

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti

MS, FRCS (Edin), FRCS (Eng), FRCS (Glasg), FRCS (Irel), FACS

Padma Shri awarded by Hon'ble President of India (2015)

Dr. B.C. Roy awarded by Hon'ble President of India (2016)

Contact details**Office**

KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases
 KIMS Hospitals, Minister Road, Secunderabad – 500 003
 Tel: +91 - 40-4488-5190

MBBS

Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada, India, July 1991

Postgraduate Qualifications**FACS** (*Conferred Fellowship*)

The American College of Surgeons (2014)

FRCS (England)

Conferred Fellowship without examination

The Royal College of Surgeons of England (2010)

FRCS (Edinburgh)

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (1997)

FRCS (Glasgow)

Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow (1997)

FRCS (Ireland)

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (1997)

Master of Surgery (MS)

Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore, India (1995)

Current Appointment**Director**

KIMS-USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases
 KIMS Hospitals, Secunderabad, India
 (1 October 2007 – to date)

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

1 April 2005 – 30 Sept. 2007

Senior Subspecialty Fellow, Oncoplastic Breast Surgery,
 Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
 London, United Kingdom

1 April 1999 – 31 March 2005

Specialist Registrar in General Surgery
 All Wales Higher Surgical Training Programme
 United Kingdom

Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti is amongst the few doctors from South Asia to have completed structured Higher Surgical Training & Subspecialty training in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery at world renowned Centres of excellence in the UK on a Type 1 Higher Surgical Training Programme

The unique achievements of a visionary

Amongst the foremost Breast Surgeons from South Asia, Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti was conferred the prestigious **Padma Shri** by Hon'ble President of India for the year 2015 making him the **one of the youngest doctors in India** to have received one of the highest civilian awards of the land. The Award recognises his intense body of work towards improving Breast healthcare in his motherland and unstinting contribution promoting highest standards of Surgical Education in India over the past twenty years through his association with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh & Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He is also the **youngest Surgeon from the southern Indian states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** to have been conferred the prestigious **Dr. B.C Roy National Award** by Hon'ble President of India for the year 2016, which is the highest award for doctor practicing Medicine in India.

Inspired by **Mr. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's dream of Digital India**, Dr. Pillarietti conceived, designed & developed the **World's First Mobile Phone App** (March 2017) that provides information about every aspect of breast cancer (*commonest cancer affecting women in India*) and benign non cancer breast health issues explained in simple easy to understand format in **12 LANGUAGES** (*English, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Oriya & Assamese*). The aim of this benchmark initiative is to counsel, guide & educate women across the nation about various aspects of **Breast health** so that they are well informed & better prepared, thus filling a huge void in breast health care in India.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, Dr. Pillarisetti was conferred the International **Gold Medal** by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (*RCS Ed - oldest Surgical College in the World*) in the year 2013 - *highest Award that the Royal College bestows to select few Surgeons practicing outside of the United Kingdom*. He is the **youngest ever** recipient of this impressive Award in **513 years history** of the **RCS Ed**.

He is the **Youngest ever** recipient of **Edward Kennedy Memorial Award** conferred by Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka during Global Oncology Summit 2015 for improving the art & science of Breast Oncology in South Asia. The award recognizes **excellence in Oncology globally** and has been instituted as a tribute to Late Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy, youngest brother of Late John F Kennedy who died of cancer (2015).

He was awarded **Visishta Ugadi Puraskar** (*State Award*) by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh (2010) making him the **youngest surgeon from Telangana & Andhra Pradesh** to have been conferred the State award in appreciation of his academic accomplishments and unwavering commitment towards improving breast healthcare in the region.

A **Paul Harris Fellow** & recipient of the **Vocational excellence Award** for extraordinary charitable service and distinguished contribution in the field of '*Breast Oncology*' by the **Rotary Foundation**, Dr Pillarisetti was featured in the Book '*In pursuit of Passion*', which includes profiles of fifty icons of change & inspiration from the Telugu States (2010).

