEEE EDS Education Award (the highest international award bestowed by IEEE Electron Devices Society for Education) and many others. Prof. Rao serves on the Editorial Advisory Boards of several leading international journals such as the ACS Nano Letters, AIP Applied Physics Reviews, IEEE Journal on Flexible Electronics etc. Dr. Rao has delivered over 200 Plenary, key-note and invited lectures all over the world.



*His unwavering focus on outcome driven research, coupled with an honest and a self-less approach, speaks of his disciplined nature.*

## Tribute

I have known Dr. Lazar Mathew for the past 20 years, initially through the NPSM programme of DRDO. Our interaction continued through various initiatives such as NPMASS and numerous other projects. Over the years, I have sought his advice and mentorship on both personal and professional matters. Dr. Mathew is not only highly accomplished in his technical field but also embodies philanthropy and kindness. His family's charitable contributions to society are commendable. I am always willing to support him, knowing it serves a greater good. When in need of guidance, he is the first person I turn to. Having closely collaborated with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, our former President, Dr. Mathew gained invaluable insights into the management of research and development projects, as

well as the skill of assessing and inspiring human resources. His unwavering focus on outcome driven research, coupled with an honest and a self-less approach, speaks of his disciplined nature. Consequently, there have been instances when he found it challenging to compromise on the fronts of quality and dedication. Despite his assertion of being an ordinary individual, I find it more appropriate to regard him as an exceptional one, primarily due to his remarkable contributions and accomplishments that transcend the ordinary. His unassuming demeanour leads him to perceive himself as one among the masses, a testament to humility. Even my wife, having met him only a few times, feels a sense of comfort in his presence and admires him greatly. Wishing him a long and healthy life ahead!



## *Dr. X. Anitha Mary*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. X. Anitha Mary is Associate Professor at the Dept. of Robotics Engineering at Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences. Her area of specialization is in Electronics and Instrumentation and her research interests include Embedded Systems, Control & Instrumentation, and Artificial Intelligence. She has several publications to her credit and is reviewer for several international journals. She is also the recipient of several national and international awards including the Outstanding Women Achiever award by Venus International Foundation, and the Innovative Professional Award by the Society of Professional Engineers.



*He saw something within me—an opportunity to shine,  
a chance to prove my worth.*

## Tribute

The initial encounter with Dr. Lazar Mathew remains vivid in my memory, a testament to the humility and sincerity that define his character. There he was, in quiet contemplation, kneeling in prayer—a sight that resonated deeply with me. His connection to something greater, his unwavering faith, spoke volumes about the values he held dear.

At the time, I was an introverted individual, hesitant to assert myself or draw attention to my abilities. Yet, amidst my apprehension, he saw something within me—an opportunity to shine, a chance to prove my worth. With a gentle reassurance, he entrusted me with a small project, a humble test of my skills and capabilities.

What followed was nothing short of extraordinary. Within the span of a mere month, he orchestrated the acquisition of a project from DEBEL, DRDO—an opportunity that surpassed all expectations. It was my first venture into the realm of professional accomplishment, a milestone made possible by his unwavering support and belief in my potential.

Under his guidance, I embarked on the project with fervor and determination, fuelled by his unwavering confidence in my abilities. Despite the challenges

that lay ahead, his presence served as a beacon of encouragement, a reminder of the heights we could reach together. With each obstacle overcome, I grew not only as a professional but as an individual, fortified by his mentorship and unwavering support.

What truly sets him apart is his boundless compassion, and his genuine care for those around him. Even amidst his own triumphs and endeavors, he never fails to extend a hand of kindness, a gesture of support to faculty members like myself.

As he celebrates his 82nd birthday, my heart overflows with gratitude and admiration. May God bless him with good health and prosperity, and may his unwavering kindness continue to inspire and uplift those around him. In his caring demeanor, in his selfless acts of compassion, he embodies the very essence of humanity—a beacon of hope in a world yearning for light.

On this special day, let us join together in celebration, honoring the life and legacy of a truly remarkable individual. May his days be filled with joy and fulfillment, his journey marked by the indelible imprint of love and compassion. Happy birthday to a man whose caring spirit knows no bounds, whose presence illuminates the lives of all who are fortunate enough to know him.



## *Mr. G. Jebakumar Selwyn*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

With over 27 years of dedicated service to Karunya University, I have established myself as a committed Administrative staff member, contributing to the institution's growth and success. Holding a Master's degree in Public Administration, my academic background complements my extensive practical experience in administrative roles. During my tenure, I had the privilege of closely collaborating with distinguished leaders such as Dr. Prof. Lazar Mathew, our esteemed Former Pro Vice Chancellor, whose guidance and mentorship have been invaluable to my professional journey. Additionally, I undertook the role of Secretary for the Karunya Welfare Society from 2018 to 2023, based in Karunya Nagar, Coimbatore. In this capacity, I worked tirelessly to support the society's initiatives, ensuring the well-being of our community members and fostering a spirit of solidarity. My passion for serving others, coupled with my expertise in administrative affairs, has enabled me to make meaningful contributions to the university's mission and objectives. I remain committed to upholding the values of excellence and integrity that define Karunya University.

*His genuine care and concern extend beyond the realm of academia, touching the lives of support staff, security personnel, and their families alike.*

## Tribute

It is with profound honour that I pen these words in tribute to the remarkable Prof. Dr. Lazar Mathew, our esteemed former Pro Vice Chancellor of Karunya University. I offer my heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty for blessing us with his presence and guidance.

Prof. Dr. Lazar Mathew embodies the very essence of a dedicated academician, whose unwavering commitment to education and mentorship leaves an indelible mark on all who have had the privilege of learning under his tutelage. His patience, enthusiasm, and compassionate demeanour create an environment where minds flourish and dreams are nurtured.

As a distinguished researcher, Prof. Dr. Mathew's brilliance lights the way for countless individuals, igniting a passion for knowledge and discovery. His leadership is not merely about holding a position, but about inspiring others to greatness, fostering an atmosphere where academic excellence thrives. Under Prof. Dr. Mathew's guidance, a spirit of camaraderie and support permeates throughout, as he tirelessly works to uplift and empower those around him. His genuine care and concern extend beyond the realm of academia, touching the lives

of support staff, security personnel, and their families alike.

On a personal level, I am deeply indebted to Prof. Dr. Mathew for his teachings of perfection and simplicity, which have profoundly shaped my outlook on life. His paternal presence, exemplified by his gracious visit to my home on my 50th birthday, remains a cherished memory filled with gratitude and joy. In paying tribute to Prof. Dr. Lazar Mathew, we honor not only his academic prowess but also his unwavering dedication to the betterment of humanity. May his path continue to be illuminated by the light of wisdom, and may he be blessed with health and longevity.

With prayerful wishes for his continued well-being and God's abundant blessings.



MR. SELWYN WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW IN HIS OFFICE



## *Prof. Simona Badilescu*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Prof. Simona Badilescu is a senior scientist with a background in physical chemistry and a rich experience in teaching and research. She received her PhD from the University of Bucharest (Romania) and specialized in molecular spectroscopy, surface science, and analytical applications of infrared spectroscopy in an industrial environment. After three years of teaching in Algeria as an associate professor at the University of Blida, she joined the Spectroscopy Laboratory of the Université de Montréal in Canada, and later on, a multidisciplinary research group at the University of Moncton in New Brunswick. Since 2006, she has been part of the Optical-Bio Microsystems Lab at Concordia University in Montreal. Her research interest is focused on nanomaterials, plasmonic sensing, interaction of nanoparticles with cells, Indian traditional medicines, etc. Badilescu is the author of several books and book chapters and almost 300 articles and conference papers.

## Tribute

I met Dr. Mathew in August 2015 when he invited us – Dr. Packirisamy, the Director of our lab (Optical Bio Microsystems) and myself - as speakers at The International Conference on Advances in Micro/Nanotechnologies for Biological Applications, held at the PSG Institute of Advanced Studies in Coimbatore. The conference, organized and chaired by Dr. Mathew, was well-attended and very animated and I could see how good he was at awakening and keeping students' interest during the conference. His authority was (is) the kind of natural authority, coming from competence and expertise. We had the opportunity to discuss and I told him about our research which, at the time, included the investigation of Ayurvedic gold and other metal medicines, utilized in Indian Traditional Medicine for healing a multitude of diseases. These studies were one of the sources of my fascination with India and its spirituality, and I told him about my desire to see more places and meet more people, especially, scientists. For the two free days I still had to stay in India, he suggested visiting Kochi, in his beloved Kerala, which I did and was not disappointed. The next year, I continued my visit to Kerala, attending a conference at the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam. After this conference, Dr. Mathew kindly invited me to visit and give a presentation at Sri Venkateswara University in the Temple city of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, where, at the time, he was acting as a Senior Adviser. We visited the picturesque campus and met and discussed with faculty members and scientists, before my presentation. After the presentation and discussions,

I received a beautiful dress. I think that in Indian universities this is a way to honor scholar visitors. The next two of my presentations were in Zoom mode, at Karunya University in 2021 and Manipal, in 2022, at conferences chaired by Dr. Mathew. At Karunya Institute of Technology, I had the privilege to give the Inaugural Address of the conference. My participation in all these conferences, due to Dr. Mathew, of course, opened many new doors for me and, altogether, helped to enrich my image of India, its wonder, and its magic.

His book *Experiences, Experiments, and Expectations of a Common Man* is awesome. It is far from only revisiting parts of his life; it is a beautiful tribute to his ancestry as well. The metaphor of the Banyan trees brings forward the strong characters of his grandmothers and the text is exquisite, witnessing the high sensitivity of the author.

Dr. Mathew always encouraged me to continue to be active, to write to share my knowledge, and to mentor the young and I am following his advice.

We belong to the same generation. Coincidentally, I will mark my 85th birthday on the 12th of July 2024!



DR. SIMONA BADILESCU WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW, DR. P RADHAKRISHNAN, AND OTHER DIGNITARIES.



## *Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Kumar Sharma*

M Pharm, PGDBM, PhD,  
DSc [Honoris Causa], FIC, FABMS,  
FSPER, FICNM, FAFST, FAMS

### **Designation**

Former Pro-Chancellor,  
SGT University, Gurugram,  
Former Vice-Chancellor, SIMATS, Chennai, and  
Director (Retired),  
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*I am truly grateful to him for having taught me applied research management, minute details of event organization and the value of human aspect in everything.*

## BioSketch

Prof. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma, a Pharmacy post-graduate from Panjab University, Chandigarh, holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Delhi. He was conferred honorary DSc. in 2020. He possesses ~42 years of experience as a Scientist, Administrator, Academician and Educationist. He served DRDO for over 35 years. After that, Prof Sharma held the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, for nearly three years. His latest stint was as the Pro-Chancellor at SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana, for one year and four months. He has filed 20 patents (12 granted), published over 365 papers, and acclaimed many national/international awards.

## Tribute

Dear friends and colleagues,

I vividly remember Dr T. Lazar Mathew Sir – my teacher, mentor, and philosopher, for his long and successful research career as Director at DRDO Headquarters, DEBEL (Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory) and INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences), followed by different stints in academia, with outstanding accomplishments. His contributions in initiating the Society for Biomedical Research - an initiative of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the people's President, which was very close to his heart, are remarkable. He has been promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization of Technology. He has been great to work with and I will never forget all I learned along the way. He has been a great role model. I am truly grateful to him for having taught me applied research management, minute details of event organization and the value of human aspect in everything. I would like to express my gratitude for his leadership and guidance. These have a positive impact on my professional growth and helped me in shaping a successful

career. His presence in my life is a constant reminder of the immense value of friendship and mentorship. His unwavering affection and support are what sustain me through life's ups and downs. Thank you, Sir, once again for being such an integral part of my journey. I am lucky to have him in my life and for his immense contributions in making it worthwhile!

My congratulations to him for completing 60 years of dedicated service in both government and private sectors mentoring thousands of us. On his 82nd birthday on the 12th of July 2024, I wish him a day filled with laughter, surrounded by those who appreciate his incredible leadership. He continues to inspire; from a true bona-fide brilliant researcher and administrator, to now a driven educator!

The words of Dr Kalam always reverberate in my mind and it is only apt to quote it here.

“Friends, there are no strangers in the world, only friends we haven't met yet.”

**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**

### Additional Remarks

I would like to share two meaningful personal anecdotes that highlights his positive qualities.

In the year 2000 as Director, INMAS, he didn't accept my request to relieve me of the charge of Head, Division of Planning and Technical Coordination as I was neck

deep in steering R&D activities in the areas of Radiopharmaceutical and Radiation Biology. He said and I quote "Rakesh you can do both". Rather he assigned me a couple more of creative activities. I learned various techno-managerial aspects that were very helpful in the leadership roles thereafter.



THE INAUGURATION OF LIFE SCIENCES EXHIBITION BY  
DR. A. P. J. ABDUL KALAM

He tasked me to start a CSD Unit Run Canteen (URC). When I stated that there was an issue in getting an authorization of CSD URC due to an earlier pending case when it was shut after massive losses in Delhi Floods in 1977, he retorted “Do it anyway”. He constituted a small Committee under me. We collected

returnable voluntary contributions from the Officers and Staff of INMAS and used SSPL CSD Canteen to procure our first few inventories to start the CSD Canteen at one of the refurbished abandoned location, which was regularized few years later.



PROMOTION OF CIVIL-MILITARY INTERACTION DURING THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE INDO-CUBAN WORKSHOP ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN HEALTHCARE. FROM L TO R: PADMA VIBHUSHAN DR. G. PADMANABHAN, DR. LAZAR MATHEW, AND LT. GEN. DR. D. RAGHUNATH



## *Dr. N. K. Chaudhury*

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## **BioSketch**

Throughout my journey of 33 years as a Scientist, I have always taken steps to serve in core R&D areas of the DRDO Institute I served, through self learning (my initial training was in Physics) and practicing in the specialized areas of Radiation Biology, CBRN Training, and Quality Management.

I joined as Scientist B on the 5th of Dec 1990 at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (DRDO) and retired on the 29th of Feb 2024.

My complete education was in Shillong, a beautiful hill station at 5000 ft above sea level, and I secured first class first B.Sc (Phys) and M.Sc (Phys), from the North Eastern Hill University, and received the University Gold medal.

During my career, I had the opportunity to work in different multidisciplinary projects in the initial years. Self driven, I slowly shifted to R&D in Radiation Biology and led two important projects in the capacity of Project Director, and headed two Divisions comprising of 21 scientists working in radiation biology, development of decorporating agents, biodosimetry, CBRN training and cognitive control and machine learning.

Amongst various contributions, the establishment of the Biodosimetry Lab at INMAS in the year 2016 and the subsequent expansion of Biodosimetry Labs at different Command Hospitals, civilian hospitals and institutions are noteworthy.

- Publications: **59**
- Total Citations: **3160**
- Highest Impact factor: **12.77**
- Highest citation of single paper: **1246**
- Thesis supervised: **7**
- Special skill and competency: Dicentric chromosome assay (Biodosimetry)

## Tribute

I joined the Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences on 5th Dec 1990 as Scientist B. My expertise or rather work experience was on handling different types of high quality research grade gas and dye lasers and Raman spectroscopy. I was inducted in the Division of Biocybernetics headed by then senior most Scientist G, Prof V. Jain. He assigned me the task of establishing Copper Vapour laser pumped Rhodamine dye lased lab for photodynamic therapy of tumours in small animal model. The task was challenging for multiple reasons. The

lab was established in the year 1994 and though the experimental results were encouraging, but the project tenure got completed soon after. As a project in this line was not continued, there was no requirement of a Physics-based Scientist in the Division. Thus, my struggle started for an assignment relevant to the INMAS charter and it continued till Dr T Lazar Mathew took over as Director on the 1st of January 1999, after the superannuation of Prof V. Jain.

Dr. Mathew was looking for Scientists with Physics background and one day he called me along with another senior Scientist Dr Shushil Chandra, Sc D, an Engineer by qualification. Dr. Mathew enquired about my research areas and asked me for presentations on biosensors, which I prepared and presented before him. He liked my presentations and then proposed my name as Co investigator for a joint project that was submitted

by Dr B D Malhotra of National Physical Lab, New Delhi. Dr Shushil Chandra was the principal investigator. The project was titled “Development of Cholesterol Biosensor” funded by DBT (Govt of India) and through this project, I could get a research fellow for the first time (after 10 years of service) and together we published three papers in the prestigious journal Biosensors and Bioelectronics (current Impact factor 12.54), of which one



DR. N.K. CHAUDHURY RECEIVING AN AWARD FROM DR. LAZAR MATHEW, DIRECTOR INMAS

paper has received over 450 citations. He further boosted my scientific capability when he referred my name to another famous Scientist Prof. Sneh Anand, Head of Biomedical Engineering at IIT, New Delhi for a joint project which eventually materialized through DST (Govt of India) after his superannuation. The work area was on myoglobin detection for cardiac problems. Both the projects

were completed successfully with 6 publications, a cumulative impact factor of 43.22 and total citations of 600 plus, and most importantly two thesis.

In conclusion, this scientific breakthrough has developed confidence in me to undertake research projects in different categories from the basic S&T to Technology Demonstration, and therefore all credits are due to Dr. Lazar Mathew Sir.

*This scientific breakthrough has developed confidence in me to undertake research projects in different categories from the basic S&T to Technology Demonstration, and therefore all credits are due to Dr. Lazar Mathew Sir.*



## *Dr. Shashi Bhushan Gogia*

### **Designation**

President SATHI (Society for Administration of  
Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics)

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## **BioSketch**

Graduation and Post-Graduation at AIIMS, New Delhi. Based on my thesis, worked on developing an indigenous Intermittent Pneumatic Compression (IPC) system. It had limited success as a product, because imported products sold more professionally took over, but it did create awareness that lymphedema is a manageable disease. Went on to create a niche in the field of health software and telehealth – running 3 organizations as well as working with the Bureau of Indian Standards and International Standards Organization (ISO) to develop standards for Health Software interoperability. All the above remain as hobbies; earnings and livelihood are through my surgical practice.




*Dr. Lazar Mathew has been a continued guide and mentor to both IAMI as well as SATHI for many years; both pitchforked the Indian Health Informatics scenario to the world stage.*

## **Tribute**

In September 1994, my project of making VIPEL – India’s first Intermittent Pneumatic Compression (IPC) device was running into technical problems. The inflatable garment was leaky. It even exploded once due to excessive air pressure during usage on a patient.

I got to know that Dr. Lazar Mathew, then head of DEBEL (Defence Electrical and Bio- Engineering Laboratory, Bangalore) had used a better material for a similar garment as part of the HAPO (High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema) protection suit. I wrote to him for possible help (no email in those days) and within 3 days, I got a reply. “I have understood your problem and am willing to help. I shall be in Sena Bhavan in Delhi on 6th October and if you can pick me up at 2:30 PM and drop me to my next meeting at ISI, we can talk on the way.”

We met and sitting in the back seat - my wife was driving- we exchanged notes on the proper material (he had brought samples) and the design. On 26th December, my deadline, the completed sample garment directly reached my demo place which was a surgery conference in Cuttack, Odisha, India (which had around 20 million cases of Lymphedema), marking a new indigenous approach to Lymphedema care through indigenous products- thanks to the unstinted support of Prof. Lazar Mathew. This help to us was totally gratis as part of his vision and understanding of what is good for the country. He cited that he had made other contributions to SBMT (Society for Bio-Medical Technology), besides a stated DRDO policy – the vision of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, to pass on benefits of technology to the civilian sector.



We developed a bonding and friendship and have been exchanging notes with an understanding that what we are doing is good for the country. He took personal efforts to promote my work, and at his behest, Prof. APJ Abdul Kalam, head of DRDO in the 90s mentioned my work as part of DRDO's outreach.

A common interest in Health Informatics was another reason for us to work jointly. Dr. Lazar Mathew was the second president of the Indian Association for Medical Informatics (IAMI) which was launched in 1993. I joined IAMI in 2001 at his behest. Subsequently we together launched SATHI

(Society for Administration of Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics) in 2004 and also became the 5th president of IAMI. Dr. Lazar Mathew has been a continued guide and mentor to both IAMI as well as SATHI for many years; both pitchforked the Indian Health Informatics scenario to the world stage. While I was heading the organization handling many interpersonal issues with other stakeholders, Dr. Lazar Mathew remained my guide and mentor. His continuous and unstinting advice has helped us in the smooth running of the organization. IAMI is now no longer active and has been replaced by SATHI.

### Additional Remarks

1. Dr. Lazar Mathew along with Dr. N C Appavoo – then DGHS Tamil Nadu state, were the two persons who restored our faith in the workings of government technocrats. It is this small percentage of genuine honest people who helped India leapfrog into the 21st century.
2. A quote (example above) from Dr. Lazar Mathew I keep emulating on a regular basis. The best way to find quality time for discussions in this busy world is while travelling together.
3. High thinking and simple living with core Christian values has been a hallmark of Dr. Lazar Mathew and his family. During visits to Bangalore, which were for my own promotion, I was invited to stay at his house rather than spend on hotels. Also giving more time to discuss.



*Dr. M.P. Thomas  
(1965 KMC Batch)*

## **BioSketch**

After completing my M.B.B.S from K.M.C Mangalore, I worked in a couple of hospitals in Kerala. I did P.G in Gynaecology at K.M.C, Mangalore. Afterwards, I joined Government Health Service, Kerala and worked in several hospitals in and around Kottayam. Now I am enjoying my retired life in Kottayam, my home town.

*I still remember with what enthusiasm we, his students, organized his wedding reception at Manipal.*

## Tribute

Dr. Lazar Mathew was my teacher, but to me, he was not just a teacher, but a friend, philosopher and guide, whom I remember with deep love and gratitude even today, more than five decades after our close association ended. I first met him in my late teens as a fresher in K.M.C, Manipal, where he was my teacher in Physiology. He was an excellent teacher who had a great knack of helping his students get a good grasp of the subject. In addition to that, he was also able to instill in his students, a love for the subject he taught. Our relationship went far beyond that of a student and teacher. At that time, Lazar Mathew Sir was only a few years older than us, his students, and he treated us more like his friends. It was a very warm and personal relationship. In those days, my father used to visit me once in 3-4 months. The first person he would like to meet was Dr. Lazar Mathew. He had very high regards for Dr. Mathew. He used to tell me that I should follow the way Dr.

Mathew conducted himself with dignity and uprightness and also emulate his hard work. I have tried my best to follow him as a model; not just a teacher, but as a guide. I still remember with what enthusiasm we, his students, organized his wedding reception at Manipal. Even after he left Manipal, we kept in touch. It was an occasion of great joy for me when he, along with his wife and two little children, visited me at my house in Kottayam.

In those days, we used to complete the preclinical subjects of Anatomy, Physiology and Biochemistry at Manipal and move on to Mangalore for clinical studies and hospital postings. Despite my going away from Manipal, my association with Dr. Mathew continued. It is a matter of great pride for us, his students, that he has so many academic and professional achievements to his credit. May God bless him with good health and happiness in his retired life.



DR. M.P. THOMAS, PROF. KRISHNASWAMY AND OTHERS ATTENDING THE WEDDING CEREMONY OF DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. MARTINS MATHEW AT CHRIST CHURCH MANIPAL.



THE NEWLY WEDDED COUPLE AT THE RECEPTION GIVEN BY DR. M. P. THOMAS TO THE FRIENDS OF OF DR. (MRS.) MATHEW.



## *Dr. Tom Devasia*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Tom Devasia is Professor and Head (Department of Cardiology), KMC, Manipal. He is an interventional cardiologist. In addition to the MBBS (1999), MD Medicine (2003) and DM Cardiology (2007) degrees, he has also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetology (2011) and an MBA in Health Care Services (2012). He is Fellow of several International Cardiology Societies and has several important publications to his credit. He is also DM teacher and examiner, PhD guide in Cardiology, Co-investigator of multinational trials including REPORT HF, Cantos, Parallax, Zeus, Horizon, victorion 2 trials. Expert and proctor in complex calcific coronary and peripheral interventions. Expert in dialysis fistula interventions. Expert in structural heart interventions including transcatheter aortic valve implantation, expert and proctor in rotablation, Expert and proctor in intracoronary imaging IVUS and OCT.



*He struck me as an extremely God fearing man who would use every single opportunity to get in touch with God and of course the church, in spite of his various academic and administrative commitments.*

## **Tribute**

I met Dr. Lazar Mathew in 2017, for the first time in my office. At that time, he was the chairman of the DST committee on medical technology. He visited our University in that capacity to see the biomedical equipment and device development capabilities existing in our centre. Professor Venkatesan of Manipal Institute of Technology was taking him around the various departments of KMC, Manipal including the hospital. He introduced Dr. Lazar Mathew and spoke very highly about him, mentioning his contributions in the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) where he was Director at three establishments. According to Prof. Venkatesan he was a close associate of Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. This introduction was very impressive and created a high level of impression in me. Incidentally, I came to know that he belongs to my native place.

