

## SRHSB Winter/Spring Newsletter 2021

**SRHSB 65<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting 2021 - Friday November 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**Abstract deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### **Professor Kalyan Raman (May 21<sup>st</sup> 1958 – February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021).**

It is with great sadness that we announce that Kalyan has passed away. He was a remarkable scholar whose interdisciplinary expertise in the understanding of complex systems included not only problems in business marketing but also random signal processing and computational methods in electrical engineering and neuroscience. He published articles in prestigious journals in neuroscience, electrical engineering and business. He was Professor of Integrated Marketing Communications in the Medill IMC Department , Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioural Sciences in the Feinberg School of Medicine, affiliated Professor of Marketing in the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL and a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC. He attended Graduate School at Purdue University, West Lafayette Indiana, obtained a PhD in management science in 1985 from the University of Texas, Dallas TX and a PhD in electrical engineering in 2012 from Wayne State University, Detroit MI. His career path included the universities in Auburn, Florida, Ann Arbor, Loughborough UK, and Northwestern, Evanston IL.



Jaleel writes that Kalyan was a recent addition to the SRHSB family and came with an excitement for the possibilities of mathematical modelling of the cerebrospinal fluid system and its effects on the brain [A stochastic differential equation analysis of cerebrospinal fluid dynamics. *Fluids and Barriers of the CNS* 2011;8:9-19]. He came to a few of the annual meetings and was always identifiable with a wonderful smile and warmth, not to mention the enthusiasm for the research we were all engaged in. His mathematical insights were applied to many of our projects but sadly we were not to see these transformed into research collaborations due to his illness and now loss to family, friends and we, his SRHSB family. He will be well remembered and missed. We may have to wait a while for anyone with such a background showing an interest in the peculiarities of CSF in the brain and head.

RIP Kalyan.

### **SRHSB 64<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Webinar Doha 2020**

On your behalf, I would like to express all our thanks to Andy, Ian and their colleagues for orchestrating this superb webinar that included both memorable invited lectures on Improving Bladder Control and Quality of Life (Professor Xiao, Drs Vallasciani, Salle & Thornton) and some 20 scientific presentations, all of which were excellent.

Congratulations to the Prize winners:

Best Basic Science Presentation: Dr Miriam Echevarría - 'Hydrocephalus condition associated to hypoxia and aging is partially reversed by reoxygenation'.

Best Clinical Presentation: Dr Albert M Isaacs - 'Activated gene pathways in Post-Infectious Hydrocephalus (PIH): Proteogenomics and the PIH expressome'.

President's Prize: Dr Syeda Farwa Naqvi - 'The cerebral folate delivery system shows a decline in dementia and Alzheimer's disease'.

### **Activities during the Lockdown**

- Boxing Day radio broadcast of a Bristol couple's story of their experiences coping with a very prematurely born boy with spina bifida and hydrocephalus - a real patient journey with gritty but heart-warming details! <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p090x1w2>
- World Folic Acid Awareness week January 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 organised by the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.
- Educational webinars by our sister organisations Hydrocephalus Society (ISHCSF), EANS CSF Taskforce and ISPN.
- Hydrocephalus Gothenburg 2021 (September 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>) will be virtual with a conventional meeting in 2022.
- Expansion of SRHSB webinar activities – the success of the Doha 2020 Webinar has highlighted the potential for the SRHSB to expand the outreach of its teaching role. Albert Isaacs and Will Singleton are developing a strategy paper for how the SRHSB should engage with social media and a Draft Programme is under development.

### **International perspective on Roadmaps out of the Covid 19 Pandemic.**

At the recent virtual meeting of the Executive Committee, there was a wide-ranging discussion about when, how and where this year's SRHSB 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting could be held. It will come as no surprise to the SRHSB membership that there are considerable disparities between countries in how they are planning their road maps out of the Covid 19 pandemic.

- USA: there is wide variation between States in regard to infection & vaccination rates, and access to University laboratories for students and researchers; e.g. St Louis – high rate of second vaccinations (3 week gap) with return to good lab access; Detroit less well advanced with no undergraduates currently on campus.
- UK: successful vaccination roll-out by age (12 week gap between doses); university staff overwhelmed by level of student support required for home study; access to labs for masters and PhD students – about to reopen for undergrads for project work; schools about to partly reopen; variation between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- Canada (Toronto) – vaccination already x2 for healthcare workers; full lockdown.
- Japan: infection rates not yet controlled adequately; vaccination started a few days ago; decision awaited over the Olympic Games.
- Spain: very bad 3<sup>rd</sup> wave; classrooms empty; labs accessible – no change anticipated until after the summer; recovery and vaccination rate slow.

- Doha: infection rate under control; very high vaccination rate x2; everything open with social distancing and masks even outdoors except for jogging.

#### Travel

- USA: travel allowed within USA but not internationally if Institution or Government funded; self-funded travel discouraged.
- UK: travel restricted to local areas; international travel banned with self-funded quarantine hotels for travellers to the UK.
- Canada: following government guidelines; quarantine if returning to the UK.
- Japan: advised not to travel abroad without vaccination.
- Spain: no travel allowed.
- Doha: international travel allowed with home quarantine for one week after return (no quarantine if vaccinated). Problems for people returning from high risk countries – only NZ, the Maldives and possibly South Korea are currently low-risk.

#### Known unknowns:

- A moving target
- New variants
- International acceptance of vaccine passports and testing
- Young researchers will be particularly disadvantaged in many countries if vaccination is rolled out by age and lab access is limited.

### **SRHSB 65<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting 2021 - Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> Abstract deadline June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021**

We are all disappointed that a live face-to-face DOHA meeting has not yet proven possible. Ian has very kindly offered to host our SRHSB 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Doha as a Webinar on Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 with the possibility of including a local face-to-face meeting if allowed. The venues for 2022 & 2023 are under discussion. The World Cup will be in Doha in 2022 (November 21<sup>st</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>).

**All best wishes for a healthy and productive 2021,  
John.**