IISc AANA Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1, May 2022

Indian Institute of Science Alumni Association of North America, Mountain View, CA, www.iiscaana.org

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Editorial Board:
Guneet Walia (2010)
Mrinalini Lakshninarayanan (1997)
Rama Chellappa (1977)

Message from the AANA Co-Chairs Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan and Rama Chellappa

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

It is our honor to have been elected to serve as the Co-Chairs of IISc AANA. Before we outline our vision for moving IISC AANA upward and forward, we would like to first express our collective gratitude for the tremendous service and leadership provided by outgoing Co-Chairs of IISC AANA, Drs. Murthy Gudipati and Mrinalini Rao. They did a wonderful job along several dimensions and efficiently steered the activities of IISc AANA during the most challenging years due to covid-19. So, on behalf of all the well-wishers of IISc and IISc AANA, a big THANKS to Murthy and Mrinalini!

As we take the responsibility of serving IISc AANA, we would like to focus on a few remaining challenges and initiate new endeavors. Due to covid-19, we have not been able to meet much at chapter, national and global level. We will work to reenergize the existing chapters and support establishing new chapters in places like Southern California, New England, Northwest, etc. We will also support the organization of annual national conferences, where we can all meet in person and interact with each other. We will pursue active collaborations and engage the leadership at IISc, at the Director, Division and Departmental levels. In order to do the above-mentioned activities and find other ways to give back to IISc as well as support the alumni who live and work in the United States, we have constituted several committees: communication and marketing, awards nomination, chapters, fundraising and conference committees. These committees will not only improve the efficiency of how we operate but also enable more participation from our alumni. More details on these committees are provided in the newsletter.

While we have agreed to serve IISc AANA, this organization cannot exist without the active participation of all the alumni in US. We will continue our efforts to reach out and engage you all.

Look forward to your continued support.

Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan, Co-Chair

Rama Chellappa, Co-Chair

Editor's Message:

Dear IISc alumni.
Please send your thoughts, comments, activities, ambitions, and dreams that you want to realize through IISc AANA and IISc – with a focus on "giving back" to the society where you live and where you come from (newsletter@iiscaana.org).

Editorial Board

Any tax-deductible donation/endowments can be made to IISc AANA or through IISc AANA to IISc, including student support. IISc AANA is a California registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, Tax ID: 03-0602301

Message from Outgoing Chairs Mrinalini (Meena) Chatta Rao and Murthy Gudipati

Dear Alumnus:

As we pen this "farewell" note, we hope we are witnessing the end of the pandemic. We convey our sympathies to those who lost loved ones to the SARS-CoV-2 and other ailments, and we wish those affected by it all the best for a smooth recovery. We are grateful to and proud of all the alumni/ae who through their research, innovations, philanthropy, and humanitarian aid have contributed invaluably to the fight against this devastating scourge.

We thank you for giving us the opportunity to have served as Co-Chairs of IIScAANA, for three years, a pleasurable task we relinquished into the capable hands of Mrinalini Lakshminarayanan and Rama Chellappa in October 2021. We wish the organization much success and are excited about the new avenues being explored for better networking, improved ways of giving back to the alma mater, for the new partnerships being created, and last, but not least, old friendships being rejuvenated. Watch this space for information on the Early Career Seminar Series, exciting and topical zoom seminars, creation of new chapters and revitalization of old chapters, and much more. We are very appreciative of the strengthened rapport between IIScAANA and the leadership of IISc, these past three years, especially that with the Institute Directors, Prof. Anurag Kumar and Prof. Govindan Rangarajan and the Directors of ODAA, Prof. Govindan Rangarajan and Prof. Phaneendra Yalavarthy. We are thrilled that IISc is beginning to realize its dream of forming a world class medical center and look forward to ways in which IIScAANA can provide its enthusiastic support to this and other bold new ventures of the alma mater.

We hope and wish that you and your families, continue to be safe, enjoy good health, joy and excellent productivity in your chosen work.

With regards
Murthy Gudipati and Mrinalini Rao

What inspires the current NSF Director & IISc alum, Dr. Panchanathan?