Subsequently, he was invited by our management to be a senior advisor in the field of Biomedical Technology, based on his expertise and experience in various institutions including the Govt. of India. His assignment was only for a week in a month and hence he used to visit and stay in the International Guest House. During these visits, he made it a point to visit my house and spend a couple of hours with my family depending upon my convenience. He used to enjoy Kerala delicacy dishes at my home which my wife prepared lovingly for him.

He motivated his family members to be close to God. I was always amazed to see him as a great family man, his wife taking great care of him despite her age and health issues. He struck me as an extremely God fearing man who would use every single opportunity to get in touch with God and of course the church, in spite of his various academic and administrative commitments.



## *Dr. K. K. Venkataraman*

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. KK Venkataraman did B.E. (Hons.) Electronics & Communications, from PSG College of Technology in the year 1978 and obtained his Masters (MBA) from PSG Tech in the year 1992 and PhD (Management) in the year 2015 from Bharathiar University.

Has a rich industrial experience – 6 years at Pricol in Automotive, 20 years at Premier Polytronics in Textile electronics and 6 years at BPL in Biomedical and Instrumentation. Has developed several products. Co-authored 4 Indian patents and One PCT patent. Currently working as Professor in ECE in PSG Institute of Advanced Studies (PSGIAS) in Nanotechnology (Electronic domain support) and Industry/Institute linked projects.



*I perceive him as an ocean of knowledge and experience and with a friendly approach.*

## **Tribute**

It has been an amazing journey with Dr. Lazar Mathew from the time that I met him in 2008 when he was an adviser to Pricol's medical equipment initiative. He guided us in the formation of Pricol Medical Systems and the development of a basic Ventilator. His suggestions and comments were apt and very useful since he is a biomedical expert and has won a lot of awards and honours from various Government agencies.

When I joined PSGIAS, the relationship became stronger with his guidance on development of various medical devices. As an adviser to PSGIAS, he was instrumental in supporting us to take up the DST project on High End ICU ventilator and its successful completion. He was very much senior to me, and I used to wonder how he has so much energy for travel and meetings and guiding people.

He is very systematic and his interactions with people have been very cordial and helpful. With his vast knowledge and

expertise, he had supported a number of my colleagues at PSGIAS on their projects towards successful completion. I used to seek his opinion on any Biomedical related queries and he was ready to clarify without any hesitation.

In 2017, I happened to see his document on convocation address to IEST, Howrah which wonderfully addresses Engineering Education for holistic development. It addresses the current situation of engineering education and suggests it should focus on the current problems of society. In fact, I have used some of the points of that document including student employability for my faculty development program presentations with his permission.

With the long association with Dr. Lazar Mathew, I perceive him as an ocean of knowledge and experience and with a friendly approach. I immensely thank him for his timely advice and support in taking critical decisions that helped me in my career.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW RECEIVING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM DR. RADHAKRISHNAN, DIRECTOR, PSGIAS



DR. LAZAR MATHEW WITH PROF. VENKATARAMAN AND OTHER SENIOR FACULTY OF BIOMEDICAL DEPARTMENT, PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



## *Dr. Maombi Edison*

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## **BioSketch**

I am a Physician (MD) and Biomedical Engineer (PhD Scholar) from DR Congo Africa, with more than ten years of experience in the biomedical engineering area, especially in the context of Low-and-Middle-income Settings. I am experienced in biomedical research and development, hemorheology studies, medical image processing, medical devices need assessment and quality control, specifications design, user training, health technologies management, oxygen scaleup project management, monitoring, and evaluation.

In my role as a Biomedical Engineer expert for Government institutions, hospitals, UN agencies, and international organizations, I proved to be an efficient, enthusiastic, and strong leader. Naturally, I am well known as a humble man who is always ready to accept responsibilities commensurate with my skills.



*Professor Mathew was full of the most extraordinary basic wisdom and meeting him was a huge blessing to me.*

## **Tribute**

I met Professor Lazar Mathew in 2007-2009 when I travelled to India for my M. Tech Biomedical Engineering studies at VIT University, where he was the Dean of the School of Bioscience and Technology (SBST). I still remember his guidance and motivating words during the sessions in anatomy and physiology.

Professor Mathew was well-known in both Student and Faculty circles as a passionate advocate for the school and played a key role in the development of the biomedical engineering department at VIT.

Professor Mathew was full of the most extraordinary basic wisdom and meeting him was a huge blessing to me. I remember when I completed my M. Tech in 2009, I

met him and told him about my plan to come back later to VIT to pursue PhD studies and he encouraged me not to abandon my dream. In 2013 I went back to VIT to start with my PhD hoping that I would see him again but unfortunately, he was no more there.

I learned many lessons from him which now I am trying to transmit to others so that this light from Professor Mathew keeps shining.

As one of his students, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for Professor Mathew's 60 years commitment to teaching, research, and technical management in both government and private sectors and to extend best wishes on his 82nd birth anniversary.



*Dr. P. Prema*

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## **BioSketch**

I am presently working as lecturer in ECE department of GPTC, ARANTHANGI. I have nearly 22 years of teaching experience. Worked with prestigious institutions in Tamil Nadu namely SRM UNIVERSITY, VIT UNIVERSITY and PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY in the department of Biomedical Engineering. I have 20 publications in international journals and conferences. My specialization includes signal processing, machine learning and embedded systems.

## **Tribute**

I am very happy to share my thoughts on Dr. Lazar Mathew, my Godfather, my guide and my well wisher. He is the person who shaped my career, my life and myself. Before meeting Sir, I was just a teacher. Because of Sir's motivation I wanted to be an inspiring teacher and will always work towards that till the end of my career. Sir, you moulded me as a researcher by giving me an opportunity to work in the SBMT speech enhancer project. Truly saying,

that was the first time I started learning signal processing on my own, to work on real time environment. Thank you, Sir. You and Martins Ma'am held my hands and trained me to walk in the right path and I just follow it as a believer of God. Whatever credit I earn is all because of you and your guidance. I dedicate my success to you. My prayers for you and Ma'am.



*He is the person who shaped my career,  
my life and myself.*



## *Dr. D. Brindha*

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Brindha D is an Assistant Professor (Sl. Gr.) in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India. She holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Anna University, Chennai, specializing in Medical Image Analysis. With over a decade of experience in the field, Dr. Brindha is a life member of the Biomedical Engineering Society of India. Her expertise includes biomedical image analysis, instrumentation, signal processing, and computational biomechanics. Dr. Brindha has contributed to numerous research projects sponsored by prestigious agencies such as AICTE and DST. She has published extensively in international and national journals, focusing on various aspects of biomedical engineering, including gait analysis, pain assessment, and diagnostic equipment design. Dr. Brindha is also actively involved in organizing workshops and conferences, furthering the dissemination of knowledge in her field.



*His teachings weren't confined to textbooks; they were lessons about life, delivered with passion and sincerity. Every interaction with him was enlightening, leaving a lasting impression on my mind and heart.*

## Tribute

Professor Mathew was not just an educator; he was a beacon of inspiration, a guiding light that illuminated the path of countless students, including myself. His impact on my life is profound and everlasting, shaping not only my academic journey but also my personal growth and perspective on life.

His teachings weren't confined to textbooks; they were lessons about life, delivered with passion and sincerity. Every interaction with him was enlightening, leaving a lasting impression on my mind and heart. He didn't just teach us subjects; he instilled in us a sense of curiosity, a hunger for knowledge, and the courage to pursue our dreams.

I first encountered Professor Mathew in my sophomore year of college, when I enrolled in his introductory course on Physiology. From the very first class, it was evident that he was not just passionate about the subject matter; he was deeply interested in the intellectual and emotional development of his students. His lectures were not mere recitations of facts and theories; they were impassioned explorations of the human condition, infused with anecdotes, humor, and profound insights.

Professor Mathew's influence extended beyond the classroom, profoundly shaping my academic journey and personal growth. A significant moment during my

M. Tech project at AIISH exemplifies his unwavering support. Collaborating with Professors Ajish Abraham and Mathew on a research initiative led by Professor Sara Anitha, I faced a dilemma: a crucial DST project review coincided with an interview for a lecturer position at PSG College of Technology.

Feeling unsure about what to do, I asked Professor Mathew for advice. He not only let me go to the interview but also handled my DST presentation smoothly, making sure our project didn't suffer. His quick and firm actions eased my worries, showing how much he cared about helping students reach their goals. Professor Mathew helped all of us in our M. Tech group, making sure we had chances to do well in our studies and careers. His unwavering belief in our potential and willingness to accommodate our needs left an enduring impression of gratitude and admiration.

Reflecting on this pivotal moment, I am reminded of Professor Mathew's invaluable guidance and support, which continue to inspire me as I navigate academia and beyond. His legacy of compassion, mentorship, and belief in every student's potential will forever resonate in my journey of learning and growth. In Professor Mathew, I found not just a teacher, but a mentor, a friend, and a source of endless inspiration.



## *Dr. N. S. Kumar*

### **Designation**

Managing Director, Shanmugha Charitable  
Foundation, Kanyakumari &  
Former Associate Director, Defence  
Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory  
(DEBEL, DRDO), Bangalore

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## **BioSketch**

After my graduation in chemistry from Madurai Kamaraj University, I completed my post graduation in chemistry and Bachelors degree in Education from Kerala University. I completed my doctoral research from Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Science and Technology, Trivandrum, in the area of Biomedical Technology. I joined DRDO in the year 1991. After a brief tenure at NMRL, DRDO Mumbai, I spent more than 30 years in DEBEL DRDO, Bangalore. After my retirement in April 2023, I have started a charity foundation to promote R&D in rural academic institutions and industries.

*Dr. Mathew is a thoughtful visionary. He is very helpful even to unknown persons. His empathy levels are very high.*

## Tribute

Dr. T. Lazar Mathew Sir is one of the rarest scientists that I have come across in my 37 years of R&D exposure at various places and at various levels. My first meeting was at the R&D Head Quarters of DRDO in December 1992. I was not wearing warm clothes; he came to me and advised me to wear warm clothes to protect my health. He is very helpful even to unknown persons. His empathy levels are very high. At that time I did not know that he was the Director of DEBEL, DRDO. On the same day, within an hour, I was meeting him again in Directorate of Personnel, DRDO HQrs in front of DOP. I went to DRDO HQrs requesting for a transfer, and I was advised from DOP that DEBEL is a good choice since my Ph.D degree was in Biomedical Technology. I introduced myself and explained to Dr. Mathew about my request for a transfer on compassionate grounds, and he advised me to send the biodata through proper channel. After seeing my biodata, he gracefully accepted me at DEBEL in Nov. 1993. In DEBEL he assigned me work related to NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) protective devices. One of my friends, Dr. T.K. Kotresh and present Director of DEBEL had strongly recommended my name for this work. Two of the products got GS clearance with the help of the team and his regular reviews and all the technical support, and were taken up for mass production. He also assigned some work related to Society

for Biomedical Technology (SBMT). He was the Programme Executive of SBMT and Dr. Arun Tiwari was the Programme Manager. I still remember Dr. Mathew giving a warm introduction about me to Dr. Kalam who was the founder of SBMT and SA to RM in 1996. When Dr. Kalam reviewed my work, I requested for a composite specialist and Mrs. Rohini Devi madam of RCI was nominated by Dr. Kalam to help in the project. During the periodical reviews both Dr. Mathew and Dr. Kalam encouraged the R&D work which led to successful development of a product and later the ToT was done. NBC development activities flourished well when he was the Director and he laid a strong foundation for ATPV activities at DEBEL. ILSS programme for LCA was also initiated. Many more activities in the area of Biomedical Technology and Underwater life support system were also carried out.

Dr. Mathew is a thoughtful visionary. During his tenure as Director at DEBEL, many life support devices were developed and implemented. The present DEBEL garden also remembers him. He is a very good organizer, philosopher, teacher, honest gentleman besides his extraordinary abilities for promoting Science and Technology in DRDO. Besides DRDO, even after his retirement he is serving the society through academic institutions. I sincerely pray to the Almighty for his good health and long service to the society.



## *Ms. Megha Sunil*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

I am Megha Sunil, currently pursuing a Ph.D. in the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics at Manipal Academy of Higher Education. Born and raised in Kerala, I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Physics from St. Albert's College, Ernakulam, Kerala, in 2021 under Mahatma Gandhi University. Following my undergraduate studies, I enrolled in Manipal Academy of Higher Education for a Master's degree in Photonics within the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, which I completed in 2023. Subsequently, I transitioned to a research scholar role within the same department, focusing on Biophotonics as my area of specialization.

*Despite his towering reputation, he exuded humility and approachability, creating an environment where I felt comfortable sharing my ambitions and seeking guidance.*

## Tribute

Meeting Professor Lazar Mathew Sir was an extraordinary moment in my life, one that I will always cherish as a pivotal point in my academic and professional journey. While he did not teach me in a formal classroom setting, his impact on my life has been profound, shaping my decision to pursue a career in academia and guiding me toward a Ph.D. I vividly remember the mixture of nerves and excitement that consumed me during our first meeting. As I stood before this renowned scientist whose life was dedicated to science, I could not help but feel a sense of awe and intimidation. However, any apprehension I felt quickly dissipated in his presence. Lazar Sir's warmth and genuine interest in my aspirations immediately put me at ease. Despite his towering reputation, he exuded humility and approachability, creating an environment where I felt comfortable sharing my ambitions and seeking guidance. Lazar Sir offered me unwavering support and encouragement to pursue a career in academia and embark on the journey towards a Ph.D. His belief in my potential gave me the confidence to pursue my dreams and overcome any doubts or uncertainties I may have had. Beyond his words of encouragement, Lazar Sir's mentorship extended to introducing me to the world of academia and still he is providing invaluable guidance on navigating its challenges. I had the privilege of meeting his wife, Dr. Artimizia, whose warmth and wisdom further enriched my experience. Their welcoming demeanor and genuine interest in my journey made me feel not just like a student, but a part of their family. Today, I am proud to be counted

among those whom Lazar Sir and Artimizia Madam remember. His impact on my life extends far beyond academia; he has instilled in me a deep appreciation for the pursuit of knowledge and the importance of mentorship. I am grateful for the opportunity to have learned from someone as distinguished and compassionate as him, and I carry his guidance with me as I continue to navigate the complexities of academic and professional life. In being a part of his life as a student, I am reminded of the profound influence one person can have on another, and I am inspired to pay forward the guidance and support I have received.



MS. MEGHA SUNIL WITH DR. MARTINS MATHEW AND DR. LAZAR MATHEW



*Dr. Ligy Thomas*

**Designation**

Research Associate

**BioSketch**

I completed my PhD in cell biology from Delhi University North Campus, from INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences) under the supervision of Dr. Lazar Mathew. Thereafter, I worked as a lecturer in Garden City College, Bangalore, and after a break, at Jawaharlal Nehru Center for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore. Presently, I am based in Abu Dhabi.

*Sir's constant remembrance of God in his work and through his day, which is also evident in the way Sir treats and interacts with people, shows the true heart of a humble leader.*

## Tribute

Dr. Lazar Mathew was my neighbour when I was in school in Bangalore. He and his family were a constant inspiration for me. I remember how both his children Joseph and Maria would study together and both became doctors like their parents. Their family was dedicated to serving those around them. Many years later after my post-graduation, I had applied for a PhD at Delhi University. My research centre was INMAS. It came as a very pleasant surprise that Dr. Lazar Mathew was the Director of the institute. He very graciously accepted me as his student. Under his supervision and guidance, I was able to complete my PhD. I am thankful to God and to him for the wonderful opportunity to train under his mentorship.

During my PhD, Sir was always supportive and constantly encouraged me to be involved in the various events, seminars and conferences conducted. Even after all these years, whenever I have contacted Sir for anything, he has always been supportive and encouraging. I am indeed indebted to him for playing a significant role in my life. Another thing

that struck me as it would have all of you, was the little mark he makes on the top of every new sheet of paper he writes on, taking a moment to remember God and then starting his work. Sir's constant remembrance of God in his work and through his day, which is also evident in the way Sir treats and interacts with people, shows the true heart of a humble leader.

As Sir reaches this blessed milestone of 60 years of service and 82nd birthday on the 12th of July, I wish Sir all the very best, all strength and health, all joy and peace and hope and faith, to carry on from strength to strength in the path that he chooses. May Almighty God's choicest blessings rest on Sir and his family always. I would also like to thank Prof. Sudesh Sivarasu for contacting me and giving me this honour to add my little flower to this beautiful bouquet that will be presented to Sir on his birthday.

Thank you and best wishes,  
**Ligy**



*Dr. Rithu S*

**Designation**

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**BioSketch**

I, Dr.Rithu, am a dentist from Ooty, Tamil Nadu. I completed my postgraduation in Public Health, specializing in Epidemiology. I am currently pursuing a PhD in Public Health from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka. I am an early-career researcher with an interest in tribal health, nutritional epidemiology, and women and child health. I have worked as a research assistant on a project related to public health education at MAHE. I have co-authored 2 handbooks on Anatomy and Physiology for allied health students.



*He always has the simplest solutions for  
the hardest of problems.*

## Tribute

July 2022- that's when I bagged my first job in research. Though the place (MAHE) was not new, the job surely was. I was allotted the staff quarters in the university campus, of which I was trying to make a home away from home, for and by myself.

Every evening while returning from work, I would observe an old couple strolling in the neighborhood. Something about watching that couple everyday gave me a sense of tranquility. I assumed them to be parents of some employee in the quarters. In my defence, they looked so simple and always batted a warm smile. Little did I know that I was about to learn a lesson for life (in a good way): "Never judge a book by its cover".

I had this strange urge to introduce myself to the couple. Eventually, we got to talk one day, and the conversation blew my mind. I was never so embarrassed to have judged someone. The couple was Dr. and Dr.(Mrs.) Mathew. They had started their journey from Manipal (the same place I had just started my journey), had a long, successful, and inspiring journey, and have returned to the same place. That conversation was the start of a special bond I am and will always be grateful for. I used to visit Sir and Ma'am at their home,

would sit and discuss my future goals and interests. They were also the first people I visited immediately after receiving my Master's degree.

Dr. Mathew knew about my interest in social science research even before I joined for a PhD. Little did either of us know that he would be an advisor in my doctoral committee in the following days. Thanks to his vast experience in diverse settings, Dr. Mathew is an advisor who is most familiar with the opportunities and difficulties I face during my PhD journey. I must take this opportunity to say: "Thank you very much Sir for accepting to guide me through my PhD journey!"

He always has the simplest solutions for the hardest of problems.

His acknowledgment of one's effort is a major motivation.

His calm demeanor competes with his greys in reflecting his experience.

I dream of reflecting in myself, the attributes of Dr. Mathew that I have observed in the past two years, as a neighbor and as a student.

Thank you, Sir, for guiding and inspiring me and many more students alike!



*Dr. Siby John*

**Designation**

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Chandigarh

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**BioSketch**

Dr. Siby John is presently Professor of Civil Engineering and Deputy Director at Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh. Dr. John's illustrious academic background includes a B Tech in Civil Engineering and an M Tech in Environmental Engineering. This was rounded off by a prestigious PhD from the Indian Institute Technology (IIT), Kanpur.

Dr. John has more than 35 years of academic and research experience during which he has held important academic as well as administrative positions like Director, Dean, Head of Department and Chairperson, Senate etc. As a distinguished researcher in his own right, Professor John has been allotted a spacious entry in the areas of pedagogy/ quality in higher and engineering education, environment and sustainable development.



*The interaction highlighted not just the depth of his knowledge but his capability to conceive and create something innovative.*

## Tribute

My personal association with Prof. Lazar Mathew began when I was Dean of Punjab Technical University (PTU) Jalandhar; and since then, he has been a mentor and guardian for me. His unique qualities such as kindness, simplicity, perseverance, focus and the conviction based on his personal experience have left an indelible mark on all those he encountered. Dr. Mathew is renowned for his original contributions in the field of biosciences. One of the most profound moments that encapsulate its essence was when he chaired the Committee for establishing a Centre of Excellence of Bio Technology at PTU Jalandhar, where I was the convener. The interaction highlighted not just the depth of his knowledge but his capability to conceive and create something innovative. He is humility and wisdom personified.

Recently, when I was going through his autobiographical note, “**Experiences, Experiments and Expectations of a**

**Common Man**”, where he portrays himself as a *common man* (Ceeyem, as he fondly calls himself); I could easily identify myself and understand that the common man everywhere has a common plight.

The impact of Prof Mathew extends far beyond the immediate circle. His legacy continues to inspire and motivate. He taught many the values of pursuance and selfless service in achieving career progress. As Adam Grant puts it, “*Good leaders build products, Great leaders build cultures; Good leaders deliver results, Great leaders develop people; Good leaders have vision, Great leaders have values; Good leaders are role models at work, Great leaders are role models in life.*”

Thank you Sir, for your immeasurable contributions and for the paths you have paved for us to follow.



*Dr. Sam James, Ph.D.*

**Designation**

COO

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**BioSketch**

After a decade and a half of diligent effort, I proudly attained my PhD in systems engineering from Oakland University, located in Rochester, MI, USA. Concurrently, my wife and I established our very own Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Clinic, dedicated to catering to the needs of the Detroit, MI community. Presently, I hold a position as a Part-time Assistant Professor at Wayne State University, where I educate Occupational Therapy students on the intricacies of business, administration, and management. Alongside my academic responsibilities, I continue to provide occupational therapy services to individuals confined to their homes, ensuring they receive the care they require despite their inability to access outpatient centers



*You were the reason that today I was able to achieve my lifelong dream as PhD researcher in Biomedical Engineering.*

## **Tribute**

Dear Dr. Lazar Mathew,

I hope this message finds you well. As I sit down to express my gratitude, it's hard to find the words to encapsulate the profound impact you've had on my academic journey and personal growth. You were the reason that today I was able to achieve my lifelong dream as PhD researcher in Biomedical Engineering.

Your unwavering dedication to teaching and mentoring has shaped not only my understanding of the subject matter such as physiology, which I still remember, but also my approach to learning and critical thinking. Your passion for biomedical engineering is contagious, and it has inspired me to delve deeper into my studies and strive for excellence in all that I do.

Beyond the classroom, your kindness, patience, and willingness to go above and beyond for your students have not gone unnoticed. You were there to answer my questions and provide invaluable

guidance on my M Tech research project; you have always been there to support and encourage me every step of the way.

Personally, I am immensely grateful for the mentorship and guidance you have provided me. Your belief in my abilities has instilled confidence in me, and your guidance has helped shape my academic and professional trajectory in ways I never imagined possible.

As I reflect on my time under your tutelage, I am filled with profound gratitude for the impact you have had on my life. Thank you, Dr. Mathew, for your unwavering dedication, your tireless efforts, and your genuine passion for teaching and mentoring. You have left an indelible mark on me, and I am forever grateful.

Wishing you continued success, fulfillment, and happiness in all your future endeavors.

With deepest gratitude,  
**Sam James, PhD.**



## *Dr. Lina Rose*

### **Designation**


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Ontario, Canada

### **Contact Information**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Lina Rose is a dedicated researcher with a diverse academic background spanning Biomedical Engineering, Control Engineering, and Instrumentation Engineering. Holding a Ph.D. in Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, she possesses a wealth of experience in interdisciplinary research. With over 8 years of teaching experience as an Assistant Professor in India and currently serving as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Windsor, Dr. Rose specializes in developing soft sensors using polymers for various applications such as wearables and organic sensors. She collaborates with experts in mechanical and materials engineering, as well as biochemistry, for interdisciplinary research.



*He was forthright in his approach, detesting negativity, and his positive, hardworking nature at his age is truly admirable.*

## Tribute

Dr. Lazar Mathew holds a special place in my heart, and I am truly grateful and deeply honored for the opportunity to contribute to commemorating his remarkable milestone. Lazar Sir was not just a mentor but also a great source of inspiration and a cherished family person to me. We hail from the same place, and every time we talked, he asked about my family and parents too. He always welcomed me with a pleasant smile and affectionately called me “Dear Lina Rose.” His passion for his subject matter and relentless support for my research have left an indelible mark on my academic and personal journey. I had the great opportunity to assist him in various events, and those memories are everlasting and truly unique. Additionally, I had the privilege of accompanying him to church on Sundays and other occasions, where I greatly admired his spirituality. He was forthright in his approach, detesting negativity, and his positive, hardworking nature at his age is truly admirable. I was

humbled to have him provide potential suggestions for my doctoral research and assist with thesis corrections, helping me refine it to its final form.