Impressed with the unique breast cancer advocacy campaign championed by Dr. Pillarisetti in India, he was appointed onto the Board of Advocates Committee at the American Society of Breast Surgeons (ASBrS), which provides strategic direction for breast cancer advocacy in USA. He is the **ONLY Surgeon from outside USA** to have served on this high profile Committee of ASBrS – World's largest society representing Breast Surgeons from all across America (2009).

Early years

Born in Guntur, a 1991 Graduate of Siddhartha Medical College, Vijayawada (India), Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti obtained **FIRST place** in **M.S.** University Examination from Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore (1995). He is amongst few in the World to have acquired the **FRCS from all four Royal Colleges** in British Isles (*England, Edinburgh, Glasgow & Ireland*) & **FACS from the American College of Surgeons at a young age**. He successfully completed structured Higher Surgical Training and Subspecialty training in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery at some of the world renowned centres of excellence in the UK.

Turning point

The year 2002 was a defining period for Dr. Pillarisetti when his **mother, Dr. Ushalakshmi** (a well known Gynaecologist from Hyderabad) was diagnosed with **Breast cancer**. The unexpected diagnosis of breast cancer to someone close to him coupled with huge disparity in breast cancer care across the Country became the **turning point** in his life. Much as he had rewarding career opportunities in the United Kingdom, he returned to India in 2007 and has been working with missionary zeal over the past ten years towards bringing about revolutionary changes to the delivery of breast health care in a Country that he was born and raised.

The FOUR Goals in India

Having lived in the United Kingdom for a decade, his remarkable accomplishments whilst in the UK began to unfold after his return to India.

1. *To establish a dedicated Centre for Breast Health*
2. *To establish a Breast Cancer Foundation*
3. *To implement a population based Breast Cancer Screening Programme reaching out to the underprivileged community*
4. *To establish Breast surgery as a Subspecialty in India*

1. To establish a dedicated Centre for Breast Health

Demonstrating extraordinary leadership, Dr. Pillarisetti conceived, designed and established **South Asia's FIRST** free-standing purpose built & comprehensive **Breast Health Centre** in Hyderabad (2007). This is a unique set up, where Clinical Assessment, Breast imaging, breast biopsy & counseling are all done in a Centre that is dedicated to the management of all types of Breast diseases (*both benign & malignant*) by a committed Multidisciplinary Team. Named after his mother, KIMS–USHALAKSHMI Centre for Breast Diseases (www.breastcancerindia.org) has made significant and meaningful difference to many lives for well over Ten years in addition to bringing about a revolutionary change - **Breast Centre Concept in the Indian Subcontinent**.

2. To establish a Breast Cancer Foundation

Breast cancer is the commonest cancer affecting women in India. In many parts of the Country, it is a 'taboo'- a 'closet' issue that is not openly discussed. With a vision to make breast cancer a 'commonly' discussed issue and empower women about the importance of early detection of Breast cancer, Dr. Pillarisetti established Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation in 2007 (UBF – www.ubf.org.in). Under auspices of the Foundation, he championed a one of its kind large scale breast cancer awareness drive across the Southern Indian States of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.

Over the past TEN years, the Foundation left no stone unturned in accomplishing this goal. A number of unique & innovative events have been organised in urban and rural regions with many celebrity breast cancer survivors from India and abroad lending their support to this noble cause.

Since 2007, in **collaboration** with **Breast Cancer Care UK** (*largest Breast Healthcare provider in UK*), the Foundation has printed & distributed 100, 000 Information Booklets about every aspect of Breast Disease in two commonly spoken languages in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh (*Telugu & English*).

Inspired by **Mr. Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India's dream of **Digital India** and encouraged by the enormous impact / heightened levels of awareness generated through these Information Booklets in the Telugu States, Dr. Pillarisetti conceived, designed & developed the **World's First Mobile Phone App** that provides information about every aspect of breast cancer and benign non cancer breast health issues (*more common than cancer*) in **TWELVE languages** explained in simple easy to understand format (*English, Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Oriya & Assamese*). The aim of this benchmark initiative is to counsel, guide & educate women across the nation about various aspects of **Breast health** so that they are well informed & better prepared, thus filling a huge void in breast health care in India.

