

Remembrances of N. Y. Zachariah, PhD

Zaven H. Chakmakjian, MD

I first met Dr. Zachariah in 1975 when we recruited him to come to Dallas from the Cleveland Clinic to help run the endocrine laboratory at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC). Dr. Ralph Tompsett, chief of internal medicine, and Boone Powell Sr., CEO and chief administrator at BUMC, had invited me to Dallas in 1967 to head a new endocrine division. Clinical research was conducted at the newly set up Weinberger Endocrine Laboratory. A few years later, Dr. George Race, chief of pathology, approached me about overseeing endocrine testing through the Department of Pathology. Thus, research and clinical services were combined into a single unit. This necessitated finding someone to supervise the expanding services of the endocrinology laboratory. Dr. Zachariah came, having just completed his fellowship training in endocrinology. He had a PhD in organic chemistry from India and an additional PhD in biochemistry from the University of Nebraska. With his arrival began many years of pleasant association, since it was a pleasure to work with him.

In addition to being intellectual, he was a fine person of good character. He was private and a man of few words. I found him to be hardworking, always available, trustworthy, honest, and helpful. He had a positive attitude and never said “no.” Loyalty was another outstanding quality, and we remained friends long after I left laboratory work to devote myself entirely to patients.

Dr. Zachariah always called me “sir!” I told him to please call me “Zaven,” but he always answered, “No, sir, Dr. Chakmakjian!” Working together was a great experience and a memory I shall always cherish.

We will miss you, Zach! Your strong Christian faith sustained you during difficult times as you approached eternity. Now there is no more pain, and you have gone to your reward.

To his lovely wife, Prem, and two precious daughters, Shalini and Anita, I say you can be proud of your husband and father. He was indeed proud of you. Beautiful little Shalini is the same age as our son, Carl. Together, Carl, Shalini, and Anita attended the Dallas Christian Academy and Skyline High School Science Cluster. Now the girls are fine young ladies married to fine young men and both excelling in their chosen fields. How thrilled Zach was to recently witness his little Anita receive her PhD! God bless all of you and comfort your hearts at this difficult time. We know it is hard to see him go.

Evangeline Cayton, MD

There are those who give with joy,
And that joy is their reward. —Khalil Gabrain

To me, this is what Zach was all about—someone who was kind, giving, and humble. His deep support and encouragement for me to publish was a great gift. I met him 30 years or so ago. The *Proceedings* was in infant stages. He guided me, along with Rose Kraft, to contribute to the journal. It was a dream come true. I had always loved to write but was not motivated. He was an inspiration. I will always cherish his friendship and the gift of writing.

George J. Race, MD, PhD

Dr. Zachariah was a wonderful person, a hard worker, and a good scientist. He was very devoted to Baylor, the laboratory, and the *Proceedings*. His contributions were appreciated, and he will be missed.

In memoriam

NANNEPAGA Y. ZACHARIAH, PhD

Department of Pathology, Baylor University Medical Center

Nannepaga Zachariah, PhD, died on January 31, 2009. Dr. Zachariah was a member of the medical staff at Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) from 1975 to 1990. He was recruited by Dr. Zaven Chakmakjian to expand the services of the endocrinology laboratory in the Department of Pathology. He was also one of the founding editorial board members of *BUMC Proceedings*. Dr. Zachariah received his doctorate degrees

from India and the University of Nebraska and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. After leaving Baylor, he worked for the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas and the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office. Certified by the American Board of Bioanalysts as a high complexity laboratory director, he had several publications and participated in scientific and professional organizations. He also taught at the University of North Texas Health Science Center and Tarleton State University.