



*Science for Society*

*Science for Man*

*Science in Thinking*

# **BREAKTHROUGH SCIENCE SOCIETY**

## **Tamilnadu Chapter**

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### **Homage to Dr V Shanta**

It is with heavy heart we heard that Dr. V. Shanta of the Cancer Institute, Chennai is no more. She had dedicated her life to building and running the Cancer Institute which she had joined in 1955 as a young doctor, till her death at the age of 93 on 19 Jan 2021.

She had responded to the call of her mentor, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, who founded the Cancer Institute and seen it grow from just a 12 bed cottage hospital to the multi-department campus which it now is.

She was totally involved in the care of hundreds of cancer patients, in understanding the complex disease as it unfolded, in encouraging research in this field so that the Institute could provide patients with state-of-the-art treatment. Her patients came from not only all over the Southern states but from as far as the Northeast of India. Many came from poor backgrounds and could not afford the costs of their treatment and their stay. But Dr Shanta ensured that their stay was taken care of and that they were given the same high quality of treatment which paying patients received.

She put in immense and tireless efforts into creating Cancer awareness in our country, and that it could be cured, if detected early. Towards this end, she developed a network of testing and diagnostic centres.

In her illustrious life, she received both national and international appreciation and awards, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award and the Padma Vibhushan. She was in several Advisory Committees, WHO included.

The Breakthrough Science Society pays homage to this inspirational personality and cancer specialist who has given so much in public service where it was most needed.

Dr Uma Ramachandran

President

Breakthrough Science Society, Tamilnadu