3. To implement a population based Breast Cancer Screening Programme reaching out to the underprivileged community

Due to absence of nationwide population based Screening Programme, more than 60% of breast cancers present in advanced stages. Screening Mammography is not a viable option for population based screening in India. Reasons: enormous costs, early age at diagnosis (< 50 years), huge variation in mammographic reporting & issues relating to quality assurance. However, there is considerable evidence regarding the efficacy of **Clinical breast examination (CBE)** performed by trained Healthcare workers in the Community, which is a simple and inexpensive screening tool.

With the singular aim of ensuring early detection of breast cancer amongst the underprivileged women and to find an '**Indian solution**' that would save many lives, particularly in **rural India**, under the auspices of Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation, Dr. Pillarisetti has been overseeing the implementation of **South Asia's largest CBE based Breast Cancer Screening Programme**. Since 2012, some **200, 000** underprivileged women between the ages of 35 – 65 years spread across **4000** villages in 15 Districts of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh have been screened for early signs of breast cancer by way of Clinical Breast Examination (CBE) performed by **3750** trained Health care workers working for the Government. Breast cancers detected through this initiative are being **treated FREE** of cost through the State Government funded Aarogyasri scheme.

SCREENING PROGRAMME MAKING NATIONAL IMPACT

Impressed with the successful implementation of this large scale population based breast cancer screening Programme in the States of Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Pillarisetti was invited to be part of a high powered **Steering Committee & Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** set up by Ministry of Health, **Govt. of India** in April 2016. The Steering Committee's unanimous decision played a pivotal role in getting Clinical Breast Examination (**CBE**) incorporated into **National Cancer Screening Guidelines**. He is providing training material and guidance in implementing the Screening Programme across the nation. *Dr. Pillarisetti is the **only expert** from **South India** on these prestigious National Cancer Screening Committees.*

4. To establish Breast surgery as a Subspecialty in India

Breast surgery is not a recognized Subspecialty in India. Moreover, until 2011, there was no dedicated Surgical Society that focused exclusively upon issues that concern breast disease. Recognizing the need for a paradigm shift in delivery of Breast healthcare in India, Dr. Pillarisetti garnered support from Indian surgical fraternity and has been the **major driving force** in establishing The Association of Breast Surgeons of India (**ABSI**) in 2011, which is the **First & only Organisation** in **South Asia** representing General Surgeons, Surgical Oncologists & Plastic Surgeons treating patients with Breast Disease. The Association has been established along similar lines to that of The **Association of Breast Surgeons in the UK**. The formation of ABSI (www.absi.in) in many ways is the **FIRST** step towards developing Breast Surgery as a distinct Subspecialty in India. He was unanimously elected **Founder Honorary Secretary** (2011 – 2013) & **President** (2015 – 2017) of ABSI - **Youngest ever and the Only Surgeon from South India to reach the apex position in ABSI.**

Contribution to Academics/ Improving standards of Surgical Education in India

In addition to publishing several Editorials/ articles in peer reviewed Journals, Dr. Pillarisetti contributed **FIVE Chapters** in **FOUR books/text books** of Surgery. He was recently (March 2018) invited to write **three Chapters** in an upcoming Book on '*Breast Cancer Care quality management, innovation promotion & resource considerations*' being edited by three world renowned Breast Surgeons from USA, UK and Belgium.