During the pandemic, I had the privilege of spending family time with Lazar Sir. We shared memorable moments, including a blessed Easter lunch with him and my parents. Dr.(Mrs.) Lazar Mathew, equally down-to-earth, afforded me a few conversations, for which I am grateful. Sir’s wisdom, kindness, and thoughtful insights have not only shaped my academic pursuits but also influenced my professional and research endeavors. He showed special concern towards me, akin to that of a father; each visit was marked with thoughtful gifts for my daughters, leaving lasting memories that would be cherished for a lifetime.

I wholeheartedly thank Dr. Lazar Mathew for his unwavering love, support, and care throughout these years.



*Sr. Carmeline*

**Designation**

St Francis Hospital, Ajmer

**Contact Information**

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**BioSketch**

Rev. Sr. Carmeline belongs to the Congregation of Mission Sisters of Ajmer. After completing B.Sc. Nursing, she did a Post-graduate Diploma in Maternal & Child Health from CMC Vellore. She has been the Nursing Superintendent at St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer, Rajasthan, for over 20 years.



*His commitment to our hospital, patients and all the employees was truly inspiring.*

## **Tribute**

Dear Sir,

Hope and pray that these few lines will find you in good health.

Doctor Lazar Mathew will be completing 60 years of dedicated service in both government and private sectors. Additionally, he will be celebrating his 82nd birthday on the 12th of July 2024.

I wish Doctor, God's abundant blessings, my prayerful support, good health and a bright future. I am glad to share my rich experience and share my appreciation about Doctor Lazar Mathew, the former Director of our Hospital - St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer. His expertise and exceptional care have made a real difference in our Hospital. I appreciate his unwavering dedication and commitment.

Doctor's genuine concern and support have made a lot of difference in our Institution. His commitment to our hospital, patients and all the employees was truly inspiring.

I am grateful for the exceptional support, kindness and the positive impact he has provided during my time as a Manager at our hospital. And for being a mentor to me personally. Giving me a chance to grow by making me a part of the SIGNET Project, where I had the opportunity to share my presentation on various topics and also taking me to Singapore which I had never dreamt in my life. I thank God for all his guidance and help in my life.

With my best wishes and prayerful support.



## *Sister Karuna MSA*

### **Designation**

St Francis Hospital, Ajmer

### **BioSketch**

Rev. Sr. Karuna belongs to the Congregation of Mission Sisters of Ajmer. She has rendered her services as an expert ultrasonologist for over 30 years at St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer, Rajasthan. She has also served in the capacity of Superior of Congregation as well as Manager at the Sophia Senior Secondary School, Bhatta, Ajmer. She is currently the Financial Manager at St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer.

*I was touched by his simple life style, holy living and strict observance of the Gospel way of life.*

## Tribute

I deem it my privilege to pen down a few words of appreciation about a great personality who is none other than Dr. T. Lazar Mathew. Dr. Lazar Mathew is a great visionary with tremendous foresightedness and confidence. He is a vibrant and enthusiastic personality with firm determination and courage, full of knowledge and vitality. I was one of those who have been blessed to be working under his guidance as he took up the post of Director of our Hospital for a few years.

To speak about him, he was a strict disciplinarian, and perfectionist, who wanted everyone to be perfect in whatever they do. It does not mean that he was impatient with the imperfections. He is an excellent Administrator with a kind heart for all those in need. I know personally, a number of people whom he has helped to come up in life, who are doing well in different spheres of life. To me, personally he has been a guide, an advisor, a mentor and above all a spiritual person on whom I could depend on for spiritual help. I was touched by his simple life style, holy living and strict observance of the Gospel way of life. He is a perfect husband to his wife, a loving father to his children and a beloved grandpa to his grandchildren.

It is his union with God that has kept him going as he completes 82 years of his life and 60 years of service to humanity in different capacities.

“May GOD continue to bless him abundantly”

I was also privileged to be part of “SIGNET” – a project he had undertaken between

India and Singapore. I was lucky enough to be associated with this project and contribute towards the goal, where Dr. Lazar Mathew was always a motivational figure. He was a great support in carrying out my responsibilities to the best.

He has been a great asset to our Institute (St. Francis Hospital, Ajmer, Rajasthan), to mention a few: he designed and constructed the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Deluxe Room Blocks (JP Ward), that has strengthened the health care system of the hospital to accommodate the new demands. He also took much interest in creating a Prayer Room in the hospital complex for the patients and relatives.

I am happy that he is celebrating his 82nd Birthday and thank GOD for keeping him fit to continue the noble work he is involved in.

Wishing him the very best and God’s abundant blessings for the days ahead.



SR. KARUNA AND SR. CARMELINE, WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW



## *Mr. Abhinav MD*

### **Designation**

CEO, Cardea Labs & Cardea Biomedical  
Technologies  
ISO9001:2008 and ISO13485:2003 Certified  
Organization  
Affiliate, Stanford India Biodesign 2018

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## **BioSketch**

Abhinav is a first generation MedTech & EdTech Entrepreneur (CEO - Cardea Labs) which provides state-of-the-art medical devices and educational toolkits made available for an affordable price point. He is a former research scientist at IIT Delhi and AIIMS New Delhi. He is also an affiliate to the prestigious Stanford India Biodesign program. He is rated among the top 100 Global Innovators for consecutive years (13 & 14) by the Editors of Technology Review, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, US under the TR35 Global Innovation award. ATOM ECG is a flagship product of Cardea Labs which gives a medical grade 12 lead ECG on any smart phone. ATOM ECG is being used by the Hon'ble President of India (Sh. Ramnath Kovind Ji at the Presidential Estate of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan).

Cardea Labs' education vertical empowers educational institutes in setting up Centre of Excellence in wearable devices through their innovations under the banner of miBEAT. miBEAT has been awarded as the Product of the Year by ASSOCHAM. Abhinav has also been awarded by multiple agencies such as MSME, DSIR & DBT - Govt of India to develop diagnostic medical devices. He has been a speaker at TEDx and FICCI and is currently working on multiple innovations in healthcare and education in stealth mode.

## Tribute

My Most Respected and Dear Professor  
(Dr.) Lazar Mathew Sir,

I write to you with profound gratitude and admiration for the extraordinary impact you have had on my life and the lives of so many others. As your student, I am deeply honored to express my heartfelt appreciation for your exceptional guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support.

Reflecting on my journey, I am reminded of the pivotal moment when I stood at the threshold of uncertainty after completing my Engineering, unsure of my path in the vast realm of Biomedical Engineering. It was your insightful recommendation that granted me entry into the research laboratory of CBME, IIT Delhi. This single act transformed my trajectory, providing me with invaluable exposure, profound learning, and a deeper understanding of the intricate fabric of research. Working alongside the brilliant minds of Prof. Sneh Anand's team at the Center of Biomedical Engineering at IIT Delhi and

AIIMS New Delhi, I was enriched with experiences that continue to shape my journey to this day. Among the cherished memories that I hold close to my heart are the moments when I had the privilege of accompanying you from your home to the IIT Delhi campus. These precious interactions were not only opportunities to glean from your wealth of experiences but also to engage in impassioned discussions on various subjects, including the art of entrepreneurship. It was during these exchanges that you planted the seeds of innovation and enterprise within me, igniting a flame that continues to burn bright within my soul.

When I embarked on the journey of founding Cardea Labs, your unwavering support shone through once again. It was your trust and belief in our potential that granted us the opportunity to organize a workshop on MATLAB for the students of Biomedical Engineering at VIT Vellore. Your confidence in us served as a guiding light, inspiring us to give our utmost

effort to ensure the students received an enriching experience during the workshop. That day, I learned a valuable lesson about the power of faith, and I have since placed my trust in my team members, who consistently demonstrate their dedication and commitment to our organization.

I am also delighted to share with you the fruits of your guidance and inspiration. Our flagship innovation, ATOM ECG (Accurate Twelve lead ECG On Mobile), has garnered some traction and we are working on newer versions of the device. I am excited to inform you that our innovation is now serving several hospitals and doctors in India and South Africa. Among many prestigious users, we also have Hon'ble former President of India, Shri Ramnath Kovind Ji, as our esteemed customer. This achievement would not have been possible without your unwavering support and belief in my potential.

Your mentorship has been a beacon of light, guiding me through the darkest of times and inspiring me to strive for excellence in all endeavors. Your belief in my potential has instilled in me a profound sense of purpose and a fervent

determination to carve my own path in the world. Your boundless generosity, compassion, and genuine care for your students exemplify the true essence of a teacher and a mentor.

In the shadow of your towering presence, I find myself feeling small and insignificant, with little to offer in comparison. However, amidst this disparity, I am reminded of the profound power of words, particularly those borne of prayer. Thus, I seize this moment to offer you my sincerest prayers. May they serve as a token of my deep respect and gratitude for all that you have bestowed upon me and countless others. I beseech the heavens to shower upon you abundant blessings of health, happiness, and prosperity. May your noble endeavors continue to illuminate the lives of countless individuals, empowering them to soar to greater heights and realize their fullest potential. May you be granted the strength and a long healthy life, and may your legacy endure for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,  
**Abhinav Cardea**



*It was during these exchanges that you planted  
the seeds of innovation and enterprise within  
me, igniting a flame that continues to burn  
bright within my soul.*



## *Dr. Subash Khushu*

### **Designation**

Former Scientist -'G' & Associate Director  
Head, Division of Radiological Imaging, NMR  
Research Centre and Biomedical Engg.  
Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences  
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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Subash Khushu joined INMAS, DRDO in 1983 after obtaining M.Sc. (Electronics) from Delhi University. He was a key person in setting up the first ever MRI facility in the country at INMAS in 1986. He was instrumental in initiating many projects of high military relevance. Under his leadership, NMR Research Centre at INMAS has transformed into a comprehensive NMR facility to pursue contemporary biomedical NMR research in military applications. He has guided 10 Ph.D, 8 MD and over 120 M.Sc /B. Tech internships and has published over 150 research papers in leading journals; and presented over 200 abstracts and 150 invited talks. He has several awards and patents to his credit


and is visiting faculty and examiner to several universities and national Institutes. His research interests include applications of multi-parametric MRI approach to study neuro cognitive, psychiatric & endocrine disorders, neurobiology of aging, NMR Metabolomics for biomarkers of stress, Blast induced traumatic brain injury, night vision and camouflage. His current research interests also include Yoga, Meditation and Ayurveda intervention for cognitive enhancement.

## **Tribute**

I am privileged to have got this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Lazar Mathew and contribute to this Tribute. I know Dr. Mathew for over 30 years as Director at DRDO HQ, and Director of DEBEL and INMAS- two prestigious biomedical research labs of DRDO. My close interaction with him started when he took over as Director, Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) on 1st January 1999. Dr. Mathew- during his over five decades of scientific and academic career- held top positions in DRDO and other Academic Institutes across the country. His professional achievements are exemplary and known to everyone in the scientific and academic world, but very few may be aware of his other social attributes to become a popular leader to

build, connect and lead teams to achieve organizational goals

He joined INMAS at a time when there was a lot of unrest and mistrust among the scientists and staff of INMAS. It was surprising to note that within a month of his joining, the environment of the Lab started improving, Scientists got motivated and soon there was a congenial environment at INMAS. This was purely because of his wisdom and social skills and to me it was like magic. It seems that Dr. Mathew had already analyzed the problems and was well prepared with the remedial strategy. While taking a round of the institute on the very first day and being introduced to individual Scientists, it was surprising to note that he already knew about the individual



scientists and their research work and was very appreciative of it. The other incident I always remember, is during an address to the officers and staff of INMAS, when he taught us that forgiving others is the biggest giving in this world and to accept people as they are. This simple thought was a game changer for me and I found this very helpful to maintain cordial relations in my professional and social life.

Another quality of Dr. Mathew was his eye for understanding people. He could foresee the intention of the person as soon as one entered his office. He would patiently listen to everyone and would extend all the support to any person with justified demands. Dr. Mathew was capable of taking quick decisions and occasionally he would shun bureaucracy and approve the file at the scientist's desk itself. Thank you Sir, for instilling in us these virtues which we have always cherished and inherited in our day to day life. Dr. Mathew has a medical background but he was always interested in indigenous development of biomedical instruments and devices for affordable

healthcare in the country and as a spin off from the defence technologies he spearheaded an initiative called the Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) as its chief executive under the chairmanship of the then SA to RM, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. He served the SBMT for about a decade and during his tenure many biomedical devices and instruments were developed at a very affordable cost and used on patients across the country. I found him a great visionary leader who could lead any organization to its full potential even in adverse conditions. During all the years of my interaction with Dr. Mathew, I always found him highly ethical, soft spoken, a tough task master and an even tempered person. Sir, thank you very much for being a guide, mentor, a friend and above all a well-wisher. You will always be remembered by one and all for your teachings and an everlasting impact in our lives. May you live a long, healthy, happy and peaceful life and continue to guide and bless us forever.



*I found him a great visionary leader who could lead any organization to its full potential even in adverse conditions.*



## *Dr. Alka Mehta*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Alka Mehta is Professor (HAG) in the Department of Integrative Biology, School of Biosciences and Technology, VIT Vellore. She obtained her first PhD degree from Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar (MP) and continued her research at Kyoto University, Japan as Monbusho scholar and got a second PhD degree in the field of Food Science. She is also the recipient of the prestigious JSPS scholarship. Dr. Mehta authored more than 100 research articles published in peer reviewed journals and presented at National and International conferences. She also has 4 patents in her credit. Her research focus is in the field of remediation of mycotoxins from food and bioactive peptides.



*One of the greatest gifts he  
has bestowed upon me is his unwavering  
belief in my abilities.*

## **Tribute**

Knowing Dr. Lazar Mathew has been a privilege in my professional career. It is about two decades ago that I first met him in Punjab Technical University, Jalandhar where he used to visit as an Academic Adviser. I was then working there as the Deputy Dean, Academics. We attended several meetings for developing syllabus and curriculum for Biotechnology and Pharmacy degrees. Also, we had several occasions to visit various colleges for their inspection to grant affiliation with the University. Though our meeting was a mere coincidence, those moments come alive today in a very nostalgic way. His vision on biotechnology education and the systematic style of doing things provided useful learning that helped me throughout my career. My association with Dr. Mathew has given direction to my academic career. He has been instrumental for my current affiliation at VIT Vellore. One of the greatest gifts he has bestowed upon me is his unwavering belief in my abilities. He has empowered me to step outside my comfort zone, take

risks, and embrace new opportunities as academic coordinator after I joined VIT University. Since I had the privilege of working closely with him, I keenly observed his administrative ability and can say for sure about his illustrious career in academics, research and administration. The most impressive element of his working that I observed is about 'No procrastination'. He always used to keep a small piece of paper in his pocket jotting down the list of 'work to do' and would finish all of that before leaving the office. There is no doubt that his academic excellence and the extraordinary qualities of leadership have made him play a long innings of over six decades by contributing to the several institutions who could benefit by his services. I learnt a lot from him. He has been, and will remain, an inspiration for me and many others throughout their life.

I wish him a very healthy and happy life, enlightening us from his long experience and best practices.



## *Dr. G. Arun Maiya*

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. G. Arun Maiya is Dean of MCHP, Manipal & Professor at the Department of Physiotherapy, MCHP Manipal. He is also Associate Director (Alumni) as well as Dr. TMA Pai Endowment Chair in Exercise Science and Health Promotion. He is a renowned clinician in physiotherapy and diabetic foot management and is currently Chief for Centre for Diabetic Foot Care & Research, In-charge of Diabetic and Laser clinic and Physiotherapy Head of Cardiopulmonary Unit. His areas of interest include Diabetic foot, Tissue healing, Low Level Laser, Chronic Pain, Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation, Cancer

rehabilitation as well as Women's health and Ergonomics. He has successfully led several national and international research projects. He has several publications in reputed national and international journals. He has been a guide to several PhD scholars. He has won several awards and accolades including the International travel award by North American Association of Laser Therapy, UKIERI Travel award, Spinal Cord Society Gold Medal award for Excellence in Rehabilitation and the Fogarty International fellowship on advanced training in occupational health and Interventional Research, to name a few.

## **Tribute**

I am delighted to see that some of the students and colleagues of Dr. Lazar Mathew have decided to felicitate him on his completion of 60 years of continuous service in July 2024. Incidentally, his 82nd birthday also falls in July, this year. In a sense, I am part of this celebration as Dr. Mathew is currently working with us at MCHP (Manipal College of Health Professions). I consider it a privilege to provide the necessary administrative support to him.

My association with Dr. Mathew spans almost two decades. It all began when I was presenting a Research and Development proposal to a DST panel which was chaired by him. A few of us were waiting for our turn in an adjacent room. Many were of the opinion that the Chairman was very strict and getting approval for the project was difficult. Surprisingly, I found him highly professional and disciplined. He gave a

chance for all members to ask questions. As a real leader, he took control of the situation, clarified a few points and approved the project. The whole exercise was over in thirty minutes. He had done his homework, asked only very pertinent questions and his decisions were accepted by all members. Incidentally, this project has resulted in a marketable product now. He had identified its potential, then.

That incident is always green in my memory. My subsequent meetings with him only strengthened my initial opinion that he was highly professional, clear about his subjects, which are wide, and with very good communication skills. He is a man of integrity, impartial in his judgment, and fond of hard work. He is very kind to students; but can be harsh with seniors in authority. He is an excellent teacher and mentor not only for his students, but also for all those who approach him for help.

As an institute of eminence, MAHE attracts a lot of highly skilled and experienced experts. Dr. Mathew visited our University while he was Chairman of three committees of DST, DRDO and NPMAS. During his visit, we came to know that he spent the initial years of his career at KMC, Manipal in the Department of Physiology in 1965. During his tenure, he did his M.Sc. Human Physiology course here and thus was an alumnus of MAHE. With this background, he was willing to accept our offer as a senior advisor and

visiting professor. Gradually, his work expanded and he and Madam moved into the campus.

He did initiate a number of research works, but his main contribution is the establishment of the DST Centre at MAHE; the Medical Instrument, Devices & Allied Services (MIDAS) Hub. As the Principal Coordinator of this important programme, I continue to work with him now; and probably for a few years more.



DR. ARUN MAIYA RECEIVING A SPECIAL MEMENTO FOR HIS EXCELLENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF WALTCON 2023, FROM PROF. LAZAR MATHEW



*He is a man of integrity, impartial in his judgment, and fond of hard work.*



*Dr. Sebastina Anita Dsouza,  
M.Sc., Ph.D.*

**Designation**

Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy  
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Manipal College of Health Professions  
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**BioSketch**

Dr. Sebastina Anita Dsouza is Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, MCHP, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. She is also the coordinator for the Centre for Studies on Healthy Ageing at MAHE. Her areas of interest include Occupational Therapy education and research, curriculum development, healthy ageing, neuro-rehabilitation, ergonomics, geriatrics and gerontology, health promotion, caregiver support, community-based practice. She is an expert in Neuro-rehabilitation, especially with stroke rehabilitation, Parkinson's disease, fall prevention in older adults, dementia care, caregiver support, health promotion, management and prevention of computer-related health problems. She has conducted several research projects, been guide to several PhD students, and has several publications and book chapters to her credit.

## Tribute

Dr. T. Lazar 'Service' Mathew

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-16)

It is very rare that a person has both wisdom of years and child-like curiosity. There are very few people who give themselves selflessly and unconditionally to others. It is again rare that a person of national and international reputation who has held positions of power and authority in both the private and government sector can be so humble and unassuming! Dr.T. Lazar Mathew is one of those rare persons!

I was fortunate to meet him at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) where he was a senior research advisor. Dr.Lazar with his gentle prodding and nudging helped with naming and planning my passion project, the Centre for Studies on Healthy Aging at MAHE! Besides this, he guided me on several other research and community projects. His innate curiosity, eagerness and passion towards work is inspiring. There appears to be no field of science that he has not dabbled in! I am always awestruck by his depth and breadth of knowledge and experience. I admire how he keeps finding things to do long after his retirement from government service. The word 'retirement' does not seem to be in his dictionary! He is my role model.

Despite his professional laurels and achievements, Dr.Lazar is always gen-

erous with his time, suggestions, ideas, narratives of his life experiences and perspectives that helps broaden my thinking. His knowledge of the world and people is invaluable. There is no problem or person that is small or irrelevant to Dr.Lazar. He gives his time and attention to every small thing, event, or person, whether a student or a senior professor! He is warm and caring for his mentees and treats them as his own children. I never actually had a grandfather with whom I could spend time. So, I affectionately call (when he is not around) him 'Tatta' in Kannada which means grandfather. He is gentle, patient and helps people find their way. He is very charitable. He is involved in several philanthropic activities, despite his busy schedule. He selflessly gives funds, and more importantly time and service to these activities. After all this, this top-notch scientist with over 50 years of experience remains a very simple, humble, down-to-earth, and unassuming person. True to his Christian values, he practices what he preaches. He continues to be of service in his professional, social, and personal life. I feel there should be an addition to his name, Dr.T. Lazar 'Service' Mathew to completely describe him. On this wonderful occasion, I wish Dr.Lazar, my 'Tatta' my heartfelt gratitude for being a part of my life. May the Almighty God continue to bless him with success in his selfless endeavors, good health, satisfaction, happiness, and peace.



*Dr. Zachariah C. Alex*

**Designation**


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**BioSketch**

Dr. Zachariah C. Alex is currently a Senior Professor with the Department of Sensor and Biomedical Technology, VIT University, Vellore. He has been Director (Sponsored Research), at the same institution. He received the B.Sc. degree in Physics and the M.Sc. degree in electronics from the Kerala Univeristy, Palayam in 1984 and 1986, and Ph.D. degree from Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, in 1996. He has over 125 publications in reputed journals, and has been handling several research projects as P.I. He is well known in the field of microelectromechanical systems, and his current research interests include antenna design for UWB applications, RF switching and fabrication of fiber-optic gas sensors.



*Your principles served as a beacon, guiding many, including myself, through the complexities of our respective fields.*

## Tribute

I am very happy to learn that the students and colleagues of Dr. Lazar Mathew decided to provide a great tribute to him on the occasion of his 82nd birthday and completion of 60 years of his dedicated service in various levels. I feel honoured to be one to write a few lines.

Beloved Lazar Mathew Sir,

As you celebrate your 82nd birthday and 60 years of dedicated service, I am filled with gratitude and reflection on the remarkable journey we've shared since our paths crossed in 2003. The memory of our first meeting at the VIT main guest house remains vivid in my mind, a moment that sparked a profound mentorship that has shaped my trajectory in biomedical research and beyond.

Your various roles at VIT, whether as Advisor, Dean, or Director, were characterized by unwavering dedication and a steadfast commitment to nurturing growth in others. Our initial interactions revealed that you were more than a mentor; you were an exemplary leader, embodying qualities of compassion, fairness, and unwavering integrity. Your principles served as a beacon, guiding

many, including myself, through the complexities of our respective fields.

The insights I gleaned from your recent book "Experiences, Experiments and Expectations of a Common Man" have been invaluable, reinforcing the enduring lesson that every setback presents an opportunity for personal growth. Your resilience in the face of adversity is a testament to your strength of character and unwavering determination.

I am profoundly grateful for the guidance, support, and blessings you have generously bestowed upon me over the years. Your wisdom has been a constant source of inspiration, empowering me to overcome challenges and strive for excellence on many occasions. As you continue to pursue your passions and ambitions, may the Lord Almighty grant you wisdom and strength every step of the way.

On this special day, I extend my deepest gratitude and admiration to you, Sir. Your influence has left an indelible mark on my life, and I will forever cherish the memories we've shared and the invaluable lessons you've imparted.



## *Dr. Santhosh Chidangil*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Santhosh Chidangil started his research career beginning with studies on the electronic structure and spectra of DNA bases and their analogs at the Department of Physics, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi. After obtaining his Ph.D. from BHU, he occupied various research and academic positions at DRDO, BHU, Cochin University of Science and Technology, and Academy of Medical Sciences, Kannur, and as a Regular Associate of ICTP, Trieste, Italy. Dr. Santhosh joined the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in the year 2002 and continued his research on biomedical applications of optical spectroscopy and photonics. He has established a leading biophotonics laboratory with a focus on the development of photonics-based devices for disease diagnosis. He was the Head of the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, MAHE, Manipal for the period August 2010-August 2022. He has published more than 220 research publications in peer-reviewed journals and filed several IPs. Currently, he is associated with research projects involving the development of photonics devices for the diagnosis and screening of various types of cancers.