IISc AANA had an opportunity to engage IISc alumnus, Prof. Sethuraman Panchanathan, current Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan is a computer scientist and engineer and the 15th director of the NSF. Dr. Panchanathan was nominated to this position by the President of the United States in 2019 and subsequently unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 18, 2020.The complete interview can be viewed at the IISC AANA website.

1. Please describe your academic journey that has now put you at the top of NSF.

My parents were the prime inspiration for me. My Father was a scientist who worked in upper atmospheric physics. He taught me implicitly by being a role model, rather than by telling me explicitly the things I should do. I was always inspired by his quest for scientific exploration, for

discovery, for understanding the universe and how it works, for solving real problems, for appreciating how people work--all of that has always inspired and motivated me to pursue science. My mom has been very focused on education and ensured that we valued education and academic achievement. So, the combination of my mom and dad were the incubator for me.

Throughout my life, I have enjoyed pursing research, advancing education, and translating ideas into practice. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in physics from the University of Madras; a Bachelor of electronics and communication engineering from the Indian Institute of Science; and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. I then emigrated from India to Canada to pursue my Ph.D. with an amazing mentor at the University of Ottawa and had the opportunity of joining the faculty. I was excited to move to the United States and was privileged to work at Arizona State University (ASU) for more than two decades. I am grateful to the United States for empowering me and providing an environment to foster innovation.

2. **What prepared you to accept this exciting responsibility?**

It is an honor to serve NSF as its 15th director. This agency is an excellent platform for advancing science, engineering, technology and education at speed and scale for the nation's societal and economic prosperity. It has been most rewarding to have had the opportunity of working in both higher education and government towards designing and building knowledge enterprises which advance research, innovation, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship, and economic development. I have always believed that these are not separate, but rather, highly synergistic activities to advance fundamental discoveries and societal progress through a strong public-private partnership model.

With a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by the research community, I was drawn to public service to represent and help shape solutions for the future. I first had the privilege of serving on the National Science Board; I served as chair of its Committee on Strategy and as a member of its External Engagement and National Science and Engineering Policy committees. As director of the National Science Foundation, I am thrilled to contextualize my experiences to strengthen research on a national scale, to advance America's economic growth, international competitiveness, and prosperity.

NSF's mission is unique. It is the only federal agency charged with supporting basic research across all areas of science, engineering, and STEM education. And NSF's mission of funding basic research has yielded seven decades of groundbreaking discoveries. I personally believe in seeding bold, large-scale foundational research with meaningful societal impact. My vision includes three pillars rooted in the legacy of our founding— advancing the frontiers of research into the future, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity, and maintaining global leadership through strong partnerships. By supporting emerging technologies such as AI and quantum and biotechnology, we are helping to create the industries of the future as the world is confronting the greatest challenges humanity has ever faced.

3. What are the top three to five areas that will dramatically change research in science, engineering, and technology in the next decade or two?

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the forefront the importance of science and technology in meeting emergent needs. It has particularly emphasized the importance of the connection between research to societal challenges, as well as the opportunities for engaging talent across the nation's broad socio-economic and geographic spectra. And it has changed the nature of work and workplaces for many, as industries are being

transformed with many going virtual. We must be intensely focused on leadership in science and technology working with like-minded partners. This requires a focus on the industries of the future that we know of today, as well as industries that we cannot even conceive of today. Central to that effort are some especially promising areas:

Artificial intelligence is one of the most important Industries of the future-it is already part of people's daily lives, and it is only going to become more and more integrated into how we live and work. We must continue to strengthen AI research in every part of the nation. There are opportunities in every state to create educational opportunities that draw in the talent that exists in every community to tackle these critical questions that will be the defining forces for the future.

Quantum is another industry of the future that will need to be national in scope. Quantum science and technology are expected to form the basis of new computers that will do more than simply function as faster and better versions of today's machines. So then, how do we develop a National Quantum Platform that connects to every region of the country? There are places in the country with great talent, but quantum opportunities seem very far away—how do we bridge that gap? We are working to answer these and other questions to tap the potential of quantum.