In a determined effort to help Surgeons from Indian Subcontinent prepare for **FRCS & MRCS** examinations, Dr. Pillarisetti conducted **TWELVE** annual Overseas Courses in **Hyderabad** since the year 2000 under the auspices of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCS Ed) that has helped well over 2000 doctors – **MAXIMUM** number of Courses ever held by the Royal College **outside UK.**

Since 2008, he also been convened the Overseas **Intercollegiate final MRCS** Examinations in **Hyderabad** on behalf of Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh & Royal College of Surgeons of England (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018), thus sparing the need for doctors to visit UK to take this Examination - *MRCS Examinations were held for the **First time** in **Telangana & Andhra Pradesh** in **500 years** history of RCS (Edinburgh) & RCS (England) – two of the oldest Surgical Colleges in the World.* He is currently **International Surgical Advisor** for the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh *and has been providing strategic direction to the Royal College's academic activities in the Indian Subcontinent (2012 – to date).*

With a focus on introducing and exposing surgical trainees from India to world renowned Surgeons in the UK, Dr. Pillarisetti successfully conducted a **joint academic meeting of the Association of Surgeons of India** in partnership with **The Royal College of Surgeons of England** (Hyderabad, July 2017) and is due to conduct a similar academic meeting in partnership with The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (Vijayawada, July 2018).

To honour his outstanding academic track record, community service of a high order, significant and unwavering contribution to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh for well over a decade, Dr Pillarisetti was conferred the International **Gold Medal** in the year 2013 - **highest Award that the Royal College bestows to select few Surgeons practicing outside of United Kingdom**. He is the **youngest ever recipient** of this impressive Award in **513 years** history of the **RCS Ed**.

Guest lectures/Orations @ prestigious International Meetings

Since 1996, Dr. Pillarisetti has delivered several Orations, Guest/Invited lectures, and equally, conducted various Symposia/Panel Discussions on various aspects of Breast Disease at Local, Regional & National Meetings held all across India.

In recognition of his pioneering work, which has transformed the breast healthcare in India, Dr Pillarisetti achieved the rare honour of being invited to deliver the **Col. Pandalai Oration** (Chennai, 2018). This is the **highest & most prestigious Oration of The Association of Surgeons of India instituted in memory of Col. Pandalai, the Founder President of the ASI**.

Over the past three years (2015 – 2018), he has delivered **Guest lectures** at world renowned Breast Surgeons Congresses in **seven Countries** spread across **four Continents** - **USA, UK, Australia, Russia, Thailand, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh**. The presentations in these Countries focused upon the innovative initiatives that he has been implementing with single-minded goal aimed to improve Breast healthcare in India - **FIRST time ever for a practicing Surgeon from India invited to address delegates at the Annual Congresses organised by American Society of Breast Surgeons - World's largest Breast Surgeons Congress (Orlando, 2015), Association of Breast Surgeons of United Kingdom (Bournemouth, 2015) and Association of Breast Surgeons of Australia & New Zealand(Sydney, 2016)**.

Impressed with Dr. Pillarisetti's vision for his motherland, he was given the unique and rare privilege to address **TEDx Deccan** on '*Establishing a benchmark for Breast Healthcare in India*'. **TED** (Technology, Entertainment & Design) is a *nonprofit global Organisation devoted to Ideas worth Spreading and brings together the world's most fascinating thinkers and doers, who are challenged to give the talk of their lives*.

Contribution to The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) –

largest Organisation in South Asia representing some 20, 000 Surgeons across the Country.

Over the past well over **20 years** (since 1996), Dr. Pillarisetti has been actively contributing to the **academic activities** under the auspices of The Association of Surgeons of India (ASI). He achieved the unique distinction to become the **Youngest Surgeon** ever from Telangana & Andhra Pradesh to get elected onto the **National Governing Council of ASI**, which is the apex *Executive Body of the Association* (2013 – 2015).

In 2014, he played a pivotal role as **Organizing Secretary** in organizing the Annual Conference of ASI (**ASICON 2014**) in Hyderabad which was attended by well over 6, 000 surgeons from all over India and abroad. This Congress has been widely recognized by peers as the **best organized Annual Conference** ever held in the history of ASI.