## Tribute

Dr. Lazar Mathew, with an illustrious career in numerous Defence Research Laboratories, as its Directors and Pro-Vice Chancellors of a few institutions, embodies a multifaceted and commendable personality. Beyond the confines of laboratories and boardrooms, Dr. Mathew's influence extends into the realm of education. As an educationist, he has played a pivotal role in shaping the minds of the next generation. His commitment to fostering a culture of learning, critical thinking, and innovation has left an enduring legacy in the academic institutions which he has been associated with.

Dr. Lazar Mathew's charismatic personality transcends generational boundaries. His ability to connect with people of all ages reflects not only his adaptability but also his genuine and approachable nature. Whether interacting with seasoned professionals, budding scientists, or students, he exudes a warmth and enthusiasm that inspires and motivates. His legacy is a testament to the transformative power of leadership that combines expertise, empathy, and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

As a physiologist, Dr. Mathew delved into the study of the functioning of living organisms, gaining insights into the physiological processes that underlie

human health and disease. His foundation in physiology provided him with a solid understanding of the body's mechanisms, enabling him to bridge the gap between biological sciences and engineering. The transition into biomedical engineering showcases Dr. Mathew's visionary approach to addressing healthcare challenges through innovation. His dedication to maintaining excellence is evident in the meticulous attention to detail that he brings to tasks and projects.

One of Dr. Mathew's notable traits is his punctuality and impeccable time management skills. He recognizes the value of time and understands that punctuality is not just a virtue but a reflection of professionalism. Whether it's meeting deadlines, adhering to schedules, or managing projects, Dr. Mathew ensures that timelines are met with precision. This reliability fosters a sense of trust and dependability among colleagues and collaborators. In addition to being punctual, Dr. Lazar Mathew is known for his perfectionism. He strives for perfection in the execution of tasks, leaving no room for errors or compromises. This meticulous approach not only ensures the delivery of high-quality outcomes but also reflects his dedication to achieving the best possible results.

Dr. Lazar Mathew's recent book titled "Experiences, Experiments, and Expectations, of A Common Man" is a collection of essays that sounds truly delightful! It offers a fascinating glimpse into the various stages of his life, from his formative years to his senior professional life and beyond into retirement. The essays provide valuable insights, wisdom, and reflections on a life rich with experiences and adventures. Sharing personal stories and anecdotes can not only entertain but also inspire others to reflect on their own journeys and appreciate the diversity of human experiences. It sounds like a wonderful read for anyone interested in a life well-lived and the lessons learned along the way.

Indeed, being active and engaged as Senior Advisor to the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics (DAMP) and Manipal College of Health Profession (MCHP) at 82 years old is quite impressive! It's a testament to Dr. Lazar Mathew's vitality, passion for research and development, and zest for life. It's inspiring to see individuals like Dr. Mathew continuing to contribute by mentoring research students and young faculty members and pursuing their interests even in their later years. May he continue to enjoy a fulfilling and active life for many years to come!



DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. SANTHOSH CHIDANGIL AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT MANIPAL ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MANIPAL.



*It's inspiring to see individuals like Dr. Mathew continuing to contribute by mentoring research students and young faculty members and pursuing their interests even in their later years.*



*Er. Jibin Lukose*

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**BioSketch**

I completed my Bachelors in Electronics & Communication Engineering and Masters in VLSI & Embedded Systems from SCMS School of Engineering & Technology. Following my graduation, I gained experience as a Research Intern at SCMS Center for Robotics, where I managed the Rapid Digital Prototyping Mini-Fab Lab. Upon completing my Post-graduation, I transitioned into the role of Electronics Design Engineer at NeST- SFO Technologies R&D Division. Simultaneously, I conducted research with the guidance and collaboration of faculty from the Department of Atomic & Molecular Physics at MAHE-MIT Manipal. I also spearheaded the DST funded project dedicated to the development of wearable medical devices, serving as Co-Principal Investigator.

## Tribute

I met Dr Lazar Mathew for the first time in December 2019 at ICNPMA, hosted by MAHE-MIT Manipal. He was chairing the sessions. His approach to “Project-to-Product” and the “Valley of Death of Innovation and Technology,” which he presented at the research conference, caught my attention. Being an engineer, it was very relatable for me. Each day, technology is advancing, but the extent to which it is translated further for societal impact is still a question. That is where Dr. Lazar Mathew made everyone rethink the approach each of us, as researchers, had followed for years. My first interaction with him happened at that conference. The humility in his character and the boldness in his words and actions, really struck me. Little did I know that he would become my mentor in the future. He not only guided me professionally but also had a significant impact on my personal life. He has been a great mentor, guiding me throughout my career.

As time passed, my bonds with him grew stronger even outside our professional lives, and our families bonded with each other. We had many cherished moments with our families, enjoying quality time together. Whenever he visits my hometown, he makes sure to visit my home. I had the wonderful experience of strolling down memory lane with him as he shared stories from his college days at Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. We also had the chance

to explore his old hostel room, which remained unchanged after all these years.

Dr. Lazar Mathew’s guidance helped others to discover the transformative power of education and the importance of intellectual curiosity. His passion for his subject matter was contagious, igniting a lifelong love for learning within countless others and me. Beyond academics, he taught us invaluable life lessons, instilling in us values of integrity, compassion, and resilience.

As we celebrate this significant milestone in our dear Sir’s illustrious career, let us not only express our gratitude for his teachings but also celebrate the profound impact he has had on shaping the minds and hearts of generations. May this book stand as a testament to the everlasting legacy of Dr. Lazar Mathew and the lives he has positively influenced.



ER. JIBIN LUKOSE AND HIS PARENTS WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW



## *Sr. Lizy Abraham*

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## **BioSketch**

Sr. Lizy Abraham belongs to the Congregation of Mission Sister of Ajmer (MSA). She completed M.Sc. Nursing from St. John's College of Nursing Bangalore, in Obstetrics and Gynecology in the year 2006. She worked as a Staff Nurse in St Francis Hospital (Ajmer) from 1988 to 1998. She worked as a Teaching Faculty of St Francis Hospital and School of Nursing From 2000 to 2004. She then took over as Vice Principal from 2006 to 2012, and is currently the Principal St. Francis Hospital and College of Nursing from the year 2013 onwards.

## Tribute

Psalm 1:23: Those who find joy in obeying the law of the Lord, and study it day and night; they are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.

With these words of the psalmist I begin my reflection on the life of Dr. Lazar Mathew.

Woodrow Wilson says, “You are here not merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply with greater vision; with a finer spirit of hope and achievements. You are here to enrich the world”.


The life of Dr. Lazar Mathew has influenced my life. The above mentioned quote affirms the inner strength and the personality of Dr. Lazar Mathew. He enabled many to live with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. It gives me immense joy to express my gratitude towards this magnanimous personality, for his tremendous contribution towards my growth as an individual, religious and

professional. I wish to pen a few attributes which are befitting to the person he is.

**A Man of God:** God reigns supreme in his life, and he has lived his faith in spirit and in truth. In the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 1:2-3, he continues to produce fruits for eternity in every season in his youth and in old age, in health and in sickness, at home and at work. His unwavering faith in God has helped him to experience God’s love and care amidst the pillar of clouds as well as in the brightest shining sun.

**A True Human Being:** To know the fellow human being, accept others as they are, to appreciate the uniqueness and possibilities hidden in others, encouraging others to reach their destiny by striking the right key to their dream. These extraordinary qualities reveal his human side and he believes in the joy of co-existing.

**A Conscientious Man:** A life guided by the whisperings of the “conscience”, “the voice of the Higher Spirit” and living in the present moment - he is known for his qualities of the heart which is a rare treasure in today’s world.



An efficient and effective CEO: Decisions derived through discernment are put into action through meticulous planning and continuous evaluation, which sets him apart in administrative skill.

A Winner: A rare combination of intelligence, wisdom, prudence, enthusiasm along with an additional trait - the art of listening - makes Dr. Lazar Mathew stand out wherever he is.

A lover of challenges: Dr. Lazar Mathew believes that the magic secret of true happiness is that one must rise above the clouds to see the blue sky rather than constantly trying to push them aside. He dares to take risk. Therefore he remains a champion.

These are the few remarkable lessons I have learnt from Dr. Lazar Mathew's life and I am grateful to him. The world today suffers from a scarcity of genuine Role Models. Thank you for being a Role Model.

I also gratefully acknowledge your contribution to my life as a Loving Father, a Mentor and a Guide. You are rich in giving, and gracious in your words. Having everything, you choose to be simple. Professionally having achieved mastery in Science and Technology, you remain true to yourself with the essence of heart and mind.

So on this auspicious day of your 82nd birth anniversary I wish you nothing but 'Jesus' because I believe when I wish you 'Jesus', I have wished you everything.



*Psalm 1:23: Those who find joy in obeying the law of the Lord, and study it day and night; they are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do.*



## *Dr. Jijo Lukose*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

I completed my Masters (5 year integrated M.Sc) in Photonics from Cochin University of Science & Technology. Following my graduation, I did my Ph.D in “Optical Biosensors for pathogen detection”. Later, I completed my postdoctoral fellowship in “Raman Tweezers spectroscopy for investigating red blood cells”. My current research areas include microplastics detection and induced toxicity in mammalian models and clinical spectroscopy.

## **Tribute**

In August 2021, I had been assigned by the Head of the Department to assist Prof. Lazar Mathew in his endeavours to establish a DST centre for biomedical devices at our institute. This marked a significant milestone in my professional

journey, as it provided me with the opportunity to closely collaborate with him. From our initial meeting, I immediately sensed his genuine passion for guiding others towards success. I have been truly impressed by his unwavering dedication,

professionalism and work ethics in turning seemingly impossible tasks into reality. Despite facing challenges, he remained undeterred and persevered, pushing boundaries with his patience and hard work. His meticulous planning and step-by-step approach have been remarkable and ultimately his efforts paid off as he successfully established the prestigious DST Hub at MAHE in 2024.

As Chairman, his contributions have played a crucial role in organizing the International Conference on Nanoscience and Photonics for Medical applications (ICNPMA-2022). He has also guided many within the campus, assisting them in writing research proposals and acquiring funding from different agencies. Serving as a mentor to many, he encourages us to broaden our horizons and venture beyond our comfort zones. His innovative concept of “A project for a product” underscores the importance of translational research and thus prioritize the development of indigenous cost-effective medical devices. This idea highlights the crucial need to generate research outputs into marketable products that can have a positive impact on society, beyond just academic publications.

Despite his remarkable achievements as a scientist and a human being, his humility serves as a valuable example for young scientific minds to stay grounded. Even in his 80s and after six decades of service, he continues to work with unwavering passion and dedication, reminiscent of his early days in the field. One of his remarkable qualities is the ability to listen intently and offer constructive feedback with empathy and understanding. His guidance has supported many young academicians in

navigating challenging projects, making difficult decisions, or pursuing ambitious goals, which have paved the way for achieving significant milestones and overcoming numerous obstacles that once seemed unsurmountable. Moreover, he led by example, demonstrating integrity, resilience, and a relentless commitment to excellence. In closing, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have Prof. Lazar Mathew as my mentor. His mentorship has been nothing short of transformative, and I am honoured to have been mentored by such an exceptional individual. Whenever my family members, which include my wife and brother need professional guidance, he is the first person we seek out. At this point, I would also like to mention Sir’s wife, Dr Martins Mathew, who has always been a symbol of care and compassion.



DR. JIJO AND HIS WIFE DR. KEZIAH WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. MARTINS MATHEW



## *Dr. P. V. Mohanram*

### **Designation**

Secretary, PSG Institute of Technology and  
Applied Research (PSG iTech)  
Director, PSG Center for TQM

## **BioSketch**

Dr. P. V. Mohanram did his BE (Mechanical Engineering) from Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani. He completed his M.Tech (Machine Design) and Ph.D (in the area of Tribology) from IIT Madras, Chennai. He served for a brief period in Bharat Gears, Thane and then joined PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore as faculty in the year 1981. After 33 years of service at PSG College of Technology in various capacities including Professor and Head (Mechanical Engineering), TEQIP Co-ordinator, Dean- Autonomous functioning, he is now the Founder Principal of PSG Institute of Technology and Applied Research (PSG iTech).

His main areas of research are: Automation, Tribology and Machine Tool Design. He has guided 17 Ph.D students and has published more than 95 publications in International Journals and Conferences. He has a passion for sharing effective Teaching-Learning techniques with engineering college teachers. He has delivered more than 120 lectures in various engineering colleges and fora.

He has taken up many industrial consultancy activities and has completed sixteen sponsored projects. He was instrumental in setting up the new laboratories like “Sensor Interface Laboratory” in the Department of Mechanical Engineering during his tenure.

He has set up a Lean Learning Factory in PSG College of Technology with his colleagues, as part of the Indo-German Collaborative Project.

He has won several awards including the prestigious AICTE-CII award for the Best Faculty in Mechanical Engineering Discipline for the year 2012 and the P K Das Memorial Best Faculty Award for the year 2010-2011. He is responsible for the Indigenous Design and Development of the Critical Care Medical Ventilator, funded by the Society of BioMedical Technology and commercialized by PRICOL, Coimbatore. The “Infant Ventilator” and “Multi- Parameter Monitor” have been developed through collaboration under his leadership.

## **Tribute**

The research projects that Prof. Lazar Mathew identifies have social relevance and focus on the well-being of all concerned, at the source level itself.

He has allowed our team to indigenously design and develop a “Critical Care Medical Ventilator” at PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, along with PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, with SBMT funding and arranged for Technology Transfer to M/s Pricol, Coimbatore in 2002.

Prof. Lazar Mathew is well-known for identifying the right team leader and team members for the successful completion of any research project at hand. He makes a judicious choice of domain expert, and engineering expert along with an appropriate scientific interface to communicate all the interdisciplinary issues with the research team. He conducts periodic rigorous review meetings for hours together, even on holidays, to ensure that the research work progresses, as per schedule.

He is a highly punctual, professional and caring person, who richly supports all

the research teams. He spends quality time with all the research team members providing practical tips to overcome hurdles and helps to break through the blockages.

Sir maintains sustained enthusiasm to continuously appreciate the work of the team members of the research project so that it motivates the team throughout the project phase.

He is also well-known for mobilizing the required research grants and other resources, through his extensive research contacts at the national level.

He travels tirelessly to different research institutions/ educational institutions, provides the team members with the required technical and psychological expertise and motivates all the team members without any discrimination.

He is also committed to Devotion to the Lord, i.e. he never misses the visit to the Church on Sundays. We think that is his secret to maintaining good physical and emotional health, during his several decades of hard work and commitment to the welfare of society.



## *Mr. Vishnu Sharma*

### **Designation**

Development Consultant for NGOs, Ajmer,  
Rajasthan

### **BioSketch**

Mr. Vishnu Sharma did his Masters in Geography at the Rajasthan University, Jaipur followed by a series of advanced diploma courses on “Project Management in Developing Countries” and “Integrated Water Resource Management” from globally acclaimed bodies.

He has been involved in rural development since 1972. He has been instrumental in building and has also been the joint director of the ‘Social Work & Research Centre (SWRC)’, a registered voluntary non-governmental organization, which is today popularly known as the ‘Barefoot College’, at village Tilonia in Ajmer District, Rajasthan.

His major areas of interest are to examine, understand and address issues and problems pertaining to environmental degradation and natural resource management with a focus on water, sustainable land use, livelihood systems (agriculture and animal husbandry), applied action research and participatory processes.

Vishnu Sharma has been actively working with NGOs (Domestic and International), in the field of rural development. He has spent more than 24 years with donor and support agencies evolving with experiences across several states of India. He has been the

Programme Coordinator for an NGO-Programme in rural Rajasthan and neighboring Gujarat, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). He has been involved in a project on “Climate Resilient Development” which encompassed themes such as sustainable land use, watershed development, drought proofing, biodiversity, and rural livelihood with a focus on agriculture and livestock development. He is presently ‘Development Consultant’ for various National, International and Grassroot NGOs. He is also ‘Advisor’ to several organizations to provide expertise in project development and management in areas of thematic competence.

## Tribute

It was in the year 2006 that I had the opportunity to meet Dr Lazar Mathew for the first time. We lived in the same locality/ neighbourhood. Since then it has been a pleasure and a privilege to know him. He is expressive and soft spoken. He is very humble and respectful to those around him.

Post retirement, Dr. Mathew worked as the Director, St. Francis Hospital & Nursing Training College, at Ajmer. This General Hospital is supported by the ‘Catholic Church’ and is run and managed by the ‘Missionaries’ – a congregation of Catholic nuns. While serving as the Director, St. Francis Hospital, at one stage, he was instrumental in setting up an excellent facility viz. ‘The Asha Niketan’ under the AIDS mitigation programme. This centre is located in village Kanakhedi, Srinagar Panchayat Samiti (Development Block), Ajmer District, and is functional even today. As work progressed, this was seen as an exceptional model for treatment of AIDS in developing nations.

Besides, at a more personal level, Dr. Mathew set-up a ‘Family Trust’ with the

aim to lend a helping hand and support the rural community in remote areas. To this end, this ‘Charity Trust’, namely, ‘Martins & Mathew Medical Mission’ extends help and support (including financial assistance), in collaboration with field based NGOs, to rural people. The focus has been on the destitute, underprivileged and the poor for health and sensitizing, and creating awareness on various issues and matters pertaining to community health and preventive social medicine, and education for the ‘girl child’. In this context, I had the opportunity to participate in a health camp organised in collaboration with ‘Social Work and Environment for Rural Advancement (SWERA)’, in December 2014, at its field headquarters located in village Kanpura, Srinagar Panchayat Samiti, Ajmer District.

During the course of our early interactions, I found an eclectic and diverse mix of the old and the new ideas, modernity and traditionalism, not two ends of a continuum but coexisting in an easy continuity. Our connection was somewhat instantaneous and swiftly I

found comfort in sharing and exploring ideas however inconsistent. We have had in-depth talks/ discussions on various subjects and topics including, of course, our different cultures and lives across the length and breadth of our country. Often in our discussion, for example, we end up exploring the vulnerability of rural villages to the impacts of climate change. Another common theme that we share is “when you strongly believe in what you do, it is not your work, but your purpose”. I find him extremely frank and straightforward, very open and honest in his approach, and with a willingness to learn from other people’s knowledge and experiences.

There is immense mutual respect and trust between us. I feel immensely honoured to have known such an inspirational person of huge integrity, and while I write this short ‘brief’ I bear in mind the bonding over shared interests, values, respect and friendship we enjoy in our communication and exchanges.

Dr. Mathew and I share so much in common – in terms of outlook, principles and ethics, approach and strategies, participatory processes that we not only sense but believe are important, despite living so far apart (especially after the Covid-19 pandemic). Suffice to say, he is devoting less time in Ajmer consequently, yet we remain in regular touch.



VISHNU SHARMA AND DR. LAZAR MATHEW  
DURING A RURAL HEALTHCARE CAMP



*Another common theme that we share is  
“when you strongly believe in what you do, it is  
not your work, but your purpose”.*



## *Dr. Preethika Immaculate Britto*

### **Designation**

Asst. Professor at King Faisal University,  
Saudi Arabia

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## **BioSketch**

Preethika Britto holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering, followed by a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Robotics. Since 2010, she has served as an Assistant Professor in Biomedical Engineering, specializing in her passion for advancing rehabilitation technology. Currently, she contributes her expertise to King Faisal University, Saudi Arabia, where she continues to explore innovative solutions in the field.

*He remembers even the smallest details of my growth and never fails to acknowledge and appreciate them.*

## Tribute

I'll never forget the day I first met our "Dean sir" - the title I still use for him to this day. It was during my Master's program at VIT Vellore. He served as both our school's Dean and our instructor for the BioMEMS course. He strolled into the classroom with just a pen, asked us about the course, and began teaching. I was amazed. How could he impart such cutting-edge knowledge without any materials? He effortlessly guided us through the course with the latest advancements in technology. During my Master's program, when I was struggling to secure financial support to attend a conference in Chandigarh, he stepped in and generously covered the expenses for my trip.

During a difficult period in my personal life, I had to consider discontinuing

my master's studies. That's when he intervened. He gave me a week, insisting that I could beg, borrow, or sell anything, but discontinuing wasn't an option. He refused to sign any papers. "Come back after a week, and then we'll talk," he said. Without his support, I wouldn't have completed my Master's or achieved what I have today. He's always been like a godfather to me.

When I was struggling to find employment, he arranged interviews for me. Every time I reach out to him, he asks how I'm doing, if I'm alright, and if my job is treating me well. His unwavering support has been invaluable. He remembers even the smallest details of my growth and never fails to acknowledge and appreciate them. I've always taken immense pride in declaring myself as his student.



DR. PREETHIKA RECEIVING HER DEGREE FROM DR. LAZAR MATHEW




*Dr. D.V.S. Bhagavanulu*

**Designation**

Pro Vice Chancellor,  
Vivekananda Global University  
Jaipur, Rajasthan

**BioSketch**

D.V.S. Bhagavanulu holds a 1991-1995 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Fluid Mechanics from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. He is currently Pro Vice Chancellor, Vivekananda Global University Jaipur, Rajasthan. He has been Dean, Planning and Development at Reva University, bringing experience from previous roles in senior positions as Director, Sree Vidyanikethan Engineering College, Gyan Ganga Group of Institutions, Galgotia S College of Engineering and Technology, Greater Noida and Dean, VIT University, Vellore. He has contributed immensely to the growth of Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions into the Mohan Babu University. He has several national and international publications and book chapters to his credit, and is renowned for his tremendous contribution in the field of Science and Technology. With a robust skill set that includes Microsoft Office, Teaching, Training, Public Speaking, Research and more, DVS Bhagavanulu contributes valuable insights to academia and industry.



*I am fortunate that he has been one of the pillars in my career and pray to God to give him good health and prosperity.*

## Tribute

I remember it was in September 2007, that the Vice Chancellor of VIT University asked me to join a three-member committee chaired by Dr. Lazar Mathew who was the Dean of Biotechnology on finalizing the feedback form. My interaction with him started in September 2007 and it is continuing till date. We had many discussions on how to make VIT as one of the best universities in India and every discussion with him was an eye opener for me. I had a great opportunity to learn about academics and research from him. Later, we both were together in many committees and I became a spectator when we dealt with any matter and solved different problems in academics through his vast knowledge and experience. I know that I am very small in front of him and even during discussions, my suggestions have been considered and he corrects them to make a valid suggestion. He has developed the Biotechnology Department and created a renowned center in VIT. Today, it is one of the best biotechnology centers in India. Again, I collaborated with him at Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions, Tirupati from 2019. He was advisor for Research and Development in

the Institutions and I was fortunate again to learn more concepts. His insight into research is fascinating and he used to handhold all researchers to give a better output. Whatever may be the position of any person, once he discusses with him, he will end up being his student. It happened to me several times when I interacted with him. For me, he is a walking encyclopedia and one definitely gets answers to any question. We jointly reviewed many proposals and I used to admire his knowledge in different specializations. His attitude towards young researchers was always supportive and he used to instill ideas with suitable examples. He always appreciated students who were hardworking. Whoever interacts with him, they automatically become his students and travel along with him. It is very difficult to see him getting annoyed and a smile never leaves his face. I sincerely thank him for his support during my tenure at VIT and in other institutions. I sincerely pray to God that I continue to be a student to him and learn a lot for my future growth. I am fortunate that he has been one of the pillars in my career and pray to God to give him good health and prosperity.



*Dr. V. Sudhakar*

**Designation**

Sc/Er G,  
Aeronautical Development Agency  
(Ministry of Defence)

**BioSketch**

Dr. V. Sudhakar is a Scientist/Engineer ‘G’ at the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA- Ministry of Defence, GOI), and has 29+ years of experience in various interdisciplinary areas. He is BE (Civil) -MVSREC-Osmania University, MTech (Structures)- JNTU Anantapur and PhD (Aero)- IISc, Bangalore.

He worked for the design, review and cost estimation of civil structures, development of general purpose FE software in first decade. He worked for the development of MEMS sensors, systems and smart material applications in the fields of aerospace, biomedical devices and automobiles as part of the National Program on Micro and Smart Systems (NPMASS). He worked for the development of Health and Usage Monitoring System (HUMS) for LCA AF Mk1 and started working for IVHM technologies for future platforms.

He co-authored a text book titled 'Integrated Aircraft Health Management (IAHM) for beginners', which was released during 75th AeSI event at Delhi on 18 Nov 23, in the presence of the Honourable President of India. He has contributed papers in international journals, presented papers, delivered numerous keynote / invited lectures in international /national conferences / workshops, and has participated in the organization of International / national conferences/ workshops. He is serving in Research and Review boards of DRDO and ISRO and has served as review member in DST Biomedical Devices Technologies Development- steering committee. He is a member of ISSS, ISAMPE, SAEINDIA and AeSI.