Biotechnology and the bioeconomy are going to transform our health and wellbeing. How do we speed those industries and areas of research so that the incredible benefits they promise can be realized sooner? How do we expand learning and research opportunities in the biological sciences across the nation so that we can enhance the knowledge and capabilities that strengthen the future of biomedicine and health care?

Finally, of not least but overarching importance, is a nation's ability to embrace diversity and inclusion to unleash the full potential of its people. People are the heart of the research enterprise, and investments in people are important for NSF to strengthen the science and engineering community. There is tremendous science and engineering potential throughout the country, but only a fraction of it becomes part of the broader STEM community. U.S. competitiveness depends on reaching that talent, because we need an agile and adaptable workforce that can upskill, reskill, and succeed through creative and innovative mindsets. To do that, we are looking at how we can scale up the reach of the broader STEM community so that anyone—from any background and from any part of the country—who has the talent or desire to go into a STEM career is given the opportunity to do so. We have to strengthen pathways into STEM fields and expand our reach into communities where talent exists. We are going to have to develop new approaches and tailor educational experiences to communities to be more effective at bringing talent into the STEM community.

4. **What advice would you give to a ninth grader about career choices?**

Look to the future with optimism. Set forth to identify and develop your individual talents and skills. Try as best you can to focus on the requirements of all your coursework, even on the subjects that are not currently your favorites. Deliberately try to fortify your weaknesses and learn about topics and career choices about which you already know very little. Be rest assured that broad-based learning does come in handy as you go about solving problems to better humanity and society in your career and personal lives.

Once you have a broader sense of what is out there, then pursue your passions with gusto, voraciously learning from those who have pursued these areas in depth. Remain open as you learn to take in new information. It often starts with a spark: a STEM spark, a moment of inspiration, such as watching a human walk on the moon for the first time or viewing the first image of a black hole, produced by eight telescopes around the globe forming an earth-sized lens. A moment when you ask a question, become curious, innovate to find a solution or want to know more about the world around you. When you have a teacher or a mentor, who helps you solve a real problem, and you get inspired and curious to learn more. Invite individuals to sit down with you and let you ask them questions about the work they do and what attracts them to this line of work or study. Ask them to consider letting you visit them at work, maybe shadowing them for a day. During school breaks, in the summer and maybe even for one-week breaks, volunteer to work for someone whose

job you find of interest. Obtain an internship to obtain some hands-on experience and know-how that will help guide you later. Collect as much information and experience now so that you can start on a path of a fulfilling career but stay open to shifts and pivots as you grow and process new Information and experience now so that you can start on a path of a fulfilling career but stay open to shifts and pivots as you roe and process new Information from an ever-changing world around you. Most importantly, empower yourself with a "can-do" spirit always, in every situation.

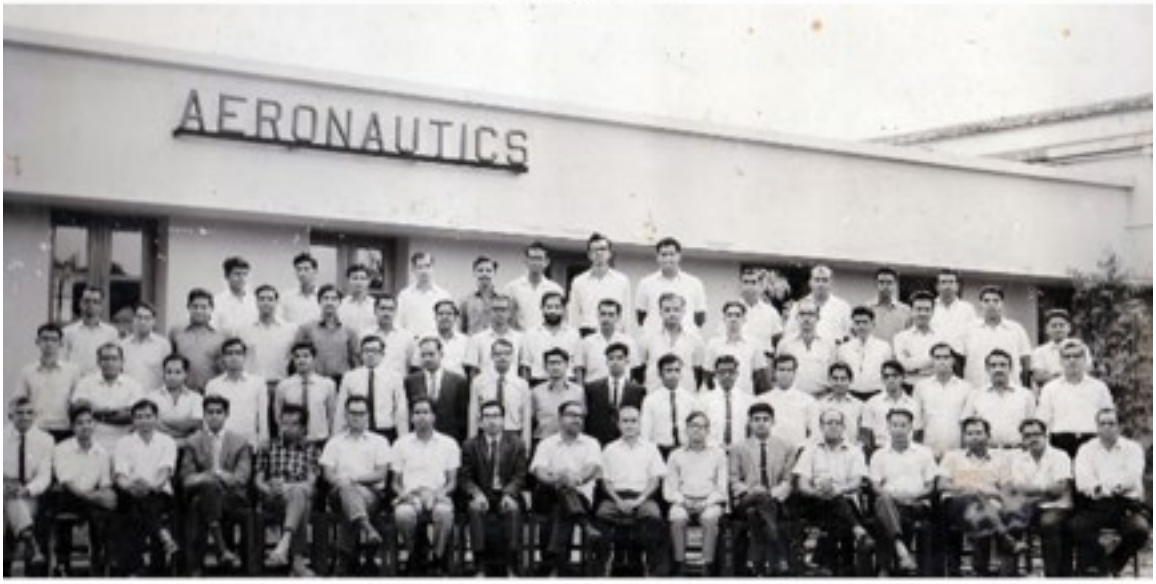
What is the Aerospace Engineering 1971 Batch upto these days?

