

Citation for Dr Chithambaram Veerappan - "Veerappan"

Veerappan has been an associate specialist in Intensive Care Medicine since 1995, in London and the North West of England. Based at the Royal Oldham Hospital, for the last 11 years he has organised an annual Critical Care symposium (ACCS), unsurpassed by other celebrated national and international meetings. His passion for intensive care and his desire to deliver the highest quality international programme in a unique informal manner is a testament to his drive, ambition and unparalleled organisational skills. The question on everyone's lips "are you attending Veerappan's meeting".

He trained in India and completed House jobs and an SHO post at Government Erskine Hospital, Madurai, Tamilnadu before coming to the UK in 1978. His early years in the UK were pursuing a career in elderly care medicine to registrar level. He switched to anaesthetics and Intensive Care medicine in 1985. Having undertaken SHO and registrar posts in the Midlands he arrived in the North West in 1990 as a keen, enthusiastic and highly experienced Staff Grade in Intensive Care and subsequently as an associate specialist. Before settling at the Royal Oldham Hospital he spent 15 months in London at Charing Cross Hospital. He has been a member of the Intensive Care Society since 1989.

Veerappan is an understated "doer" who is held in the highest regard by trainees, nurses and consultant colleagues, the world over. Throughout his career his practice has been guided by evidence and he has continued to develop his skills exemplified by training in transthoracic echocardiography. However, perhaps most to the fore are his organisational skills. From humble beginnings his inspiration and desire to spread the latest knowledge of intensive care led him to set up the first Oldham Advances in Intensive Care Study day in 2004. This was a one-day meeting with speakers including Prof Mervyn Singer and Dr J Coakly. Its success led to the birth and renaming of the 2nd Annual Critical Care Symposium, a one day meeting with a celebrated program of national and international speakers. The success of the meeting snowballed and Veerappan expanded the programme to 2 days with a continued illustrious cast of international speakers from 2006.

In 2007 his 4th annual critical care symposium over 2 days attracted delegates from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and Canada with a programme covering 36 topic areas from basic science to recent advances in intensive care. In 2009 his meeting attracted 182 delegates and as an example of its, and his success, the 10th ACCS attracted 425 delegates with 50 members of faculty worldwide. However, Veerappan has not stood still, basking in the glory of past success. He continues to understand the needs of the specialty and has run an ultrasound course in parallel for 3 years. In 2010 this attracted 44 delegates and will continue in 2014.

Veerappan receives many accolades for his symposia. They describe the man as much as the meeting. Just one example from many commented "you have created a very special meeting, low on glitz, hype and preening and high on humility, thoughtful debate, and passionate exchange. This is an achievement for

which you deserve the highest congratulations". His unbridled energy has created a unique atmosphere amongst faculty and delegates, which will guarantee longevity and continued success for many years to come. He has created a national legacy for Intensive Care Medicine in the UK.