## **Tribute**

If one has to describe Dr Lazar Mathew, they may say he is a good researcher or manager or application engineer or device developer or task master or a mentor. But I saw him as a composite man with all these elements. Since I got a chance to work with him for development of biomedical devices in the National Programme on Micro and Smart Systems (NPMASS), I have been associating with him till date. I would like to summarise the learnings and share a few experiences for the benefit of readers. Of course it's my pleasure to write about Sir, in a few words, as a memorable page down memory lane.

He coined the slogan 'Project for product', and followed it strictly for consideration of projects in the Bio-Medical Applications area as a chairman of the Project Assessment Research Committee. He identified key areas, identified the teams working in those areas and held discussions for defining the project, with an aim to convert the state of art research into a useful technology as a device. He

aimed at development of platforms rather than one application, so that many applications can be attempted and realised.

He believed in defining the project with clear-cut objectives, clarity on devices and allied activities as this would ensure the successful realisation of goals. He never compromised on this basic aspect. In some cases, where there was no clarity, he spent time in making sincere efforts and considered the project only when the clear view emerged.

His way of networking with people is admirable. He contacted the experts, took advice and suggestions on all projects, made an arrangement involving them as part of the project or ensured their participation indirectly for realising the goals. His main focus always used to be technologies and devices for the common man to develop them at a cheaper cost, which is desirable for our developing country.

His strength in making the project attain its goals was through 'Thorough review'. He used to spend sufficient time on project activities at regular intervals with project investigators and review committee members. He emphasised the role of industry for taking these devices to the market and tried to do Technology Transfer much before GOI declared 'AtmaNirbharata'. He spoke to the regulatory agencies like ICMR etc. regarding the devices, instrumental in carrying out the field trials.

Few devices, which were successfully developed under his leadership, could be listed as: Multi sensing device for sensing heart related parameters, Uropathogen sensors, Lipid profile estimator, Cancer detection in Retina, Food sensors, Alcohol sensing device, Drug delivery elements-micro pump/ micro needles with controller,

etc. He continued his efforts in DST projects too. As a chairman of DST- BDTD, his effort for selection of projects was highly appreciated. Even at this age, he is helping teams at Manipal, Karnataka for developing biomedical technologies and devices in the country.

In his recently authored book titled 'Experiences, Experiments and Expectations of a Common Man', I learnt many aspects of looking at learning from experiences and his remarkable contributions with a human touch.

His contributions to the nation helped a lot in making progress. Although his services did not get the recognition they deserved, they are like a thread joining the flowers in the garland of biomedical successes. I wish Dr Lazar Mathew Sir, all the best, in continuing to guide researchers a way for the future.



*His contributions to the nation helped a lot in making progress. Although his services did not get the recognition they deserved, they are like a thread joining the flowers in the garland of biomedical successes.*



*Ms. Pearline Beulah*

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**BioSketch**

I have a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering with three years of experience as Assistant Professor in the same field. Presently, I am pursuing Ph.D at VIT University, Vellore, India and I work on Rehabilitation Engineering.

*He is a man of God who is a prayer warrior. Besides he has exemplary teaching skills and an innate ability to connect with students.*

## Tribute

I take immense pleasure in having received this wonderful opportunity to write about my Professor, Dr. Lazar Mathew. I'm indeed grateful for having known Professor Mathew when I was pursuing Masters in Biomedical Engineering at Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore. We were a group of about thirty students and he taught us subjects such as Physiology and BioMEMS. Needless to say, I was astounded to listen to him teach Physiology in a comprehensible manner as we were a group belonging to engineering and para-medical backgrounds. He had exemplary teaching skills and an innate ability to connect with students. His passion and dedication for teaching was simply incredible. He was an epitome of knowledge who created a positive learning atmosphere where he emphasized about the three ways where

we can inculcate knowledge; that is from the teacher, from colleagues and by self-study. Also, he ensured that he was very punctual for his lectures. He inculcated a thinking attitude in the young minds and emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship, always desiring his students to broaden their horizons.

On the personal front, his love and care have always been a source of strength. Especially, Professor Mathew and his wife Dr. Martins Mathew were very supportive through their prayers during the time of my daughter's birth. He is a man of God who is a prayer warrior. He has created a lasting impact in my life that can never fade. You are truly a legend Sir! I wish Sir a long life, happiness, health and strength in the years to come. Happy Birthday Sir!



PEARLINE AND HER FRIENDS WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW, DEAN, VIT.



## *Dr. Sathish Kumar Paul*

### **Designation**

Dr. Sathish Kumar Paul (PhD)  
Head – Research  
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## **BioSketch**

Sathish Paul, is a rehabilitation engineer with specialized training in podiatry and foot Biomechanics. He has been working with leprosy affected people for more than 2 decades. His interests are in identifying and developing innovative, cost effective and ready to use solutions for leprosy affected patients with disabilities. He has publications in international peer reviewed journals, and has been recognized for his work from both within and outside the country. He has contributed to the leprosy fraternity through chapters in academic books and by developing technical guidance for the World Health Organization (WHO).



*Sir, though he was a professional and had carried out exemplary work in his career in different sectors, always has a heart to care for the colleagues he works with.*

## **Tribute**

My teacher, guide and mentor!

I first got an opportunity to interact with Dr. Lazar Mathew when he was the Dean of SBST School, VIT University, Vellore. Sir has knowledge across wide areas of Science, arts, philosophy, medicine etc. In each of the classes that he took, he made sure that his in-depth knowledge was transferred to his students. He gave practical solutions to tasks that looked mammoth. I was one of the fortunate students who was guided by Sir himself to carry out my post graduate thesis. In the project work, he gave me freedom to do my work, however he made sure he checked on the progress of my work meticulously. Later after my post-graduation, Sir and Ma'am motivated me to continue pursuing my doctoral studies. He gave me deep insights into the topic that I chose and made sure that he checked on the progress of my work though he moved to a different job.

Having worked in a mission hospital early in his career, he had a special affinity to me and my family. Whenever Sir was in Delhi, he would call and check on us and made sure that we were comfortable in our work. When we moved to Schieffelin Institute from Delhi, he visited our house and encouraged us and motivated me on how we have to work in a mission hospital inspite of the challenges that we might face. The encouragement and motivation still helps us to cope with the very many challenges that we face in our daily lives.

Sir, though he was a professional and had carried out exemplary work in his career in different sectors, always has a heart to care for the colleagues he works with. I am one of the fortunate students who had learnt from him and also have been mentored by him. I wish and salute this great teacher, mentor and guide on his 60 years of dedicated service to the nation in various capacities. I pray that God will continue to guide and bless Sir with many more years of fruitful and blessed life.



*Dr. P. Biji*

**Designation**

Professor & Head,  
Department of Chemistry & Nanoscience and  
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## BioSketch

Dr. P. Biji currently serves as a Professor, and heads the Department of Chemistry and Nanoscience & Technology at PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore. She earned her PhD in Chemistry from IIT Madras and joined PSGIAS in 2009. Her research primarily focuses on Sensors and Clean Energy. In the field of sensors, Dr. Biji has developed strong expertise in chemical sensors for environmental and biomedical applications, as well as water quality monitoring. In the realm of clean energy, her interests focus on PEM fuel cell electrocatalyst support materials and large area self-cleaning coatings for solar panels and non-PV applications. As a principal investigator, Dr. Biji has successfully completed 10 sponsored projects from DST, SERB, ONGC Energy Center and NPMASS, among others. Currently, she leads 5 major projects in sensors and energy funded by CHT/MoPNG, SERB-CRG, DST, and ONGC. She is actively collaborating with many major industries, such as BPCL, L&T WTC, ONGC Energy Centre etc. Under her guidance, 10 students have completed their PhDs, and she is currently supervising 6 students. Dr.

Biji has published more than 83 articles in reputed journals with high impact factor. Additionally, she holds 3 patents, has authored 6 book chapters, and has presented at 75 conferences and workshops.

## **Tribute**

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest birthday wishes to respected Dr. Lazar Mathew. Looking back on our long association, it began in 2010 when he joined PSG Institute of Advanced Studies (PSGIAS), Coimbatore, as our Advisor. I began my early career with Dr. Mathew's blessings and consider myself fortunate to have worked under his mentorship at PSGIAS. His guidance and mentorship have been invaluable to me.

I fondly recall our intense brainstorming sessions on various important projects during our time together. Dr. Mathew played a pivotal role in shaping the careers of many faculty members at our institute during that period. In 2010, I had the opportunity to work with him on a project focused on developing an ammonia gas sensor for clinical breath analyser applications, funded by NPMAS/ADA and mentored by him. This project laid the foundation for my research career at PSGIAS. Dr. Mathew always ensured excellence in our work, and his mentorship helped my team

to successfully complete the project, culminating in the demonstration of the prototype devices. I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Mathew for believing in me and providing guidance and support throughout our time together at PSGIAS.

I have personally witnessed Dr. Mathew's dedication and sincerity towards the responsibilities he undertakes. I deeply respect him for his kindness and affection, which have helped me to grow consistently in my career. Despite his retirement from PSGIAS in 2018, he has always been available to offer support and guidance. His dedication to his work and colleagues is truly inspiring, serving as a beacon of commitment and professionalism for all of us.

On this special day, I take a moment to wish our beloved and respected Dr. Lazar Mathew Sir a very happy birthday! I hope you have a wonderful day filled with joy and celebration. May God shower you with abundant love, happiness, and peace!



DR. BIJI ASSISTING DR. SIMONA BALIDESCU AND DR. LAZAR MATHEW IN LIGHTING THE INAUGURAL LAMP FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. BIJI CONDUCTING A WORKSHOP AT PSGIAS, COIMBATORE

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*His dedication to his  
work and colleagues is truly inspiring,  
serving as a beacon of commitment and  
professionalism for all of us.*



*Dr. M. A. Jayasri*

**Designation**

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**BioSketch**

I did my Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Lazar Mathew at VIT, Vellore. I started my career as Assistant Professor at Vellore Institute of Technology in the year 2009. Currently I am holding the position of Associate Professor in the School of Bio Sciences and Technology, VIT Vellore. My research is focused on the evaluation of bioactivity of natural products and development of herbal formulations for the management of diabetes. Also I am working in the area of development of algal formulations for agricultural applications. I have 41 research publications and have completed 2 DBT funded projects as PI and currently one ongoing project from ICMR.



*His patience in mentoring has always challenged me to refine my knowledge and push the boundaries of my own capabilities.*

## **Tribute**

It's my honour and fortune to write about respected Prof. Lazar Mathew Sir. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for his unparalleled guidance and support during my research studies. His patience in mentoring has always challenged me to refine my knowledge and push the boundaries of my own capabilities. Through his expertise and passion for research, Sir has instilled in me a deep thrust towards my academic commitments. Beyond the academic realm, Sir's kindness and support has helped me to overcome toughest situations in my life. Sir was not only a mentor to me, I have always felt a

parental care and affection. His kind gesture and motivation has always been a strong support to identify my potential both in the academic and personal journey. As I pay my humble tribute to my guide I am filled with gratitude and a profound sense of admiration. I consider myself to be fortunate and privileged to be associated with Sir in my career. I hope his guidance will forever remain imprinted and will persist in both my academic pursuits and personal endeavors. Praying to Almighty that I should strive to uplift others as Sir has done for me. Thank you Sir, for your unwavering support and for making me what I am today.



## *Dr. K. Suthindhiran*

### **Designation**

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and Technology Vellore Institute of Technology,  
Vellore

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## **BioSketch**

Currently I am working as Associate Professor in the School of Bio Sciences and Technology, VIT Vellore. My research interests include marine microbial diversity, marine bioproducts for agricultural, environmental and biomedical applications. I have 61 research publications and have completed 4 funded projects (DBT, DST). Currently I am handling two ongoing projects.



*His dedication towards fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence has inspired us all.*

## **Tribute**

I am profoundly delighted to pay my humble tribute to our esteemed Prof. Lazar Mathew Sir. Through his gentle encouragement and support, Sir has fostered in me the confidence to pursue my dreams. Sir has been a mentor in the truest sense. I feel extremely proud that I started my career under the esteemed leadership of Sir. Sir's mentorship has inspired faculty and students alike to strive for intellectual greatness. A heartfelt tribute to Sir, whose unwavering support and guidance have touched the lives of many faculty colleagues. With humility and generosity, he has been a pillar of strength, offering wisdom and

encouragement in times of need. His dedication towards fostering a culture of collaboration and excellence has inspired us all. Sir's selfless acts of mentorship and advocacy have left an indelible mark on our professional journey. We are forever grateful for his leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our collective success. Beyond academia or profession, his guidance has created a lasting impact and will endure throughout my academic endeavors and personal growth. May his legacy of expertise continue to inspire and uplift generations to come.



## *Dr. Jim Elliot C*

### **Designation**

Assistant Professor (SG)  
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Saveetha Engineering College  
Chennai

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Jim Elliot has done his M. E. in Biomedical Engineering and also his Ph.D. He is an excellent teacher and researcher in the field of Medical device design and development, Biomedical Optical Imaging, Monte Carlo simulation of light propagation in tissues, and Medical optics. Currently he is an Assistant Professor in Department of Biomedical Engineering in Saveetha University, Chennai.

*The seed you had sown as CBMR, is now  
expanding into many centres for each  
domain of research.*

## Tribute

Dear Professor Dr. T. Lazar Mathew,

I wanted to take this as an opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the exemplary way in which you undertook teaching, research, and administration.

I still remember the way Professor Dr. Martins Mathew, taught Anatomy & Physiology at CBMR 205 (smart classroom). The power of remembering all the bones in the human body till the phalanges. Few lecture hours were also taken exceptionally by Professor Dr. T. Lazar Mathew, when Madam was not available. The entire academic engagement happened during July to December 2010.

During my post-graduate study at VIT University, Vellore from 2010 to 2012, I had the privilege to pursue my PG under your leadership as the Director, Centre for Biomedical Research (CBMR), and School of Bio Sciences & Technology (SBST). You were remarkable in bringing out research facilities and funds at CBMR. The seed you had sown as CBMR, is now expanding into many centres for each domain of research. That was the place I got inspired about research and medical device product development. An iconic place at the VIT University, Vellore during our time was the foodie, amidst the

surrounding greenery. It was enjoyed the most with the military tank present near the foodie.

Apart from this, I have noticed your administration model as an example for myself even till now. By the end of the day, all the day's work had to be completed. Whenever I had approached you for approval of letters, I had witnessed the same. You ensure that the work is completed ASAP, which means before the end of the day. I still remember the motivational cum inspirational talk delivered by you during our orientation program along with Professor Dr. Sudesh Sivarasu. During your tenure, you were proactive in student academic and research exposure. That's the inspiration, I had perceived and what I am now and still learning and growing.

On this day, July 12, 2024, as you celebrate your 82nd birthday, I pray unto Jesus Christ, that you shall live long with full health, and wealth and as a fruit bearing tree to many of us. You are exemplary in all aspects. I wish you a very joyful and blessed birthday and many more yet to come with all blessings.

At this juncture, I want to thank wholeheartedly Professor Dr. Sudesh Sivarasu, for the initiation of such a wonderful priceless gift. I am glad that I am also a part of it.



## *Dr. Shashi Bala Singh*

### **Designation**

Vice Chancellor, Mody University of Science and  
Technology

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Shashi Bala Singh is presently Vice Chancellor, Mody University of Science and Technology. Formerly she was the Director, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Hyderabad. She has been the Director General (Life Sciences), DRDO and Director of two DRDO Labs, Dihar, Leh and DIPAS, Delhi. She obtained her Ph.D. degree in Human Physiology from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and D.Sc. degree in Physiology from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. She has immensely contributed to the understanding of high altitude physiology. Dr. Singh is the elected Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, India, and the Indian Academy of Neuroscience. She holds editorship in many prestigious journals. She is an active researcher in various facets of physiology and pharmacology and has completed 25+ research projects, and has established international collaboration with renowned scientists. She has nearly 30 National and International Patents including 10 commercialized products, over 45 National and International awards/recognitions; 30 book chapters/books and over 200 National and International Publications.

## Tribute

Prof. (Dr). T. Lazar Mathew, an eminent Indian scientist, has made significant contributions in the field of research, technology management, and academia. He is a trained physiologist and obtained M.Sc. (Med) from KMC Manipal and Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of Delhi. Notably, he also earned a Doctor of Science (D.Sc) degree, reflecting his expertise and scholarly achievements. His illustrious career spans over five decades. A visionary in his field, he made significant contributions to varied domains including high altitude physiology, and biomedical devices.

His research achievements earned him recognitions and awards, including election as a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, India; Fellow of the Indian Association of Biomedical Scientists and also of the International Medical Sciences Academy. He received the DRDO Scientist of the Year award in the year 1994 and the Platinum Jubilee Award by Indian Science Congress. Dr Mathew was a unique scientist who headed the three establishments of Defence Research & Development Organization (Life Sciences, DEBEL & INMAS). After his superannuation from DRDO, he was Director of a mission hospital at Ajmer and Dean and Director at VIT, Vellore. He was Sr. Advisor at

PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Pro Vice Chancellor, Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences and Senior Advisor at Manipal University.

My association with Dr Lazar Mathew has spanned over 35 years. I first heard about him when I was a Lecturer at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi in the late eighties. His profound knowledge, passion for science and creativity was a powerful motivating influence for me to join DRDO. His tremendous energy, confidence, communication skills and networking ability have always been inspirational to me. Although he is known as a no-nonsense go-getter who is highly focussed on attaining the goal, he is also very humane, humble and down-to-earth. I have found him to be a mentor who is very positive minded, helpful and encouraging. I have always enjoyed listening to his talks, which are not just high in scientific content, but peppered with a lot of interesting anecdotes and personal experiences. He has always been renowned for his leadership qualities, administrative and managerial skills. Even in very difficult and challenging situations, he has always led the way. His contributions to high altitude physiology are well-known world-wide. When I assumed the charge of the DRDO Laboratory at Leh, I was greatly influenced

by his teachings, and the example he set. I continued to do so even when I reached the upper echelons of the organization.

He was instrumental in establishing the High Altitude Medical Research Centre at Leh, and the Society for Biomedical Technology. The document, 'Indian Medical Devices Regulatory Authority' prepared by him formed the basis for the Parliamentary Act. He has more than 200 research Publications, 3 technical books and 12 patents to his credit. He has been Chairman of various scientific Committees of Govt of India and represented India as leader/member of various technical delegations abroad. He has been a respected teacher and examiner for M.B.B.S., B.D.S., B.Tech., M.Sc., M.Tech, Ph.D. for 5 Universities. He has delivered several keynote lectures, inaugural and convocation addresses. He has been a Visiting Professor in 3 Universities abroad in the area of Medical Technology and Biotechnology for brief periods.

He is passionate about indigenous development of medical devices. His passion for

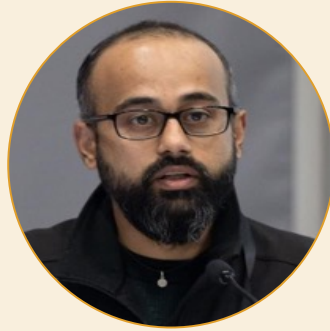
medical devices led to the development of Underwater Breathing Apparatus, radiation diagnostics, bio-dosimetry, chemical radioprotectors and interventions for frostbites. He is a visionary and always emphasizes the importance of collaboration between industry, academia, and government in driving innovation in biomedical technology.

I also learnt several life-lessons from him, including taking failures in one's stride and moving forwards. Like his mentor Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, he too has been a visionary who has contributed greatly to nation-building.

It is now several years that I have left DRDO. Moving from one position of high responsibility to another, I continue to cherish my association with Dr. Lazar Mathew. His legacy as a scientist, educator, and visionary continues to inspire generations, and his dedication to advancing knowledge remains unparalleled. I wish him the very best for the future!



*A visionary in his field, he made significant contributions to varied domains including high altitude physiology, and biomedical devices.*



## *Dr Roopam Dey*

### **Designation**

Clinical Lead at Impulse Biomedical

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## **BioSketch**

Dr Roopam Dey is a clinical engineer with a passion to bridge the gap between healthcare professionals and patients using biomedical engineering. During his PhD, Roopam developed a novel shoulder prosthesis and subsequently raised funding for its mechanical testing according to ASTM F2028 standards. Dr Dey was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Faculty of Health Sciences in the University of Cape Town with keen interests in post-surgical biomechanics of shoulder, surface electromyography, and patient focused clinical interventions. Dr Dey has published in high impact journals on shoulder biomechanics and medical devices. Currently Dr Dey is leading the clinical investigations for Impulse Biomedical.



*His contributions to medical sciences, biotechnology, and engineering have led to breakthroughs and innovations that have transformed lives and communities.*

## **Tribute**

A Visionary Leader and a Beacon of Excellence:

Dr. Lazar Mathew, a stalwart in the field of medical sciences and engineering, has left an indelible mark on the academic and research landscape. As a distinguished advisor at PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore, his contributions have been instrumental in shaping the institution's growth and success.

With a career spanning over five decades, Dr. Mathew's achievements are a testament to his unwavering dedication, unrelenting passion, and unbridled enthusiasm. His remarkable journey has been punctuated by numerous milestones, including his tenure as Director of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Laboratories such as the Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences, fellowships from prestigious academies, and the coveted DRDO Scientist of the Year Award.

Dr. Mathew's legacy extends far beyond his impressive credentials. He has inspired generations of students, researchers, and colleagues with his visionary leadership, mentorship, and guidance. His commitment to excellence has fostered a culture of innovation, collaboration, and academic rigor.

Through his work, Dr. Mathew has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing human knowledge and improving lives. His contributions to medical sciences, biotechnology, and engineering have led to breakthroughs and innovations that have transformed lives and communities. I have interacted with him at the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT University, Vellore) where he was the Dean of the School of Biotechnology and Chemical and Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Mathew's leadership in starting a Biomedical Engineering undergraduate programme is a testament to the visionary that he is.

As I pay tribute to Dr. Lazar Mathew, I honor not only his achievements but also his character, integrity, and generosity of spirit. His legacy will continue to inspire and motivate us to strive for excellence, push boundaries, and make a meaningful impact in the world.

Thank you, Dr. Mathew, for your tireless efforts, your wisdom, and your unwavering dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence. Your impact will be felt for generations to come.



## *Dr. Subramanian Babu*

### **Designation**

Professor and Dean, VIT School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning (VAIAL), Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore, India

### **BioSketch**


Dr. Subramanian Babu is Professor and Dean, VIT School of Agricultural Innovations and Advanced Learning (VAIAL), Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore. He holds a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Coimbatore. He graduated in 1999 after M.Sc. Agriculture in Plant Pathology and B.Sc. Agriculture from the same institute. He has postdoctoral research experience from the University of Alberta Canada, University of Angers France, Pennsylvania State University, Northeastern Ohio State Universities College of Medicine, and Florida Atlantic University in the United States. He served as faculty in the School of Bio Sciences and Technology from 2009 onwards for a period of 9 years before the Agriculture School was started. He also served as Associate Dean – Academic Research at VIT for a period of 3 years. He played a key role in starting the Agriculture School, establishing the infrastructure, agriculture farm and human resources as well as the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture programme at VIT. Publications: 120+; Conference Presentations: 190+; Popular scientific articles: 40; h-index: 30; i-10 index: 55; Funded projects: several.

## Tribute

For me and many others in the country, Prof. Lazar Mathew is a role model academician, administrator, researcher and leader. I can remember my interview and recruitment in the School of BioSciences and Technology, Vellore Institute of Technology, when he was serving as Dean of the School. I was selected for the faculty position in the School by him as one among the four, out of 216 applications which included several experienced people, HoDs from other institutes etc. During a faculty meeting, one of our senior Professors argued that 10 minutes per project was not enough to evaluate student projects (as we had to evaluate hundreds of projects of all the UG and PG programmes of Biotechnology and Microbiology within two to three days during the end-Winter Semester), Prof. Lazar Mathew said – we have selected you through an interview which was 10 to 15 minutes only. When an applicant for faculty member can be judged and selected within minutes, 10 minutes is more than enough to judge and evaluate a student’s project. That was the moment I understood how he selected me for the faculty position out of the 200 plus applications. He has that phenomenal experience and uniqueness

of judging people for their qualities within minutes. Later he also told me that he could find an inner fire in me and had the confidence that I could accomplish. That was proved by many. Almost all of those recruited by him assumed top positions in the University including Division Leaders, Deans, Directors etc. It is not only about his selection process, but also the way he guided us and motivated us to discover hidden talents each one of us had within us, is something which we all will be grateful to him lifelong. Hence, whatever I am today, the career path originated from him, and was fine-tuned by him.