Aero M.E. 1971 Batch Alumni Release their Golden Jubilee Souvenir Booklet at IISc

By Gaj Birur

The Aero M.E. Class of 1971 alumni (in 1971 group photo below with Aero faculty and staff) had planned to celebrate their 50th anniversary reunion at the IISc campus during the IISc Annual Alumni weekend in December 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE
FINAL YEAR M.E. 1971



Sitting (L to R) : CP Gupta, HS Mukunda, A Prabhu, NM Reddy, R Narasimha, SSR Murthy, M Sankara Rao, KP Rao, AK Rao, TN Krishnaswamy, VK Jain, BR Ramaprian, GNV Rao, S Durvasula, AV Krishnamurthy, V Padmanabhan, MA Badrinarayanan

Standing I Row (L to R) : MS Padmanabhan, IG Krishna, MR Balsubramanian, Prahlada, BC Gajanana, S Kangovi, CR Mohanraj, AK Aggarwal, OA Lokhandwala, HT Kulkarni, CV Venugopalan, P Shanthakumaran, BP Mohanty, Satya Prakash, M Sundaresan, RS Khandelwal, S Balireddy, S Ramakrishna

Standing II Row (L to R) : TS Ramamurthy, B Dattaguru, KBR Prasad, G Srinivas, K Jayaram Nayak, K Devarayalu, K Rajaiah, SM Deshpande, K Narahari Rao, VS Holla, AV Mahendale, Ayyanarala, KV Ramana Sai, RM Chandrasekharan, NC Thiruvenkatachari, AG Marathe, J Dakshinamurthy

Standing III Row (L to R) : Munisyappa, Bhadragirayya, PR Mahapatra, K Soundarajan, Srinivasan, K Vijayakumar, MR Ananthasayanam, KR Reddy, Srinivasayya, Narasiha, Abdul Hameed, Chikkabda

The preparations started about a year ago, first through emails and then by bimonthly Zoom calls, facilitated by AANA member and alum Gajanana Birur. As the efforts gathered momentum, we were able to connect with thirteen out of our 24 classmates and gather information about 22. AANA member and alum Sachidananda Kangovi wrote a souvenir booklet to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Aero M.E. class of 1971. It was printed in Bengaluru thanks to the dedicated and untiring efforts of C.V. Venugopalan. This booklet gives a brief but rich history of the Aero

department and some of the luminaries associated with the department. Contributions by the class of 1971 to various fields are also included in the booklet along with some rare period photographs.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued unabated, IISc decided not to have an annual alumni day in December 2021. In view of that, a small team consisting of three Aero M.E. 1971 alums from Bengaluru (C.V. Venugopalan, Prahlada Ramarao and M.S. Padmanabhan) presented the souvenir booklet to the Chair of Aero department, Prof. Joseph Matthew on December 22nd at IISc.

Due to scheduling and other issues, only three alumni, Anil Aggarwal, Gajanana Birur, and Satya Prakash (all from Southern California) attended the event online and the other seven alumni could not attend the Zoom call. Prof. Joseph Mathew spoke and appreciated the effort of the 1971 batch in putting together the souvenir booklet and wished more batches would follow this example. The previous Chairs, Prof. Gopalakrishnan Srinivasan and Prof. Debasish Ghose were also present at the event and expressed their happiness about the efforts of the 1971 M.E. batch.