In his capacity as **Convenor, International Affairs** for ASI (2017 – 2018), Dr. Pillarisetti has been playing a **key role** in fostering close relationship between ASI & Surgical Associations World over. Since October 2017, in partnership with The Royal College of Surgeons of England, Dr. Pillarisetti has paved the path for many bright young Surgeons who have recently completed their Basic Surgical Training from the Indian Subcontinent to obtain two years 'hands on' advanced Subspecialty Training at Centre of excellence in the UK through the **Royal College of Surgeons of England's International Surgical Training Programme (ISTP) initiative**.

As **Overseas Coordinator** for ASI (2009 – 2012), Dr Pillarisetti proposed and coordinated the formation of **UK & Ireland Chapter of ASI**, *with the aim of bringing together Surgeons of Indian origin living in the British Isles and encourage them to actively contribute in the academic activities of ASI.*

Contribution to The Indian Association of Surgical Oncology – (A Section of ASI)

largest Organization that represents Surgical Oncologists from all over India

Dr. Pillarisetti achieved the exceptional milestone of having served as **Joint Editor, Indian Journal of Surgical Oncology** (2010 – 2014) - *official peer reviewed indexed Journal of Indian Association of Surgical Oncology (IASO)*. He also served as **Executive Committee Member** (2009 -2010) & **Editorial Secretary** of IASO (2011 – 2012). In his capacity as **Overseas Coordinator** for IASO (2005 – 2008), he was instrumental in bridging closer relationship between **IASO and British Association of Surgical Oncology (BASO)**, the equivalent Association that represents Surgical Oncologists in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Pillarisetti organized the Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Surgical Oncology (**NATCON IASO 2008**) in **collaboration with BASO** in Hyderabad – which is widely considered by peers as a **benchmark IASO Congress**. From the funds remaining after organising the Conference & through his links with world renowned Surgical Oncologists practicing in Centres of excellence in the UK, Dr. Pillarisetti **established 'Hyderabad – BASO Travelling Fellowship'**, which provides financial assistance to a bright Surgical Oncology trainee from India annually to obtain Subspecialty training in Surgical Oncology at a Centre of excellence in the United Kingdom.

Contribution to The Association of Breast Surgeons of India (ABSI) (A Section of ASI)

The only organization that represents Surgeons practicing Breast Surgery all over India.

Between 2007 – 2011, Dr. Pillarisetti garnered support from Colleagues across the Country and played a key role in the formation of Association of Breast Surgeons of India (**ABSI**). Established in 2011, ABSI is widely considered to be the '**Voice for Breast Surgery in India**'. He was unanimously elected to serve as **Founder Honorary Secretary** (2011 – 2013) & **President**, ABSI (2015– 2017). During his term as President of ABSI, in an endeavor to impart knowledge required to deliver uniform minimum effective standard of care nationwide, Dr Pillarisetti spearheaded a nationwide **ABSI TRAINING MODULE** – *a structured Breast Surgical Training Programme held under the auspices of ABSI in Cities and towns all over India with the aim of empowering trainees/surgeons about every aspect of breast health in simple easy to understand format.*

In an effort to encourage and assist surgical trainees from India interested in obtaining Oncoplastic Breast subspecialty training in world renowned Centres of excellence in the UK, Dr. Pillarisetti has been able to initiate **ABSI - UK Fellowship Programme**, where Breast Surgical Trainees from India would be selected based upon merit to obtain 'hands on ' one year training in pre-selected Centres of excellence in the UK. Commenced in 2017, three trainees from India have already completed their subspecialty training in Staffordshire and have since returned back to India to improve the delivery of breast healthcare in his region.

Contribution to British International Doctors Association, United Kingdom – *the largest Organisation representing overseas qualified doctors in the UK*

Over the past twenty years (1996 – to date), Dr. Pillarisetti has been actively involved in helping, guiding & counselling Doctors of Indian origin living in UK through his strong links with British International Doctors Association – BIDA, an Organisation that represents the interests of International medical Graduates working in the British isles.