Prof. Lazar Mathew is a leader who develops more leaders. Identifying the right person for the right job is one of the characteristics I learned from him which I am currently implementing as a leader. The day one I joined with him in the School of BioSciences and Technology as Assistant Professor Senior grade, I was made as the organizing team member for an international conference which was going on. The first day in VIT, I worked until 2 am and this late-night work continued for several days until the Conference was over. I have never seen such a big conference and have never been able



to organize such a conference when I became the Dean. His thought processes always aimed at big things which no one would have attempted earlier and thus he was a trend-setter in every aspect of academics, research and administration.

Every day when he left the office at around 8 pm or so, there would be a bunch of faculty members of all cadres (including me) to see him off. This happened to no other Dean or Director. This is because we could get solutions to a lot of our concerns in academics or research during that time. Certain things would have been disturbing

our mind for a long time. But if presented to him, within a few seconds while walking to his car from his office, he would throw a few words of wisdom which were simple solutions to our great problems.

I feel I have done something good in the past birth, to get in the current life, a mentor, well-wisher, and a role model leader like Prof. Lazar Mathew. I don't have age to wish him. Hence, I pray to God almighty that he should live long and continue to serve this country and humanity through his science, technology, leadership and social service.



*His thought processes always aimed at big things which no one would have attempted earlier and thus he was a trend-setter in every aspect of academics, research and administration.*



## *Dr. V. Sendhilvel*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. V. Sendhilvel, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, currently working at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore completed his Ph.D in Plant Pathology in the year 2003 and started his research career as Research Associate in ICAR- All India Coordinated Research for Spices Plantation Crops in TNAU. Then he went for Post-Doctoral Research at the University of Turin, Italy from 2006 to 07 and worked on the early detection of Fusarium infection in lamb lettuce green salad vegetable crops. He joined as an Assistant Professor (Senior) at VIT University in the School of Bio Sciences & Technology in 2007 with the DST Young Scientist Award. He invented the Erwinia infection in bananas predisposed by summer heat waves and rotting in the fruit. He joined as an Assistant Professor (Plant Pathology) at TNAU in 2009 and specialized in Plant Disease epidemiology and Biological control with eco-friendly measures. He is developing and producing several bio-pesticides in TNAU. He is guiding 4 Ph.D scholars and 3 PG students. He secured 16 awards and 31 research publications with four textbooks and 7 book chapters in books published by international press. He is operating externally funded research projects from DST, DBT and ICAR.

## Tribute

the first meeting with Dr. Lazar Mathew, the Dean SBST and Godfather in my life.

Dr. Saravanan, Senior Faculty of the Microbiology Department, guided me to join VIT after returning from the University of Turin, Italy, after completing my postdoctoral degree. It was a nervous moment for me as I wondered whether I would get a chance to work in VIT. My interview was conducted by the chairman of the selection committee under the guidance of the Dean of SBST. I explained the ELISA techniques, and the committee members were impressed. Still, I could remember the motivation of the Dean SBST during that interview with a positive spirit.

It was a memorable and bread-winning day in my life when I got the opportunity to work at VIT University, and I must always be thankful to the Dean SBST and the VIT management. On the day of joining the SBST (School of Bioscience and Technology) office, suddenly I saw a face like Mother Teresa. It was an emotional moment in my life, beholding a face full of mercy and a smile full of sorrow and happiness. Whenever I saw Madam's face, my head bowed and I felt deeply touched with a conviction that that day was blessed. In the early morning, the mercy blessing with a smile supported me in achieving so many things in my life.

After submitting my joining report, the Dean assigned work, and I brought the DST Young Scientist Scheme. The motivation and guidance attracted me to be with Dean SBST. After a few months, one day the Dean of SBST called

me and asked me to do the toughest assignment. Then I told him it was my pleasure, Sir, and it was the chance to show my capacity. My Dean appreciated my immediate acceptance, and then Sir explained the assignment. The special assignment was the NAAC accreditation work for SBST. It was a time-consuming and Himalayan assignment. After hearing the assignment, there was an uncertainty in my face, but my Dean assured me, "Dr. Senthil, Don't worry you can do it. I will give you all the support and facilities".

Then I got Mr. Muruganandam (lost by COVID 19) and three research fellows to carry out the collection of all the material documents from the faculty and management. At that time, there was an important meeting at the DRDO office in Hyderabad, and the Dean of SBST had to attend that particular meeting, which was the next shocking news that the Dean was not available. But with the confidence and motivation given by the Dean, I worked night and day for one full week to collect all the information and documents pertaining to the accreditation. The Mock visit for accreditation was scheduled for January 22, 2009, with the Dean SBST leaving for Hyderabad on January 17, 2009. The Dean called me over the phone, to check if everything was all right and if there was anything I needed. I informed him that I needed the SBST office key. It was immediately arranged, and the office was opened to work with the office boys, Mr. David and Karthick. The Chancellor Sir was called for the power point presentation for the Mock visit, and the Dean Sir asked me

to prepare the PowerPoint slides, which I prepared. The Dean was reaching VIT by late evening at 11 p.m., and the next day was the mock visit. The first presentation was SBST, and there was no time for showing the slides to the Dean. With great fear, I opened the PowerPoint, and the presentation was made by the Dean SBST. Following the SBST presentation, the other schools, such as Civil, Mechanical, Electronic, etc., continued. The general remarks of the mock committee were that the SBST made an excellent presentation and presented well to cater to the needs of the NAAC. The Chancellor Sir and the Mock Committee recommended that the other schools should prepare the slides like SBST. All the required documents were displayed in the box file. It was really an inspirational presentation made by the Dean SBST, and the NAAC accreditation was well appreciated for the progress of the SBST. So God gave me the opportunity to realize my potential. I am always thankful to my Dean SBST.

I had the opportunity to go to Vailankanni to get the darshan of the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health along with the Dean SBST, Madam, and Dr. Sudesh. The Dean and Madam stayed at my brother's house. The children were blessed by the Dean Sir and Madam. Still, I could remember the travel hours spent with Madam and Dean. The next day stay was made on the temple premises. It was the first visit of mine to receive showers of blessings from the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health, so my dream came true on that day. Soon thereafter, Dean Sir and Madam, met my family and kid. It was the most gracious day of my life. The guidance and advice for my family were well supported in my life,

saved my life economically, and helped me climb to greater heights.

One evening, I met the Dean of SBST, and I shared my views on my wife Lavanya's PG admission to Computer Science and Engineering. The application was attested by the Dean SBST, and the rank list was released, and she was on the second name of the waiting list for PG admission. With the blessings of the Dean SBST, she got the opportunity to pursue her M.Tech. (CSE).

On December 23, 2009, I got an opportunity for a permanent faculty position at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. I met the Dean SBST with a hesitant mindset with that offer letter, and the Dean asked for my views. I told him that I wanted to continue in VIT itself, and was happy with him, the VIT management, and the working atmosphere. Then the Dean SBST replied, Senthil...I will be here for a short time.....you have a lot of potential and you are an Agricultural Scientist; TNAU is the best university, so immediately go and join. Let your wife complete her education here (VIT). I was confused, but I finally submitted my resignation and joined TNAU as an Assistant Professor on December 30, 2009, and my wife, K. Lavanya, continued her studies. With the blessings of the Dean, she became a faculty member in the School of Computer Science and Engineering at VIT. I have umpteen instances, wherein Dean Sir's guidance paved the way for the betterment of VIT, its students and faculty. He is a true visionary with a long term goal for society. I often remember one of the lessons I learnt from the Dean SBST, "Do not harm anybody, the harmful persons would themselves reap the fruits of their actions".



DR. SENDHILVEL RECEIVING AN APPRECIATION AWARD FROM DR. LAZAR MATHEW, DEAN VIT, VELLORE

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DR. SENDHILVEL WITH DR. MARTINS MATHEW AND DR. LAZAR MATHEW AT VAILANKANNI SHRINE

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## *Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Pully*

### **Designation**

Director Technology & Innovations,  
Danaher, Finland

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## **BioSketch**

Following my Masters' Degree in Biomedical Engineering at VIT, I moved to Netherlands to pursue Doctoral Studies in Biomedical Engineering from University of Twente, and MBA from Rotterdam School of Management.

On the professional front, I started my career as a Research Scientist at Philips Healthcare, The Netherlands and eventually moved to the USA to lead Product Management, and Business Development functions. More recently, I have been heading the global Advance Development Group for Medical Imaging as a Director for Technology & Innovations at Danaher, Finland.



*Without your timely advice and guidance,  
I wouldn't have come this far.*

## **Tribute**

Prof. Lazar Mathew, I am extremely grateful to have been your student during the very first batch of the Master's program in Biomedical Engineering at VIT (2003-05).

I owe my deepest gratitude to you for all the encouragement and invaluable suggestions during my educational years and making it a worthwhile experience. This eventually shaped the beginning of my professional career and instilled a scientific temper in me.

Your unparalleled support and motivation during your lectures followed by your guidance for my project thesis turned out to be a most unforgettable learning experience all through my academic life.

Thank you very much for the wonderful guidance, untiring discussions, infinite enthusiasm and total flexibility you granted me during our interactions. Without your timely advice and guidance, I wouldn't have come this far.

Looking forward and hopeful to have such interactions in future.

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### **Additional Remarks**

François-Anatole Thibault, a famous French poet, journalist, and novelist once quoted "*Nine-tenths of education is encouragement*".

This summarizes the influence you had on my academic/professional life.



## *Dr. Sharmila Nageswaran*

### **Designation**

Associate Professor  
School of Electronics Engineering and  
Assistant Director, Department of Students'  
Welfare, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT).

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Sharmila Nageswaran holds a doctoral degree on design of mattress and cushion to prevent occurrence of pressure ulcers, Masters in Biomedical Engineering and an undergraduate degree in Bachelor of Physiotherapy. Her research interests include orthotic/prosthetic designs, assistive/wearable devices, biomechanics/ergonomics and biosignal/medical image processing. She has mentored over 130 projects in these domains. She is working as Associate Professor in the School of Electronics Engineering with additional administrative responsibilities as Assistant Director in Department of Students' Welfare, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT). She also heads the NGO called Anokha, which trains the communication skills of the underprivileged kids of Vellore. She has co-founded a startup, 'Punar Rehab Solutions Pvt. Ltd.' which develops devices for motor rehabilitation. Their first device 'Nucleus' is a hand trainer for stroke patients which has attracted grants worth INR 60 lakh from both central and state government agencies of India, namely DST Nidhi Prayas, BIRAC SEED and TANSEED 5.0. She has

delivered lectures on her research and about funding opportunities to pursue one's journey in entrepreneurship as an Innovation Ambassador, Ministry of Education, India. Her research publications can be fetched from <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-78701278>. (Scopus Id: 56820054800)

## Tribute

Prof. Lazar Mathew, an inspiring personality, is responsible for my career in teaching! The bond that I share with Sir and his wife Dr. Martins Mathew is very special and I am indebted to them. Sir was my teacher at my Post Graduation studies and also the Dean of the School where I had registered. He taught multiple courses for our batch. He treated us as professionals, not just as his students. It was during the Anatomy and Physiology classes, that Ma'am and Sir got to know about me. I was pregnant then and wanted a break in my studies. But Sir was very particular that studying with a child in the womb is better than studying with a child in hand. He insisted that I continue my studies and only if there is any complication then we can think about what's next. He also said he would get special approval for me to give exams directly in case of such a situation. Fortunately, everything went on well as per his prediction and I could complete my course without any difficulty. Both of them stood by me during those challenging times. I was campus recruited for an IT company and he was not very happy

about that. He said after learning so much in this field, why do you want to work in an IT company? He suggested that I should do my Masters project in an organization which works for the rehabilitation of orthopedically challenged persons. My work and interaction in that organisation made me realise the purpose of my vocation and education. It was then that I decided that I would be a rehabilitation engineer, a teacher to help in reducing brain drainage and a facilitator who would enable young minds to build products for societal needs. Teachers are the best facilitators! So I chose to be a teacher, a professor who could make innovative minds to think about giving back to society!

Giving advice to others is certainly easy, but applying them in one's own life is often the hardest thing to do. As per the sugar story of Buddha, I too wanted to practise so I decided to start a rehabilitation company, 'Punar Rehab Solutions Pvt. Ltd' on my own. Now I am more confident about what I am saying/teaching. I get a lot of inspirational

quotes from my students on Teacher's day and Guru Purnima, even after 10 years past their graduation when they become successful at work. The joy it brings me, can never be expressed in words. I would equate all these to Mathew Sir and his preaching. I would not call them as lectures- they are indeed preaching! His talk about the way the Kalam stent was evolved, the hyperbaric bag for defence services, etc. all moved and motivated me. All these made me what I am today. Job satisfaction is more important than the job itself. So my life is content as I know its purpose.

Thank you for what you and Ma'am have done for me. It is not a mere word here! It's my emotion and love. I know that I am always in your prayers and being blessed, so I am not going to ask for it again.

On this occasion I am honoured to pen down a few of my thoughts. I wish Sir and Ma'am a long and healthy life. Happy birthday Sir...I want to say this in Tamil:

“VaazhthaVayadhillaiVanangukiren!”

I thank Dr. Sudesh Sivarasu for this opportunity!



DR. SHARMILA WITH DR. MARTINS MATHEW AND DR. LAZAR MATHEW



*He treated us as professionals,  
not just as his students.*



## *Sr. Ancy Antony*

### **Designation**

Secretary General of Mission Sisters of Ajmer,  
MSA Headquarters, Mirshali, Ajmer

## **BioSketch**

Rev. Sr. Ancy belongs to the Congregation of Mission Sisters of Ajmer. After completing M Pharm, she did a Post-graduate Diploma in Hospital Administration at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. She was the Hospital Administrator at St. Francis Hospital Ajmer for 25 years. She is currently the Secretary General of Mission Sisters of Ajmer, MSA Headquarters, Mirshali, Ajmer.

## **Tribute**

I have known Dr. Lazar Mathew since 2001, when he joined St. Francis Hospital Ajmer as Director. I had the privilege of working with him as the Administrator of the hospital. In a sense I was new to management even though I had a degree in hospital administration. Dr. Mathew and late Rev Sr. (Dr.) Melba were both guiding me to administer the daily working of our hospital; which was more of an excellent nursing home with special emphasis on

maternal and child care. The hospital was not doing financially well and hence our Senior Management wanted to appoint an experienced healthcare manager to improve the functioning and regulate the performance of our consultant doctors.

At that time, Dr. Mathew was the Director of the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences at Delhi. Two of our sisters went there for some advanced diagnostic

tests and had the opportunity to see his way of managing difficult situations. They spoke to our senior sisters who decided to appoint Dr. Mathew. He took voluntary retirement and joined as Director of our hospital.

He made several changes in the functioning of our hospital. A sense of discipline, devotion to duty and accountability, rules and regulations, and policies were the main principles introduced by him. He made the existing nursing home into a general hospital by making many structural changes. The front of the hospital was beautifully modified. A new chapel for patients, a neonatal ICU, an improved pathological laboratory, special rooms for paid patients, a new OPD and a programme for the treatment of patients of tuberculosis were introduced. A practical course, other than nursing for patient care brought in by him was very helpful; for assisting the overworked nurses and nursing students.

Another major achievement of the hospital during his tenure was the establishment of Asha Niketan, a centre for the treatment of AIDS/HIV patients in a village (Kanakheri),

25 kms away from Ajmer town. Two of our sisters got trained at CMC, Vellore and an AIDS Centre at Bangalore. The Centre had separate wards for male and female patients. It became so popular that we had more than 50 patients to be taken care of in the centre. Dr. Mathew could also get a project which could create awareness about AIDS; and also to fund the expenses of the Asha Niketan. He was always for the poor patients, as was the case with Dr. Melba. Both of them started an evening free clinic for poor people.

He was instrumental in bringing Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to our hospital. His visit mesmerised the city of Ajmer. Four of our sisters including me were trained under an Indo-Singapore Health Care Project called SIGNET. He was the India Director for this very useful and famous initiative which was funded by the Temasek Foundation. Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) has benefitted a lot from this programme.

I consider it my good fortune to work with an able administrator, a visionary and a devout Catholic with a missionary zeal like Dr. Lazar Mathew. I wish him the very best in all his future activities.



SR. ANCY ANTONY IN THE GROUP PHOTO OF THE SIGNET WORKSHOP, WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW, DR. JEREMY LIM AND DR. JOSEPH MATHEW



## *Dr. Sajan Daniel George*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. George did his Ph.D. in Photonics from the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kerala in 2004 and pursued his research at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, Leibniz University of Hannover and TU Darmstadt, Germany. In 2012, he joined the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, MAHE-Manipal where he is currently Professor and Head. Dr. George is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, UK (FRSC), a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, UK (FInst.P), and an elected Fellow of the Indian Chemical Society (FICS). Dr. George has published over 153 scopus-indexed journal papers, and 9 book chapters and filed 8 IPs in the areas of photonics, nanoscience & technology, and biomedical optics.

## Tribute

Prof. Lazar Mathew stands as a towering figure in both academia and the scientific community, and his influence on my life has been profound both personally and professionally. As a great scientist and administrator, he embodies the essence of innovation, discipline and a relentless pursuit of knowledge. As my mentor, with his in-depth knowledge to take a concept from idea to market, he inculcated many professional traits in me. A few to mention are: working in translational research towards affordable solutions to create societal impact, the importance of perseverance and disciplined approach for research, the significance of working beyond islands to make this happen in the emerging world, and the necessity of open discussions to address scientific challenges.

My first interaction with him was during his lab visit to our department as DST Committee Chairman, during which he defined the need of focussing on translational research and developing cost-effective devices for societal benefit. Upon my taking position as Head of the Department, Prof. Mathew mentored me a lot to become a judicious leader with short term and long-term

vision and goals. As an advisor to the Department, he is playing a pivotal role in shaping up the future directions. While conducting international and national events under his chairmanship, I was truly inspired and amazed by his meticulous planning by taking care of even the minute details which often others neglect. Another aspect of his character that I wish to adopt in my life is his capability to integrate with different generations of people while keeping his integrity and authority intact. His ability to “make seemingly impossible things happen” is truly inspirational. The establishment of an interdisciplinary bio-device hub to develop indigenous medical equipment at the University with govt-private partnership is a unique example that has never happened in the country before.

I will be failing if I do not specially mention about Dr. (Mrs). Mathew who has been a loving and caring mother-like figure to my family. Her sweet and peaceful demeanour has won the hearts of my family. For my kids, they are like grandparents and they find true happiness in their company. Reflecting on Dr. Mathew’s impact on my life, I am struck by his ability to

seamlessly balance the rigors of scientific inquiry, leadership, administration and a God-centred judicious lifestyle. His unwavering commitment to empowering under-privileged girl children through his foundation has inspired me to contribute back to society in my own way. As I embark on my own journey, I carry with me the lessons learnt from his mentorship and strive to emulate his commitment, righteousness and compassion together with excellence and integrity in all endeavours while living a judicious lifestyle.

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### Additional Remarks

Sir, you made a great impact in my personal and professional life which cannot be put in words. Nevertheless, following the interaction with you, I have an entirely new perspective on things, all thanks to your guidance. I am more open to trying new things and sharing my ideas because you inspire me. You're an amazing human and mentor. Thank you for upholding such high standards and being an excellent mentor.

Your direction and insightful comments have made me a better professional. I don't think I can ever thank you enough. My family is so fortunate to have you and your family around who inspire us through work and love.



DR. SAJAN GEORGE RECEIVING THE RESEARCH AWARD FROM DR. LAZAR MATHEW



*His ability to  
“make seemingly impossible things happen”  
is truly inspirational.*



## *Dr. Bindu Salim*

### **Designation**

Director-Research, Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore

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## **BioSketch**

Bindu Salim did her Bachelor's degree in ECE from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum, completed her Masters in ECE with specialization in VLSI from BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore and has done her Ph.D. from Anna University. She has been in academia since 1988 and currently she is a Professor (ECE) and Director-Research at Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology. She has executed several funded projects and has 2 patents to her credit and is an awardee from the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. She has done 6 months research on thin film transistors in the University of Texas at Austin.



*His ambition to serve society was fulfilled by him being with the country's defense research labs where his contributions towards healthcare will remain as monuments of his service to the country.*

## Tribute

On Prof. Lazar Mathew entering his 83rd year nearing the completion of witnessing 1000 full moons, which is auspicious in India, I am extremely excited to write a few words about him. Though I was also born in the same state, Kerala where he was born, I met him only in 2009, when I was working with PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, as an advisor for the research activities at PSG. I just met him on his visit to interact with the faculty. I had been reading here and there, reading about his achievements etc. and was very nervous about how I would talk to him about my initial experiments on the term research. The day came, and I was in his office; we had a discussion for more than an hour and I realized that as people grow much bigger, they remain more and more humble. There a roadmap was made for my research activities, and he was very particular about converting any research to a product for society. I have executed 3 funded projects under his mentorship and 2 of them were completed with patents granted. During our interactions, he was more like a friend rather than a boss and all the topics relevant to society used to be discussed. In addition to professional support, he has even helped my daughter in identifying her area of research which

led her to fetch the prestigious Khorana scholarship in 2010. Thus, he has been with us at PSG like a Santa Claus and his guidance has made many of us to prosper in our research activities.

Prof. Mathew has recently authored a book titled “Experience, Experiments and Expectations”, taking the readers through his experiences. The highest value he has achieved through his experiences, and he was fortunate to have the same with multiple changes in the environment he lived. From a humble village life with multifaceted talents, where he learnt the value of scientific contribution to improve society, his ambition to serve society was fulfilled by him being with the country's defense research labs where his contributions towards healthcare will remain as monuments of his service to the country. During his career in DRDO, he transformed himself into an engineer from medical practitioner. Likewise, he could transform many youngsters through his guidance into great researchers contributing to society.

I feel very proud of being known to Prof. Mathew and I pray to the Almighty to shower all his blessings for a healthy and peaceful life ahead.



*Ms. Sree Vidhya*

**Designation**

Associate Director at Wolters Kluwer,  
Singapore

**BioSketch**

Sree Vidhya serves as an Associate Director at Wolters Kluwer in Singapore. With a background spanning over 15 years in healthcare strategy, she has developed expertise in commercial strategy, medical education, medico-marketing, and business analytics. Beyond her professional life, Sree is passionate about travel, enjoys Indian classical dance, and loves spending time with her fur babies. She is also dedicated to volunteer work, actively participating in community projects in Nepal and Myanmar, focusing on disaster relief and educational programs for children. Her background as a student at VIT University, where she was profoundly influenced by Dean Dr. Lazar Mathew, has shaped her approach to leadership and mentorship in her professional journey.

*I cherish not only the academic and professional guidance but also the deeply personal support he offered during a critical time in my life.*

## Tribute

A Personal Tribute to a Mentor and Father Figure: Our beloved Dean Sir Dr. Lazar Mathew

During my time at VIT University from 2006 to 2008, I had the privilege of studying under the guidance of Dr Lazar Mathew, who headed both the Biomedical and Biotechnology Departments. His leadership not only profoundly impacted my academic journey but also my personal development.

Dr Lazar Mathew was more than just an academic Dean; he was a visionary whose calm and composed demeanour was a constant source of strength. He had a unique ability to distil complex scientific concepts into clear, understandable lessons, which made him a standout educator and mentor. Under his guidance, I felt equipped and inspired to tackle challenging projects with confidence and creativity.

His door was always open, and this accessibility made a significant difference in my life. It wasn't just academic issues we could discuss; Dean Sir was always there to offer advice on personal and family matters too. His wise counsel was something I relied on frequently, and it always came from a place of deep understanding and empathy.

Reflecting on those years, I realize how lucky I was to have such a supportive figure during such a formative part of my life. Dean Sir's dedication to our growth went beyond the curriculum. He cared about our overall well-being, ensuring we were developing not just as students, but as well-rounded individuals.

I cherish not only the academic and professional guidance but also the deeply personal support he offered during a critical time in my life. Long after I had graduated, during a deeply distressing time when my mother was critically ill in the ICU, Dean Sir reached out to me unexpectedly. He didn't even know about my situation, but somehow, his call came just when I needed a comforting voice the most- it felt nothing short of miraculous. Despite ten years without contact, he called from his personal mobile, and his timing couldn't have been more divine. Hearing Dean Sir's voice, followed by Ma'am's, brought an unexpected solace. Their words did more than just console me; they gave me the strength to navigate through the tough situation. This act of kindness demonstrated that Dean Sir and his wife's care for their students extends well beyond academic guidance- they genuinely support us on a personal level, too, reaching out with compassion that transcends the boundaries of our old campus life.