After the event, the three alumni from Bengaluru visited the IISc Director, Prof Govindan Rangarajan and presented him with a copy of the souvenir booklet.

Aero M.E. 1971 Alumni Prahlada Ramarao, C.V. Venugopalan, and M.S. Padmanabhan Releasing the Golden Jubilee Souvenir Booklet with Prof. Joseph Mathew, the Aero Department Chair and Prof. Debasish Ghose (left) and presenting to IISc Director Prof. Govindan Rangarajan (right)

Making Things Work: 75 Years of Mechanical Engineering

By Ranjini Raghunath

The departments of Internal Combustion Engineering (ICE) and Power Engineering (PE) – the latter had a separate Mechanical Engineering section – were established in IISc around 1945-46. These two merged to what is now the Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME) during the 1970s.

Members of the ME Department in 1985

Over the past 75 years, research at ME has spanned a wide range of areas, from engines, foundry and heat transfer to more recent interdisciplinary explorations such as robotics and biomechanics. Its faculty members have led and participated in national and international initiatives related to energy, acoustics and design. At home, they have also helped establish many of IISc's departments and centers, including Sustainable Technologies, Product Design and Manufacturing, Nano Science and Engineering, Energy Research, BioSystems Science and Engineering, Continuing Education, Industrial and Scientific Consultancy, even the JN Tata auditorium, points out GK Ananthasuresh, faculty member and until recently the Chair of the Department.

"Our department has been a quiet force, but I would also call it quite a force," he says. "It has had a tremendous impact on the campus." Around the same time that ICE was set up, a new Department of Power Engineering (PE) was also established, to support the electrical power projects that mushroomed across the country after World War II. MS Thacker, who would go on to become IISc's Director, was appointed its first head. A few years later, it was bifurcated into an Electrical Engineering and a Mechanical Engineering section.

In 1950, Arcot Ramachandran joined IISc as an assistant professor, and later became the head of the Mechanical Engineering section. He kick-started research on heat transfer and thermal sciences, which helped spawn major programs on energy research across the country and introduced many new programs and courses like nuclear engineering and machine design. To this day, heat transfer and energy research continue to be an important part of the Department's focus.

In 1996-97, the Department started a two-year Master's in Design program. This led to the transformation of the central workshop into the Centre for Product Design and Manufacturing (CPDM). Around the same time that CPDM was launched, IISc joined hands with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to start a first-of-its-kind for-profit venture called Advanced Product Design and Prototyping (APDAP) to provide design services for industry clients, including BHEL, TVS, GM India and DRDO. Towards the close of the century, research on robotics and autonomous systems also picked up steam at ME.

In 2004, with funding from DST, DRDO and the Ministry of Mines, the Department set up a National Facility for Semisolid Forming (NFSSF). A few years later, researchers working in this facility made a breakthrough: they

developed an indigenous version of a process called thixocasting. The technology has proved tremendously useful for manufacturing light-weight vehicle components, including parts for two-wheelers manufactured by TVS Motors.

In the past few decades, research at ME has become more interdisciplinary. One person who exemplified this spirit was former faculty member Sanjay Biswas. Although originally known for his contributions to tribology, he also pursued research in areas as diverse as chemistry, nanoscience and bioengineering. His efforts played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Centre for BioSystems Science and Engineering (BSSE) at IISc. What does the future hold for ME? "We have a fairly long list," says Ananthasuresh.

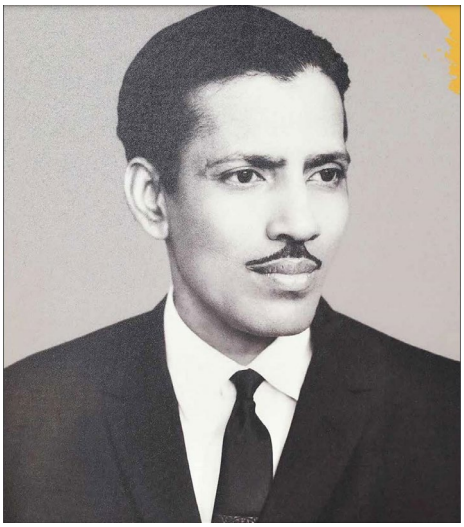
The full article and more stories about the growth of the ME department can be found here: https://connect.iisc.ac.in/2022/03/snippets-from-the-iisc-archives-75-years-of-mechanical-engineering/

Remembering Arcot Ramachandran: Life & Legacy

By Ranjini Raghunath

A towering figure in the field of heat transfer, Arcot Ramachandran played a key role in shaping ME in its early years. During his time at IISc, he started important lines of research on heat transfer and thermodynamics and introduced new courses of relevance to the industry.