His diligent & conscientious contribution to the Indian Medical Fraternity whilst in the UK got him elected onto the **National Executive Committee** of British International Doctors Association – BIDA (2002 – 2005) – **youngest ever to get elected and poll the highest number of votes**. He also served as Chairman, Junior Doctors Forum of BIDA (2005 - 2007), a responsible position that involved representing the interests & addressing the concerns of International Medical Graduates working in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Pillarisetti's journey inspired making of a Bollywood film

A Bollywood film '**Bhavishya**' was made in 2007 by Dr. Nikhil Kaushik, Consultant Eye Surgeons based out of Wrexham (United Kingdom) inspired by the bold decision taken by Dr. Raghu Ram to relocate to India despite having settled status and lucrative career opportunities.

Philanthropy – Adopting a Village

Since 2016, Dr. Pillarisetti has been championing several **philanthropic initiatives** in his **adopted Village -Ibrahimpur**, which is the remotest hamlet in Medak District (State of Telangana with a population of 1500 people. He has undertaken a number of developmental activities in this Village using his own resources & thus far spent well over **US \$ 80, 000 (Rs 50, 00, 000)** towards a number of thoughtful focused initiatives.

Projects completed thus far (2016 – 2018)

1. **‘Vaikuntadhamam’**– a modern **Crematorium** built in a one acre plot in the Village that would cater to many Villages around Ibrahimpur. This project provides the much needed relief to residents at the most difficult time in their lives. . Great care has been taken to ensure that this place looks like a spacious home taking care to provide every possible facility and lots of open spaces with greenery to provide a solace & peace.
2. A FIRST OF ITS KIND INITIATIVE IN THE STATE -**46 Sheep sheds (for all the 46 families in the Village with cattle)**, with solar electrification have been built in the village outskirts – a space spread over three acres of land for sheep to be housed away from the village, so that they do not come into the village, thus preventing animal borne diseases within the village community. Until now, 50-100 sheep would be crammed inside small homes of each of these 46 residents in the village. This resulted in unhygienic conditions leading to airborne & waterborne infections to both sheep & the residents.
3. **Home Solar system** for 26 Houses that provides reliable source of 100% free electricity has been provided to the poorest of the poor in village so as to ensure zero electricity bills for lifetime, whilst also also contributes towards eco friendly homes and neighborhood.
4. Foundation stone was laid for a **Community library**, which would provide access to newspapers, magazines, books in addition to an internet cafe for residents to improve their quality of lives. This place would also be used to conduct targeted awareness sessions by community healthcare workers using the audio visual facilities in the library.
5. **A community function hall** that can host 200 people has been built which can be used by residents of the village for weddings & other large functions in their family

The following initiatives undertaken by him were completed in 2017 and are currently functional –

- **A dining room in the Village school** has been built. Students were eating their lunch in open compound, which was causing great inconvenience and health hazards, particularly in summer. Students now have access to a closed convenient and aesthetically done up place for dining, which also ensures hygiene.
- **A Digital Study Room** has been built in the Village school - Students have access to state of the art audio visual facilities, which provides a serene environment for study during school breaks and during school holidays

Conclusion

A **Padma Shri awardee** (2015) & **Dr. B.C. Roy awardee** (2016), Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti's exceptional academic track record, intense body of work towards improving breast healthcare in India & community service of a high order are the three major traits that have shone through since he graduated to become a doctor.

Working diligently with missionary zeal over the past ten years, Dr. Raghu Ram Pillarisetti has been implementing his vision and has made extraordinary contribution towards significantly improving breast healthcare in his motherland by exemplifying & implementing the best of British practices in the Country.

Equally, over the past two decades, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment towards improving the standards of surgical education in India through his association with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh & Royal College of Surgeons of England. Furthermore, he has created history by making available Subspecialty/Higher Surgical Training opportunities in Surgical Oncology & Breast Surgery for trainees from India in the United Kingdom. These well thought out strategies are paving the path towards providing the best possible breast healthcare to patients in India, that they so richly deserve.