I owe a great deal of my success to Dr. Lazar Mathew and Dr. (Mrs) Martins Mathew. Their encouragement and belief in my abilities pushed me to strive for excellence in everything I did. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to both for their guidance and the lasting impact they have had on my life.

Again, thank you, Dean Sir not just for being an exceptional Dean, but for being a mentor, a confidant, and a major influence in my life. Your legacy will always be a part of my professional and personal foundation.



## *Mr. Prakash Ayyappa*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

I am an MBA graduate with 12 years of experience in HR

## **Tribute**

Dear Prof. Lazar Mathew,

I hope this message finds you well and in great health. As I reflect on my journey and the invaluable role you've played as my mentor in a very short span of time I had spent with you, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and appreciation.

Your guidance, support, and wisdom have been the guiding light that has illuminated my path, helping me navigate through challenges and obstacles with confidence and resilience. You've not only shared your knowledge and expertise but also your time, patience, and unwavering belief in my potential.

Every conversation, every piece of advice, and every encouragement you've offered has left a lasting impression on me, shaping not only my professional growth but also my personal development. Your short mentorship has empowered me to discover my strengths, overcome my weaknesses, and strive for excellence in everything I do.

Beyond the professional realm, you've been a source of inspiration and motivation, demonstrating integrity, compassion, and empathy in your interactions with others. Your kindness and generosity have touched not just my mind but also my heart, reminding me of the importance of empathy, humility, and gratitude in all aspects of life. Even though I am not a part of your projects now, whenever I receive a call from you, my face becomes bright and that's what you mean to me Sir.

As I continue on my journey, I carry with me the lessons you've imparted, the values

you've instilled, and the belief you've cultivated in me. You've not only been a mentor but also a role model, a confidant, and a father friend.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for your unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in me. Your impact on my life is immeasurable, and I am truly blessed to have had the privilege of being mentored by someone as remarkable as you.

With deepest gratitude and warmest regards,

**Prakash Ayyappa**

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#### **Additional Remarks**

Prof. Lazar Mathew is one of the reasons along with Prof K. Sankaran to be what I am now. These 2 persons are the ladders for my career.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW CHAIRING A SCIENTIFIC MEETING AND MR. PRAKASH AYYAPPA HELPING HIM



## *Dr. Anil Kumar Mishra*

### **Designation**

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Ex- Director INMAS

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Anil Kumar Mishra was Director at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, Defence Research and Development Organization, Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India. Currently, he is Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India. He obtained his M.S. (Chemistry) in 1984 from Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur, and Ph.D. (Chemistry) in 1988 from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. During his career, he held positions as Post-doctorate fellow at the Universite de Bourgogne, Dijon, France; Research Scientist at the University of California, Davis, USA; Senior Scientist at INSERM U-463, Nantes, France, and Visiting Professor at Max-Planck Institute, Germany. Dr. Mishra has published more than 312 papers, in various journals of international repute. He has been granted several US, European and Indian patents. He has received several awards, the most prestigious being the “DRDO Young Scientist Award” received from the hands of then Prime Minister of India (Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee) in 1999.

## Tribute

My journey in the government sector started in the year 1997 at the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, and exactly a year later, in the month of December 1998, I encountered a guru, mentor and father in my life, who has helped me to be a better version of Anil K Mishra. Actually I have been wanting to write this piece for the last couple of years before my retirement. My journey towards becoming a better version of myself has been greatly influenced by Professor Lazar Mathew, then Director INMAS-DRDO, MoD as a peer, expert advisor, leader and mentor in shaping my aspirations and conduct.

As a Teacher, he inspired and imparted knowledge and nourished my intellectual growth. The thrust towards Defence-Academia-Industry relationship given by DRDO today, was realized decades ago by Professor T Lazar Mathew through interaction with Industry for better transitional research with intellectual properties, as evidenced by the US Patent through the Dabur Research Foundation – a step towards Atma-Nirbhar Bharat (this is the objective of DRDO for self-Reliance). He created a positive learning environment and challenged many of us

and in particular my group, to expand the horizons through international collaborations. The Indo-Cuban initiative was one such venture, which paved the way for the development of the humanized monoclonal antibodies for cancer therapy, with collaboration from industrial partners such as the Biocon Company headed by Madam Kiran Mazumdar Shah. The pat on the back which we received from him was a powerful motivator for us to contribute our very best in these enriching endeavours. One beautiful sentence that he often shared with me was that, we have GOD AS FATHER – so there is no need to have a GODFATHER.

His approach towards scientists and co-workers was phenomenal and he could go to any extent to ensure that each one of us was protected from an unhealthy environment created by individuals hindering the progress of science and scientists through their negative energy. On several occasions, he would stand tall to ensure our educational growth and freedom to do state of art research – at times even better than the developed nations. He never believed in accusations that could cause harm to his fellow col-

leagues, rather he was a real role model of a teacher who sought to find the truth through healthy discussion, until the truth was out or confessed by the concerned individuals. Role models serve as examples of excellence in various aspects of life. He inspired me to emulate the positive qualities, achievements, and values for science and society. We know that educational institutions provide us with a structured environment for learning and acquiring knowledge, but his presence in the institute and his leadership quality made INMAS a better place for all to work in a harmonious manner. He imbued changes to focus on fundamentals and strength of intent, sincerity and applying it to the task we had undertaken to contribute for the professional development through translational research. He taught us essential skills like time management, collaboration, leadership, and adaptability. He provided enough opportunities for growth, challenged us to achieve the goals, shaped our work ethics and also cultivated values like professionalism, responsibility, and accountability. I had the opportunity to work closely with several managers and leaders of international repute in my two decades of work-life in DRDO, but I always remember Professor Lazar Mathew with gratitude. I still stay connected with him, just a phone call away whenever I need it.

He encouraged us to get connected with communities who share common interests, beliefs, or goals. As he narrated on many occasions that community provides a sense of belonging, social support,

and opportunities for personal growth, and exposes us to different cultures, perspectives, and experiences, broadening our understanding and shaping our values of empathy, compassion, and inclusivity. I have been very fortunate to work with Professor Lazar Mathew. We have travelled together to explore the spiritual path to enlightenment through the beauty of nature and beyond nature.

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### Additional Remarks

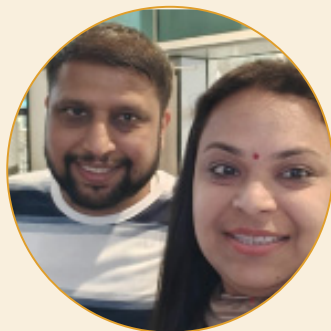
“Professor Mathew is a source of knowledge and quantum energy in others’ life.” Whatever is in my bio-sketch is because of Professor Mathew’s guidance and support.



DR. MISHRA RECEIVING A RESEARCH AWARD FROM DR. LAZAR MATHEW



*He provided enough opportunities for growth, challenged us to achieve the goals, shaped our work ethics and also cultivated values like professionalism, responsibility, and accountability.*



*Mrs. Anju Gupta  
& Mr. Sahil Jain*

**Mrs. Anju Gupta**

Assistant Professor & In charge  
Department of Emerging Technology  
G J University of Science & Technology, Hisar

**Mr. Sahil Jain**

Proprietor & MD  
SJ Enterprises  
Hisar

**BioSketch: Anju Gupta**

Mrs. Anju Gupta is Assistant Professor & Incharge of Department of Emerging Technology of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar. With specialization in Biomedical Engineering, she has more than 14 years of experience of teaching & research and 32 papers in National/International Journals/Conferences to her credit. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in Signal & Image Processing for Medical Applications under the able guidance of professors & scientists from GJUS&T, Hisar and CSIO, Chandigarh

She is University Programme Coordinator of National Service Scheme, GJUS&T, Hisar. She has served as Programme Officer of NSS, GJUS&T for 4 years and delivered exemplary performance during her tenure. She is also the Deputy Proctor, Coordinator (Working Women Hostel), Incharge (Red Ribbon Club) and Nodal as well as Complaint Officer HIV/AIDS (P&C) of GJUS&T, Hisar.

## BioSketch: Sahil Jain

Mr. Sahil Jain is Proprietor and MD, SJ Enterprises, Hisar. With education in the field of Biomedical Engineering, he has an experience of 3 years of teaching in DCRUST, Murthal and GJUS&T, Hisar. After which realising his capabilities as an entrepreneur he decided to start his own business. Starting from a small room and selling the first box, to owning a firm, there was never looking back for him. Today he deals in trading of various goods like FMCG, Hosiery, Beauty & Wellness etc.

## Tribute

It was July 2008 and as per trend in North India, we (Anju Gupta & Sahil Jain) were late by two weeks in joining our classes for M.Tech. Biomedical Engineering at VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu. To our surprise we were being looked out for by all our subject teachers and classmates, as it was not acceptable for any of the students to remain absent from classes for two continuous weeks in such a prestigious institution where getting admission was like overcoming a challenge. Especially for us, as we did not have many options for post graduation in Biomedical Engineering in India except a few IITs and NITs. It was to resolve this issue of short attendance that we first time met 'Sir' Dr. Lazar Mathew and 'Madam' Dr. A. Martins Mathew in their office. To our surprise, this meeting turned into a blessing for us as we found our 'Godparents' sitting in front of us to nurture, polish and direct our future. As a teacher, Dr. Lazar Mathew taught us subjects like Physiology, Bio-MEMS etc. and Dr. A. Martins Mathew taught us Anatomy. It was with that class room experience that I, Anju Gupta decided to become a teacher and a role model like them for my future students. With their

care and concern, a place 2000 km away from our native place, became our home. We felt accepted and believed that we were in the right place and learnings from here would be providing us necessary directions for our future.

With Sir's guidance we both got an opportunity to complete our dissertation in CSIO, Chandigarh under the able guidance of scientists in the Biomedical Instrumentation Lab there. He ensured that we were able to get through and complete our dissertation effectively and in a timely manner. It was at this time that we got an opportunity to assist Sir and Dr. Joseph L. Mathew (his son) for their SIGNET meetings in Chandigarh & Delhi. His teachings such as 'to have an attitude of gratitude' are still practiced by us in real life and have enabled us to reach the top positions in our respective work fields. He used to exhort us to take chances, do as you wish, just keep me informed; I am there to look after you and keep your back; with my signatures on the paper nobody can say no to you. With that level of confidence that he inculcated in us, we could reach the heights one step at a time.

It was in June 2010 that I got another chance to work under his guidance as a Ph.D. Scholar in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at VIT Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Things were taking good shape but then fortunately or unfortunately (still not clear to me), Dr. Lazar Mathew had to leave VIT and join PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, Coimbatore as an Academic Advisor. My life turned upside down the moment I came to know about his decision of leaving VIT. I immediately spoke to him stating my willingness to join PSG Institutions along with him either as a scholar or as an employee. Without wasting any time, he ensured that I got recruited as Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, PSG College of Technology Coimbatore, a sister institution of PSG Institute of Advanced Studies. I served there from September 2010 till April 2013. Those were the most memorable days of my academic life. With Sir's guidance I was able to excel in every field and overcome

every challenge I faced in job and my new life. It was during this time that I learnt a lot from him including academics as well as administration. Sir used to visit PSG IAS for two weeks in a month for his assignments and I was blessed to be able to assist him in his ventures and shared the office which became my learning-cum-training zone. I used to observe him, his style of working, and strategic insights. The way he used to deal with scholars, staff and administration was an eye opener. Sir used to stay in the guest house during his visit and I was also provided an accommodation in the annexure building. We both used to walk together in the evening and share our personal and professional matters. I became just like a family member to him and we started helping each other in taking important decisions like a father and daughter duo. I remember accompanying Sir to Dr. P. Prema's marriage somewhere in Tamil Nadu. It was a very different experience for me as I was

*He always encouraged me to take up challenges and accept assignments beyond my capabilities and also guided me through them.*

attending a typical South Indian Marriage for the first time where we were served delicious breakfast after early morning wedding rituals. It was to my surprise as marriages in north India are mostly late-night affairs. Memories of experiences like planning Sir's itinerary for trips & events, preparing reports & presentations for his lectures and accompanying him for personal and professional events are still cherished by me. He always encouraged me to take up challenges and accept assignments beyond my capabilities and also guided me through them. I used to always say that I will marry only after I complete my Ph.D. but he explained to me the other side of the coin stating that life is through the tunnel and not on the other side of the tunnel; let the things go on hand in hand and make sure to fulfill all your commitments and duties in time. With Sir's and Madam's blessings, Sahil and I got married in June 2012 and they gifted us a beautiful laptop as their blessings. I was

lucky to get appointed in GJUS&T, Hisar in May 2013 after which I left PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore. But this did not bring an end to our interaction with Sir and Madam. I used to talk to him whenever in dilemma and to my surprise he always had a solution to all my problems. I remember Madam serving us food made with her hands whenever we visited them. People say it is very difficult for them to believe that God exists and something beyond visible cannot be believed upon, but I say I have seen it and lived it. It is not every day that you meet people like Dr. Lazar Mathew and Dr. A. Martins Mathew. It is only with some pure intention that we can be blessed with such loving and caring Godparents. We used to get worried every time when either of your health declined and prayed to God that you both may be blessed with many healthier & happy years of life.

Cannot thank God enough for making us meet you both and make us what we are today....



## *Dr. I. Sudarsan Kumar*

### **Designation**

Director (Academics and Planning),  
SVCET, AP

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. I. Sudarsan Kumar is presently working as Director (Academics and Planning) at SVCET, Chittoor AP with a strategic vision of sustaining growth opportunities of the Institutions. He has more than two decades of experience in teaching, research and management. Previously, for 18 years he served at Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions, Tirupati (Presently Mohan Babu University) in various capacities including Group Director (Academics and Development) and as Chief Operating Officer.

His contributions to the organizations in the growth and development lies in developing Strategy, People & Culture, and Operations & Finance mechanisms which has resulted in national quality accreditations, external funding and active engagement with industry and premier institutions for research and development, joint educational programs and curriculum design.

## Tribute

Dr. Lazar Mathew – A Karma Yogi and Gnani

I am really fortunate to be associated with Dr. Lazar Mathew professionally and personally too. I got professional acquaintance with him when he joined as Research Advisor at Sree Vidyanikethan Educational Institutions, Tirupati Andhra Pradesh.

I still remember his initial words in the first meeting of the senior functionaries of the group, “My attempt would be to make extraordinary things out of ordinary people.” This was true and he made it happen in the group as the research culture of the group started becoming vibrant, faculty members started publishing, received funding, IPRs were filed and granted and overall, a very strong ecosystem for research got established under his mentorship.

The biggest asset to the group by having Dr Mathew as research advisor was his rich experience, networking with people and institutions with which he helped the faculty and students in their research endeavours.

His way of planning, scheduling events, reviews, advisories and recording minutes of every small to big meetings speaks volumes of his professionalism and showing a way for his fellowmen to follow up things easily.

His way of communicating the hardest things to the management on a soft note and make them realize the significance of the research in a higher education institution as imminent is quite versatile and imposing.

In the sidelines of the official meetings, he used to relate to us his experiences at his previous workplaces especially his association with Dr. Abdul Kalam. Truly, all of them were quite inspiring.

His philanthropic activities of running a professional higher education in nursing for the deprived young girls in Ajmer is a testimony for his service attitude.

Dr. Mathew’s professional traits that influenced me a lot are his impeccable discipline, humility and above all being empathetic.

He is a big ‘Family Man’. His love for his wife, kids and grandkids is immense. He always keeps them in his mind and cherishes their acts and successes.

### Additional Remarks

Personally, I had the opportunity of hosting him to dinner at my home once where my parents, my wife Nirupama and daughter Chinmaya Prerana enjoyed the blissful company of such a great scientist and human being. Also, we made some tours to local historical places in and around Tirupati. Apart from our professional interactions, I used to have long discussions with him on various aspects

especially on philosophy. One such topic was 'Body, Mind and Soul' and their role in attaining ultimate realization. He has great vision and depth in philosophical matters and truly we both used to enjoy the time spent. Lastly, our daily visits to the college canteen in an electric buggy with Dr. Mathew, Prof. Gopala Rao and Dr. Bhagavanulu are unforgettable.



DR. LAZAR MATHEW WITH DR. I. SUDARSAN KUMAR AND DAUGHTER CHINMAYA PRERANA AT CHANDRAGIRI FORT, ANDHRA PRADESH



*I still remember his initial words in the first meeting of the senior functionaries of the group, “My attempt would be to make extraordinary things out of ordinary people.  
” This was true and he made it happen...*



## *Dr. Satheesh Kumar*

### **Designation**

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Satheesh Kumar transitioned into the field of Atmospheric Physics following his graduation in optical physics. He gained experience as a research associate at the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad and as a researcher at the University of Melbourne. Later on, Dr. Kumar served as a Professor at Kannur University and Government Brennen College. Upon his retirement, he was appointed as the deputy leader for the Environmental Campaign Program of the European Space Agency, in collaboration with the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis, to investigate the impact of Sahara dust. Currently, he is actively involved in unraveling the scientific aspects related to the various properties of microplastics.



*His effective organizational skills have been instrumental in coordinating various academic endeavours.*

## **Tribute**

I have had the privilege of collaborating with Professor Lazar Mathew at the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) in my capacity as an Adjunct Professor. Professor Mathew's direct and modest approach to intricate matters has been both invigorating and captivating. His knack for considering diverse viewpoints when formulating strategies, along with his impressive track record, underscores his exceptional foresight. Professor Lazar Mathew's remarkable talent in

motivating young minds within the department is truly praiseworthy, and his effective organizational skills have been instrumental in coordinating various academic endeavours. In summary, Professor Lazar Mathew's academic and administrative proficiency stands as a testament to the notion that age should not hinder scientific progress.

I extend my heartfelt wishes for his continued well-being and success in advancing MAHE's development through upcoming initiatives.



*Dr. Akshay P.*

**Designation**

PhD Scholar, Ariel University, Israel

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**BioSketch**

Akshay, born on October 2, 1996, in Kannur, Kerala, pursued his passion for physics early on. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Payyanur College in 2017 before completing his Masters at the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, in 2019. His academic journey led him to the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, Manipal, Karnataka, where he honed his skills. Eventually, he secured admission to Ariel University, Israel, for an Integrated PhD program, marking the next step in his academic and research pursuits.

*One of the most significant lessons I learned from Dr. Lazar Mathew was the importance of resilience in the face of adversity.*

## Tribute

### The Mentor Who Shaped My Journey.

Throughout our lives, we encounter individuals whose influence transcends mere moments, leaving an indelible mark on our journey. For me, that person is Professor Dr. Lazar Mathew. As I reflect on the impact he has had on my life, I realize the profound ways in which his guidance, wisdom, and unwavering support have shaped my personal and professional growth.

I first met Dr. Lazar Mathew during my time in Manipal. At that time, I was unsure of my academic path, grappling with doubts and uncertainties about my future. It was Dr. Lazar Mathew who saw potential in me when I couldn't see it in myself. He took me under his wing, offering not only academic guidance but also empathy and encouragement.

One of the most significant lessons I learned from Dr. Lazar Mathew was the importance of resilience in the face of adversity. During my initial years, I faced a series of setbacks that shook my confidence and threatened to derail my academic aspirations. It was during this challenging period that Dr. Lazar Mathew provided unwavering support, reminding me of my strengths and encouraging me to persevere. His belief in my abilities gave me the courage to navigate through

obstacles and emerge stronger than ever.

Beyond academic mentorship, Dr. Lazar Mathew also served as a role model for integrity and compassion. He took the time to listen to our concerns, offer guidance, and celebrate our successes. His genuine care and concern for each student created a sense of belonging and community that enriched my experience in Manipal immeasurably.

As I look back on my journey, I realize that Dr. Lazar Mathew played a pivotal role in shaping the person I am today. His mentorship instilled in me a sense of confidence, resilience, and empathy that continues to guide me in both my personal and professional endeavours. Whether it was through his words of wisdom, his unwavering support, or his infectious enthusiasm for learning, Dr. Lazar Mathew taught me the value of perseverance, kindness, and lifelong learning.

In conclusion, Dr. Lazar Mathew has left an indelible mark on my life, and I am forever grateful for his guidance and mentorship. His belief in my potential empowered me to overcome challenges, pursue my passions, and strive for excellence in all that I do. As I continue on my journey, I carry with me the lessons and values instilled by Dr. Lazar Mathew, knowing that his influence will continue to shape my path for years to come.



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## BioSketch

Graduated as a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering during 1998 and had the privilege to work for the development of indigenous ICU ventilator with a research team at PSG College of Technology. Completed Bachelors in Mechanical Engineering, Masters in Project Management and passionate to build respiratory medical devices.

## Tribute

One of the most beautiful periods of our life was the time we spent at PSG College of Technology, as project associates to develop indigenous ventilator during Jan 2000. We had no idea of what a ventilator

was, at that point of time. Luckily, Dr. T. Lazar Mathew, Director DEBEL (later INMAS) brought senior professors like Dr. P. Radhakrishnan, Dr. P. V. Mohanram, Dr. P. C. Angelo, Dr. Gourie Devi, Dr. G. S.

Umamaheshwara Rao (NIMHANS) and Shri. Arun. S. Joshi (DMRL) to support us with clinical and engineering inputs.

With such a great team in place, there was nothing to look back. A prototype was completed in 2001 and a PC based ventilator was launched at NIMHANS during 2002. An ethics committee was constituted to conduct clinical evaluation where Dr. S. Ravishankar (JIPMER) and Dr. S. Ram Rajagopalan (SMF) guided us through the process along with Dr. G. S. Umamaheshwara Rao.

Thanks to Dr. Lazar Mathew for taking such a great initiative. He sowed the seed for building indigenous ventilators in India and we're privileged to be a part of such a wonderful team. We met Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam twice during the program. The only question he asked was 'When are you getting it to our common civilians?' We're glad that we did it, as a team!

We were really amazed to see the leadership quality of Dr. Lazar Mathew, specially his ability to interact with various specialists both in engineering and medical fields. We came to know that this project was conceived by him along with Dr. Gourie Devi who was the then director NIMHANS Bangalore.

I enjoyed personal time with Dr. Lazar Mathew at Church. He was very particular to attend the Holy Mass on 1st Friday of every month. Whenever he was with us

during the first week, I had the privilege to accompany him for the Holy Mass. Experiencing such personal moments with him and the Almighty God has a profound impact in my life as well. Thanks Sir!



THE VENTILATOR TEAM IN SERIOUS TECHNICAL DISCUSSION WITH THEIR LEADER, DR. LAZAR MATHEW



DR. LAZAR MATHEW SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION OF LAUNCHING OF THE INDIGENOUS VENTILATOR



## *Dr. Anand Samuel*

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Anand Samuel, Vice-Chancellor, VIT University, Vellore, has vast experience (spanning more than 20 years) of teaching experience at Anna University. He has been a part of VIT for the past 13 years and he has been the Vice-Chancellor since 2015. Dr. Anand A Samuel completed his Bachelors in Engineering from the College of Engineering, Guindy and went on to pursue his Masters in IIT Madras and his Ph.D., in Anna University. Dr. Samuel has previously held several leadership positions across various organisations including, Regional Director, ISHRAE, Executive Committee Member – ASHRAE and Secretary – QCFI, Chennai. He has published more than 90 research papers in Journals and Conferences and has written a book on Total Quality Management. Dr Samuel has completed 5 funded research projects and has organised more than 20 Faculty Development Programmes in VIT. He has been honoured with the Life Time Achievement Award by QCFI.

## Dr. Lazar Mathew - a 'CHAMP' par excellence

It's my pleasure and privilege to write about a wonderful personality, Dr. Lazar Mathew. After his retirement from DRDO, when VIT University invited him to help in developing the School of Bio Science and Technology [SBST], he readily agreed and joined VIT. Ever since he joined as a colleague of mine in VIT, we were good friends.

I can describe him, in short, with one verse in Bible. "Who is wise and understanding among you; Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." James 3:13.

We see many great knowledgeable acknowledged scholars, experts everywhere. But seeing an acknowledged expert with wisdom is rare and I can proudly say that Dr. Lazar Mathew is one such personality. I pen down a few lines to say who he is. It will not be an exaggeration to say that he lived like a '**CHAMP**'ian in VIT, Vellore campus.