Former students of Ramachandran also remember him as someone who went out of his way to help and mentor them, and efficiently juggled his research and administrative responsibilities. He was passionate about building new institutions and programs. After he left IISc in 1967, he went on to lead IIT Madras, the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, where his ideas birthed new policies, centers and ministries. "He was always deeply committed to his work, an exceptionally capable person, a good administrator, and a good academic," says J Gururaja, a former student.



Ramachandran was born in Madras (now Chennai) in 1923. His father, Arcot Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar and uncle, Arcot Ramaswami Mudaliar – identical twins – were both highly accomplished. The former was a renowned gynecologist and the longest-serving Vice Chancellor of Madras University, while the latter was a reputed lawyer, politician and the last Dewan of Mysore. After completing a bachelor's degree from Madras University in 1943, Ramachandran went to Purdue University to pursue his master's and PhD, and subsequently a postdoctoral stint at Columbia University. In 1950, he came to IISc and joined the ME section of the Department of Power Engineering as an assistant professor. He was soon promoted to its head.

One of the first things that Ramachandran did was set up a heat transfer lab – the first in the country, according to a souvenir publication commemorating the ME Golden Jubilee in 1995. "At that time … very little research work was being done in India in the field of heat transfer," writes former student and faculty member MV Krishna Murthy in *Current Science*.

Ramachandran had many distinguishing qualities that endeared him to his students. "His classes were very enjoyable," says former student and faculty member TS Mruthyunjaya. Ramachandran was quite well-versed in the subjects and could teach them without referring to a book or notes, Mruthyunjaya adds. "He would move around the class, addressing each student by name and asking them questions. Nobody could doze off."

It was during Ramachandran's tenure that a full-fledged thermal power station was set up on campus – on a "war footing", according to the souvenir – to give ME students real-life experience in operating and maintaining a power plant. He was also keen on setting up a similar small-scale nuclear

reactor on campus, adds Gururaja, but that did not materialise.

Apart from serving as the head of ME, Ramachandran was also appointed the Dean of the Engineering Faculty in 1961 and later the professor-in-charge of a newly established Department of Industrial Management in 1965. His leadership skills made him well-respected across campus, his students say. “He was a man who devoted his life to developing new areas and institutions of science and technology and encouraging young people to really come out with their best talent,” says Gururaja. “He was a builder of people, institutions and programs. That is his legacy.”

The full publication about Ramachandran’s life and legacy can be found here: https://connect.iisc.ac.in/2022/03/snippets-from-the-iisc-archives-arcot-ramachandran/

IISc Monthly Newsletter

The Office of Development And Alumni Affairs, IISc has shared Issue 1, 2022 of Kernel, IISc's research newsletter.

This issue's feature centers on the possibilities and pitfalls of machine learning and its myriad applications. It also features the work of a scientist who seeks to study the interconnections between the ocean and the sky and includes stories on blood-based biomarkers for brain tumors, movement of quasiparticles in graphene, and more.

Read the full issue at: https://kernel.iisc.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Kernel-Issue-1-2022.pdf

OBITUARY

Dr. Sargur Narasimhamurthy (Hari) Srihari (1949- 2022)

We are deeply saddened to inform you of the demise of alumnus Prof Sargur N Srihari.

Prof Sargur Srihari completed his BE in Electrical Communication Engineering at IISc in 1970. He then went to the US and received a PhD in Computer and Information Science from the Ohio State University.

Prof Srihari was an internationally renowned pioneer in computer science who made vital contributions to the fields of pattern recognition, computational forensics, and machine learning. He was a SUNY Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering and a faculty member at the University at Buffalo for more than 40 years. He founded the Center of Excellence for Document Analysis and Recognition (CEDAR), which carried out groundbreaking research for the US Postal Service in the 1990s. He has also made important contributions to the field of forensic sciences. Prof Srihari was the recipient of numerous honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus award of the Ohio State University College of Engineering in 1999, the IAPR/ICDAR Outstanding Achievements Award in 2011, and the Excellence in Graduate Mentoring Award from the University of Buffalo in 2018. He was a fellow of the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR) and the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications Engineers (IETE, India), and was a life fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

Later in life, Prof Srihari returned to IISc as a visiting faculty member. He served as the Rukmini Gopalakrishnachar Chair Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Automation, IISc in 2018, and the Satish Dhawan Visiting Chair Professor at IISc during 2020. Recently, Prof Srihari made a generous contribution to establish a Gold Medal for the MTech (Artificial Intelligence) program in the Division of EECS, IISc.

Hari is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rohini, by his sons Dileep of Washington, DC and Ashok (Caroline) of Gainesville, FL, by his granddaughter Vera, by his sister Shashi Sampath of Washington, DC, and by his brother Mukund Sargur of Redmond, WA. Prof. Srihari will be greatly missed by the Institute community.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT IISC?

- **Watch this YouTube video by KnowledgeGate summarizing the IISc experience for aspiring students:** https://bit.ly/3x3cHkE

- **IISc to set up philanthropist-funded postgraduate medical school and 800-bed medical facility:**
  - The facility will offer an integrated dual degree MD-PhD program aimed at nurturing a new breed of physician-scientists, who will be trained simultaneously in the hospital as well as in the science and engineering labs of the Institute.
  - IISc has signed an agreement to set up the hospital in partnership with philanthropists Susmita and Subroto Bagchi, Radha and NS Parthasarathy to establish the Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital. IISc has received a total of Rs 425 crore to build the new facility.
  - According to the institute, this is the largest single private donation received by it since its founding. The hospital will have advanced facilities for diagnostics, treatment, research, and offer several specialties including oncology, cardiology, neurology, nephrology, urology, dermatology and plastic surgery, organ transplant and robotic surgery, among others.
  - On April 11, 2022, IISc announced the receipt of another donation by an alumna of who graduated with an M.E. degree from the Department of Electrical Communication Engineering, has committed Rs 45.35 crores to support the establishment of a neurology wing and a blood bank in the upcoming hospital, in memory of her husband. This donation will include equipment/infrastructure for outpatient departments and wards, surgery and operation theaters, as well as other relevant facilities.
  - Over the next few months, IISc will continue to raise funds for various activities and facilities for the medical school and hospital, including endowed Chair Professorships for medical faculty members, Visiting Chair Professorships, funded international internships and scholarships for students, and biomedical and laboratory equipment. The Institute has put out a request for fundraising support. To find out more about how you can help, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs (ODAA) at: alumniaffairs.odaa@iisc.ac.in.

- **IISc to establish a Center of Public Health**: The Center aims to provide dual degree MPH-PhD and MPH-MTech (Research) programs to nurture education and research in the area of public health. The Centre will create a niche for health data science and analytics through close collaboration with the existing world-class computer science and data science departments at IISc. The proposed Isaac Center for Public Health will be located in the IISc Medical School's Academic and Research block and span one floor spread over 27,000 sq ft.

Quess Corp Chairman Ajit Isaac and wife Sarah Isaac with Prof Govindan Rangarajan, Director, Indian Institute of Science at the MoU signing ceremony to set up the Isaac Centre for Public Health at the IISc Campus

CHAPTER NEWS

- **Bay Area/Silicon Valley Chapter Holi Get-Together:** On Sunday, March 27, 2022, the Silicon Valley Chapter alums and families got together for a colorful celebration of the festival of Holi, and the arrival of spring. This was the first-time the Bay Area Chapter has had a Holi celebration. With lots of colors, singing, and delicious food, it was reminiscent of past Holi celebrations during our time at IISc. Enjoy pictures from the event here: https://bit.ly/3DHbNMi