I was initially surprised to see a high ranked Govt. Officer from DRDO, who had close rapport with people like former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, in spite of his busy schedule compelling him to work 365 days, never misses attending Sunday Church Service. The Devotion in him with strict moral code of conduct, uncompromising in Bible based value system makes him a unique person. 'Come what may, I will be at the Lord's feet on Sunday mornings in the Church' motto is in his DNA. I have seen him as a role model **C**hristian.

Working in a campus where more than 20,000 students studied and about 1400 faculty members were teaching and doing research, in this high-tech era, 'rat race' and 'cut throat competition' are the buzz words. Under these circumstances usually human values take the back seat. But we had Dr. Lazar Mathew who defied all common beliefs and proved to the world that human values are the key for sustained success. He is humane by nature and we saw in him an unassuming personality, down to earth and a friendly person. He has the knack of being strict and at the same time being friendly, because of which he could make many students excel in their learning. He never hesitated to walk the extra mile needed with colleagues and students and as a fatherly figure, he made many students' lives comfortable. He showed us that, being a true **H**uman Being with Humility is the right platform on which one should stand for excellence.

Teaching, Research, Extension and Administration are different ball games. Each of these require different skills and different mental makeup. We have heard people saying that all good teachers are not good researchers and vice versa, even though both are complementary to each other and a faculty member is expected to excel in both. On similar lines, **A**ministration is a job that requires entirely different skill sets. I find Dr. Lazar Mathew excels in all the four. His Administrative Skill honed by servant leadership style made it possible to take

the SBST to a high level of excellence. When he was the Dean of SBST, he was instrumental in making it the one of the biggest research facility in India with more than 100 Doctorates in Bio Science and Technology working under one roof. He helped many faculty in successful project proposal writing. He also brought a few projects himself. He inculcated the culture of Patenting and Developing Products in the School. SBST will always remember Lazar Mathew along with veterans like Late Dr. Kunthala Jeyaraman and Dr. Vijayalakshmi as major contributors in its growth. The hallmark of Dr Lazar Mathew's administration is 'not turning to the right or to the left, but to go straight in the path of righteousness'.

**M**entoring is a much-needed entity in educational institutions today. In the absence of organised training for faculty members on teaching and research, with the new challenges of multi-generational work force in the institutions, appropriate mentoring by qualified mentors is mandatory. Dr. Lazar Mathew with his vast experience in teaching, research and

administration turned out to be a good mentor for many faculty members and students at VIT. In addition, mentoring students in research and the faculty in funded projects are his speciality. His simple personality, soft spoken nature, passion to help others, 24x7 work culture and his wisdom added value to his mentoring.

When he was the Dean, he did not want to be only an administrator but insisted on taking classes for students, as he felt that a **P**rofessor must go to the class and teach. Students liked his classes as he always made it application oriented and added research flavour to it. With students he maintained open door policy, by which he commanded respect from them.

As the Vice Chancellor of VIT, I observed Dr. Lazar Mathew to be a dedicated Teacher, committed Researcher, and an able Administrator, contributing to the growth of VIT. I wish and pray that he will continue his good work for the benefit of the society.

May God Bless him with good health and long life.



*I can describe him, in short, with one verse in Bible.  
“Who is wise and understanding among you; Let them  
show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility  
that comes from wisdom.” James 3:13.*



*Ms. Nayanashri T. A.*

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**BioSketch**

While pursuing her undergrad at VIT, she had the opportunity to complete her 4th year thesis at the University of Toronto (UofT). Following which she completed her masters in clinical engineering from UofT. After gaining experience in developing novel access technologies for non-verbal children, she ventured into industry with medical wearable technologies. Returning to research, she was one of the inventors of a novel imaging platform used during breast cancer surgeries that was successfully acquired by a German/Japanese company. She also worked on projects for WHO in technical evaluation of medical equipment for the Covid emergency response. She currently teaches grad students at UofT and KNUST in Ghana, while continuing to work on her next venture in cervical cancer diagnostics in Canada and India.



*His attitude left a lasting impact on my mind of how one should stay grounded no matter how much you accomplish in life.*

## Tribute

Between fourteen years of schooling and 6 years of university, one goes through many teachers and mentors but very few make a lasting impact on your life, career and the kind of human you become. Dr. Lazar Mathew is one such figure in my life. I met him for the first time in 2007/2008 in my first-year undergrad at VIT while he was the Dean of our department. We met him to propose a student club called SABEST and I remember sitting in his office nervous and feeling intimidated that he might not like our proposal. To my surprise, he was extremely supportive and kind. I was in awe of him and how accessible a man of his stature was to us students.

Subsequently, he taught us physiology and what an amazing teacher! Dr. Martins Mathew taught us anatomy and an equally amazing teacher. Between the two of them, I got interested in the workings of the human body and knew I wanted to pursue a career in a related field.

He was always happy to meet and discuss, whether it was regarding academics or extracurricular activities. His attitude left a lasting impact on my mind of how one should stay grounded no matter how much you accomplish in life. Now that I teach at the university, I try to take the same approach with my students.

When I expressed to him that I felt I wasn't experiencing hands-on research with any of my summer internships, he kindly put me in touch with DEBEL and vouched for me. I had the most amazing time there while getting to work on the indigenous

submarine escape suit (especially since my father was a submariner). While I was very grateful to him for the opportunity, I only appreciated later in life what it meant to pull strings for students and putting your reputation at stake. I can't believe he did that for me! I owe him more than he will ever know.

He repeatedly supported me to advance my career including when I was debating applying at the University of Toronto to do my final year project. One could always knock on his office door to talk to him. He didn't have any airs or ego around him and was more approachable than some other teachers even though he was the director. I always wondered what brought him to teaching after such an illustrious career but now I think I know and I'm glad I got the chance to be his student. One couldn't ask for a better mentor at such an impressionable age.

I am forever grateful to have crossed paths with Lazar Sir. He made me a better person and taught me to work hard in my career. I'll be blessed if I can make a fraction of the impact he made in my life, in my students' lives.

He enlightened us with the ABCD rule (he'll know what it is) during one of his classes. I emailed him a year after graduation and he still remembered me which was such a joy. I corresponded with him again in 2016 and I was smiling ear to ear when I heard back from him and Martins Ma'am. Her classes were amazing too and I will always remember how she constantly enquired about my health and well-being. I felt so supported and taken care of. Wish to meet both of them soon!



## *Dr. P. R. Varghese*

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## **BioSketch**

Retired Professor of Zoology from an aided College under Calicut University. Ph.D. (1992) in Cancer Epidemiology. Sixty publications. Administered 12 funded projects and 3 ongoing. Organised a dozen national conferences. Presently coordinating research activities in a Medical College with more than 50 researchers and above 7 crore sanctioned funds. Past and present member / chairman of various Academic Bodies, Ethics Committee, Board of Studies, Examination Boards of various Universities. Fellow of American Dermatoglyphic Association. Young Scientist awardee 1987 (ISCA-DST). Participated - XVIth International Congress of Genetics (Toronto, 1988) on Cytogenetics nomenclature.

## **Tribute**

I have known Prof. Dr. Lazar Mathew since 1984. He is the first cousin of my mother in-law, Mrs. Sisily Paul. She used to tell me about his meritorious and appealing educational credentials and other stories of success. I met him for the first time in

1988 at his residence in New Delhi. This meeting took place after I received the young scientist award (ISCA-DST) from the then Prime minister, Sri Rajiv Gandhi in 1987. He congratulated me, inquired after my research, and introduced me

to everyone at his apartment with great pride and enthusiasm. Actually, his words and actions motivated me. Not many had, till then, appreciated my research and allied activities with such fervour. He used to write and speak to our other relatives; and on such occasions, he used to heap compliments on me. This not only provided a positive boost to my research, but also made me increasingly aware of my responsibility to the society.

Once in a while, Dr. Lazar comes to Kerala. On such occasions, his primary intention is to visit his relatives. Later, I had a chance to donate blood to his ailing father. When he came to visit his father, he met me in person to acknowledge and motivate such endeavours of community service. I came to know that he is a St. Vincent De Paul Society activist at New Delhi Diocese and, therefore frequently works with the downtrodden and poor. He also expressed his affiliation to the views of the Franciscan Secular Order, which is dedicated to the ideals of St. Francis Assisi, an apostle of the poor and the marginalised.

His dedication to learning and excellence makes Lazar Uncle a guiding light for the academic enthusiasts in our family. Last year, I also witnessed an occasion when he embraced one of his relatives, a young man (Johny Thomson), who had

secured admission to the PG program at ISI, Calcutta. His book “Experiences, Experiments and Expectations, of A Common Man”, a collection of essays is a revelation to all to who aspire to be successful in life. While the above-mentioned book, has a title that contains many terms starting with ‘E’, he would often talk about projects, papers, PhD, patents and different goals starting with ‘P’. Dr. Lazar Mathew has time and again proved not only his scientific acumen but also the philosophical leanings of his mind and soul.

Presently, Dr. Lazar Mathew is one of the scientific advisory board members at the Jubilee Centre for Medical Research, Thrissur, where I work. He is a regular attendee of all the meetings and never fails to offer his valuable suggestions. Another commendable trait is his thoroughness; he would read the entire report sent to him, regardless of its length, and provide prompt responses. Dr. Lazar Mathew drops by our centre whenever possible and gives us timely inputs. He is definitely an asset to our institution.

May Almighty God grant him health and vigour to continue in his passion for science and technology and aid him in serving humanity to the utmost of his capabilities.



THE DECENNIAL MEMENTO PRESENTED TO DR. LAZAR MATHEW BY HIS GRACE MAR ANDREWS THAZHATH, THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOP OF TRICHUR



## *Prof. Sharon Prince*

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## **BioSketch**

Sharon Prince is a Professor in Cell Biology and the Deputy Dean of Research in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town (UCT) in South Africa. She obtained a BSc, BSc (Hons), and a PhD from UCT. Sharon is recognised internationally for her pioneering work in identifying the role of T-box transcription factors in cancer aetiology and their potential as anti-cancer drug targets, as well as the use of organometallic compounds and repurposed non-cancer drugs for cancer therapies. She has published close to 100 high-impact journal articles and has trained 16 postdoctoral fellows; 25 Ph.D; and 18 M.Sc. students.





## *Dr. Ammasi Periasamy*

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## **BioSketch**

Dr. Periasamy received his M.Sc. Physics at Annamalai University, MS and Ph.D., at IITM, Chennai, and Postdoctoral training at University of Washington, Seattle. Since 2001, Dr. Periasamy has been working as a Professor of Biology and Biomedical Engineering. Prof. Periasamy is the founder and center director of the internationally known WM Keck Center for Cellular Imaging (KCCI). Prof. Periasamy is an internationally recognized expert in the development of advanced microscopy techniques for single cellular imaging and analysis in living cells, tissue, and animals. A key area of Prof. Periasamy's research is focused on the design and development of translational optical methodologies to investigate mitochondrial dysfunction in various diseases including cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer disease, etc. <https://kcci.virginia.edu/people/profile/ap3t>



*I realized that he was very eager to imbibe the new ideas in research using advanced techniques or technology.*

## **Tribute**

I met Prof. Lazar Mathew in December 2019 at Manipal at the “International Conference on Nanoscience and Photonics for Medical Applications” (ICNPMA). Since then, I have visited Manipal almost every year in the month of December. Last December 2023, he chaired my presentation in the International Symposium on “Recent Advances in Biophotonics and Imaging”. I always feel excited to see him, because

he is very straight-forward, telling his views about the work. I realized that he was very eager to imbibe the new ideas in research using advanced techniques or technology. Prof. Mathew is very much interested in translational research. He has a very attractive and commanding voice, and one should not miss listening to his statements and comments. I wish him well and a long life with good health.



## *Dr. Murukeshan Vadakke Matham*

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## **BioSketch**

Prof. Murukeshan Vadakke Matham obtained his M.Sc. and M.Phil. Degrees in Physics with specialization in Quantum Electronics from the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), India. He pursued his doctoral degree at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and at the University of Oldenburg, Germany with the DAAD Fellowship award. Since 1997, he has been attached to the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore where he is currently working as an Associate Professor.

His major research expertise is in the areas of Nanoscale Optics, Biomedical Optics, and Applied Optics. He has over 195 international journal papers and over 172 international conference proceedings papers/presentations. He is also inventor/co-inventor of 23 patents and 12 innovation disclosures.

He is the Associate Editor of SCI indexed impact optics journals such as Optical Engineering (OE) and International Journal of Optomechatronics (IJO). He has been awarded the prestigious Erudite Professorship. He has several international collaborations with premier institutions, and has steered several prestigious projects. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (FInstP), the International Society for Optics and Photonics (FSPIE), OPTICA, Distinguished fellow OSI, and Honorary Fellow ISAS.

## Tribute

Very happy to note that you are all organizing a special commemorative book to honor Prof. Lazar Mathew. It is indeed an honor to write a few words about Prof. Mathew, who is not only a renowned scientist, but a great human being and an excellent academic leader. Asking to write about such a great personality in a few words is like asking to read a 5000-page book in 5 days.

Prof. Lazar Mathew Sir is a father figure in the realm of teaching, research, and technology management. It is well known that he had served the academic and research sectors for over 5 decades in different capacities, and contributed in such a way that they all became leading prominent institutions of today.

Though I wanted to meet him a few decades ago, the real chance that I got to spend some time with him was in the past 6 years, when I started visiting MAHE. When you speak to him, hear him, and interact with him, it amounts to reading a famous book with a wealth of information that can tailor you and guide you in your

journey ahead. Furthermore, I had the privilege to receive the short biography book from him directly, in December 2023. I would rather say it should be read by any aspiring researcher, and all youngsters and youth of this generation.

On this day, the 12th of July 2024 when we will be joining together to celebrate his 82nd birthday, let us all say a BIG THANK YOU for the contributions he has made to science, technology and academia; and I personally wish him many more years of active life filled with health and happiness.



DR. MURUKESHAN VADAKKE MATHAM WITH DR. LAZAR MATHEW AND DR. SANTHOSH CHIDANGIL



## *Mr. Mladen Poluta*

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## **BioSketch**

After graduating from the University of Witwatersrand in 1977 with a degree in electrical engineering, Mladen worked in the medical device industry and in an academic hospital setting in Johannesburg before joining the Department of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town in 1987. He established the Healthcare Technology Management programme in 1999 and served as programme director/convener until 2015. He also held a Senior Lecturer position in the Graduate School of Technology Management at the University of Pretoria from 2012-2015. In January 2016 he was appointed as Director: Health Technology in the Western Cape Department of Health. Mladen has served in an advisory capacity and as consultant for the WHO and other national and international bodies, including the South African Department of Health and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). His interests span the assessment, innovation, application and management of healthcare technologies and related infrastructure, as well as optimisation of health technology interventions in resource-scarce settings and TB-related airborne infection control. He previously served as Chair of the Working Group for Developing Countries of the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE) and is currently board member of both the IFMBE's Clinical Engineering and Health Technology Assessment Divisions. He is also a founding member of the recently established Southern African Health Technology Assessment Society (SAHTAS).

## Tribute

They say that first impressions matter. Well, when Professor Sudesh first introduced us to Professor Mathew, he was portrayed as a respected biomedical engineer. However, what struck us the most was not just Sudesh's introduction, but the demeanor of Professor Mathew himself. Right from the start, my wife and I were impressed by his composure. He embodied the essence of a true gentleman—open, friendly, and though not particularly verbose, his words carried significant weight. Our interactions with Professor Mathew during his visits to South Africa were always cherished. It wasn't until I was invited to contribute to this tribute that I delved into his background. I was pleasantly surprised to discover his pivotal role in the Defence Research & Development Organization. Often, defence-related innovations are associated with harm, but I was delighted to learn about the numerous life-protecting devices and innovations developed under Professor Mathew's leadership. These innovations were truly lifesaving, aligning perfectly with the noble aspirations of engineering. Through Professor Mathew, I had the pleasure of meeting his son Joseph, who is also a highly esteemed clinician. I recall their family's kindness towards my young daughter when she embarked on a solo journey to India at the age of 14 for a

tennis tournament. Their hospitality in Chandigarh provided her with a sense of security during what could have been an unsettling experience. Her visit to the Taj Mahal, among other things, undoubtedly contributed to her growth as a young woman, for which credit must be given to Professor Joseph Mathew and his family. Dr. Joseph Mathew also introduced me to a remarkably simple yet effective tool developed in collaboration with Professor Mathew—a framework known as The No Essential Sum Framework, aimed at enriching health technology. I integrated this framework into my health technology assessment course at the University of Cape Town, offering a stark contrast to conventional methodologies heavily reliant on detailed health economic studies. The No Essential Sum methodology provided a user friendly bridge between technology assessment and innovation, particularly valuable in the context of public healthcare delivery where resources are limited. In closing, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Mathew for his decades of exemplary service and visionary leadership. May his remaining years be filled with reflection, pride, and moments of joy. It has truly been a privilege and a blessing to know him, and my wife and I eagerly anticipate our next encounter.



*Prof. M. M. Nayak*

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**BioSketch**

Manjunatha Nayak received D.IISc. and Ph.D. (Engg) degrees in Electronic Design Technology and Instrumentation respectively from IISc Bangalore prior to his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from BMS College of Engineering Bangalore. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree of IISc for his thesis on "Sputtered Thin Film Strain Gauges & Pressure Transducer" in the year 1994. Subsequently, he carried out his Post-doctoral research in the area of MEMS at University of DELFT & TWENTE – Netherlands under INSA Invitation fellowship programme, and at Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan under JSPS fellowship. He served in ISRO, Dept. of Space for nearly 40 years since 1971 in various capacities and held dual positions as Deputy Director, Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh and Director, Launch Vehicle Programme Office, ISRO HQ Bangalore. During his service at ISRO, he has developed and productionised space qualified

pressure, temperature, level, and depletion sensors for PSLV, GSLV, gsLV M3, IRS, INSAT and Chandrayaan missions. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to ISRO's programmatic activities, he was awarded ISRO MERIT Award in 2008, Vikas agreement completion award (1974-1989) by SEP, France for export of space qualified Transducers, NRDC award for invention of semiconductor transducer (1985), NPE -84 special award for water cooled semiconductor and high output pressure transducer, Kirloskar Electric Company awards for best student in Electrical Engineering branch in 1982 - 83 at BMS college of Engineering, Bangalore, and "Bharat Rathna Dr. C. N. R. Rao Vijnana Puraskara" awarded in 17th Kannada Vijnana Sammelana (2023). He has also received several other awards for his academic excellence. He has more than 120 publications in refereed international journals, 11 patents and guided 14 Research students. He superannuated from ISRO in June 2011, and currently he is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Nano Science and Engineering, IISc, Bangalore, further pursuing his research activities in MEMS and Sensors for strategic, aerospace, and biomedical applications.

## **Tribute**

After my retirement from ISRO, I joined Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), as a visiting professor. One day, Dr Lazar Mathew visited CeNSE and asked me what we can do for biomedical field, with reference to sensors and related technologies. He put forward his views like whether we can develop micro pumps, micro needles which has numerous applications, and he would like to initiate these developments under NPMASS programme in his group. He indicated a road map about these developments on the writing board in my cabin.

Based on those discussions, it was decided to explore drug delivery elements, mainly making of micro pumps and fabrication of micro needles. Within 2 years of the project sanction, the micro needles using silicon with different thicknesses of 10 to 20 microns and diameters of 100 microns to 120 microns were fabricated with participation of Prof N S Dinesh of Department of Electronic Systems Engineering (DESE), IISc.

Following are few outcomes resulted under his leadership.

- Drug Delivery system with micro pump, micro needle with controller was demonstrated.
- Micro needles fabricated were supplied to National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore for conducting experiments on animals like rats
- Study of micro needles applications at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Chandigarh.
- Presentation of International and national publications.

Dr Mathew appreciated and recognised the efforts, which should be taken to the next level. He started introducing medical practicing doctors from prestigious institutions like AIIMS, PGIMER, CMC etc. He continued those efforts, started involving me and Prof Dinesh in various DST projects, through which we got an exposure to the biomedical efforts happening in the various academic institutions within the country. He gave us many opportunities to be in review boards through which we participated for providing technical solutions to many young investigators.

He believed in reviewing the projects closely with relevant experts on the board. He used to ask project investigators basic questions to understand the difficulties if any and try to provide solutions. He used to contact experts through telephone wherever required on the spot, without postponing it to make progress further. He is so well connected with experts from varying fields and they immediately accepted his suggestion and provided required solutions.

We are happy to work with him and the way he led those projects to deliver the desired outputs, is amazing. He is an excellent teacher, leader and mentor for medical and engineering research programs.

*Brief BioSketch of*

**PROFESSOR  
SUDESH SIVARASU**

# EDITOR, PROFESSOR SUDESH SIVARASU

*DSI/NRF South African Research Chair (SARChI)  
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*Director of UCT's Biomedical Engineering Research Centre  
Professor in Biomedical Engineering*

Professor Sudesh Sivarasu holds the DSI/NRF South African Research (SARChI) Chair in Biomedical Engineering & Innovation and is the Director of UCT's Biomedical Engineering Research Centre. He is a Professor in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Cape Town, Department of Human Biology. He is the creator of the

innovative Frugal Biodesign™ methodology and has established award-winning labs, producing ground-breaking medical technologies. His research focuses on developing health technologies for low-resource settings, and he has supervised over 75 students in their post-graduate academic journey. Dr Sivarasu has an



extensive patent portfolio with over 65 patent applications across various countries, and his innovation has led to the launch of three start-up companies from UCT's MedTech laboratories and several open-source innovations which are used across 16 countries. He was part of the South African National Ventilator

Project, which led to the production of 20,000 ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic. He is leading the efforts on medical devices for future pandemics in the recently formed National Institute for Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention (NIP3). Dr. Sivarasu is an accomplished author with numerous peer-reviewed publications and has received numerous awards, including the UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor's Award for Innovation and 23 other awards in 4 different continents. Recently, he edited the textbook on 'Medical Device Innovation for Africa'. He is an elected member of the Global Young Academy and the South African Young Academy of Science.

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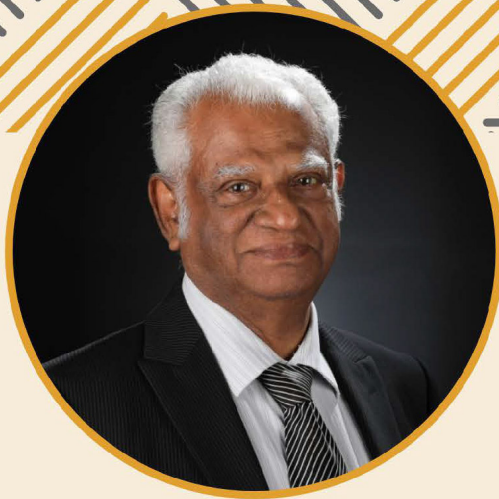
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sudeshsivarasu/>  
<https://health.uct.ac.za/medtech>  
<https://health.uct.ac.za/bmerc>

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DR. THALAKKOTUR LAZAR MATHEW AT NOBEL SQUARE IN CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, WITH THE SCULPTURES OF THE COUNTRY'S FOUR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES- ALBERT LUTULI, DESMOND TUTU, F. W. DE KLERK, AND NELSON MANDELA.





Prof. (Dr). Thalakkotur Lazar Mathew B.V.Sc., M.Sc.(Med); Ph.D., D.Sc., FABMS, FIMSA, FISI, FAMS, is currently Senior Advisor at MAHE, Manipal. He has six decades of experience in teaching, research and technology management. He worked as Director of three DRDO establishments (Life Sciences at DRDO Headquarters, Defence Bio-Engineering & Electromedical Laboratory and Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences). After retirement, he was Director of a Mission Hospital at Ajmer, and later Dean and Director at VIT, Vellore. He was Sr. Advisor at PSG Institute of Advanced Studies, IIT Bombay, IEST Kolkata, Sree Vidyanikethan Group of Institutions, Tirupati, and was Pro-Vice Chancellor, Karunya University, Coimbatore. He was instrumental in establishing the High Altitude Medical Research Centre at Leh, the Society for Biomedical Technology, Bangalore, Asha Niketan AIDS facility at Ajmer, and Centre for Biomedical Research at Vellore. He has conducted several R&D projects including three international collaborative projects. Besides, he was the India Director for a major Indo-Singapore Healthcare Management Project called SIGNET, funded by Temasek Foundation. He has over 250 publications, 3 technical books, 12 patents and several awards to his credit. He has been Chairman of scientific Committees of Govt. of India and represented the country as leader/member of various delegations abroad. He has been a teacher and examiner for M.B.B.S., B.D.S., B.Tech., M.Sc., M.Tech., and Ph.D. for 5 Universities and Visiting Professor in 3 foreign Universities. He has delivered several keynote lectures, inaugural and convocation addresses.

