

UCRN and UCR Medical School My recollections 1963-67

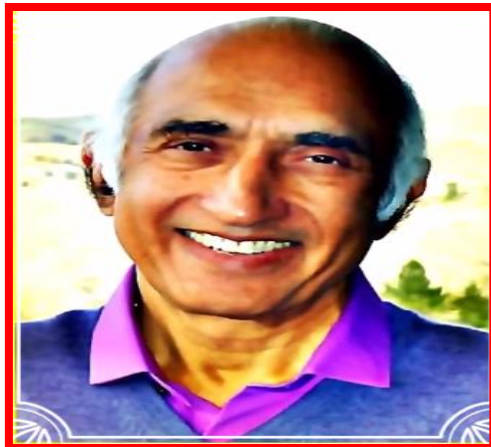


**UCRN - in 1965
University College
of Rhodesia**



University of Zimbabwe

**Dr Raman Gokal MBChB MD FRCP FASN
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Royal Infirmary and University of Manchester, UK**



GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL

UCRN Rhodesia

The Godfrey Huggins School of Medicine

- **In 1955 the British government adopted and established the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland by Royal Charter. In 1956, Special Relation with the University of London**
- **A Medical School (The Godfrey Huggins School of Medicine) was opened in 1963 and was affiliated to the University of Birmingham.**
- **THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AND TEACHING HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND. WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR WILL THE COLLEGE PRODUCE?**
- **THOMSON AP Cent Afr J Med. 1964 Jul;10:258-61**

Laying of the Foundation Stone of Medical School 5th April 1963



Lord Salisbury with Dr. Walter Adams, the Principal of the University College, who has done much to promote the medical school.

MAY, 1963

Laying of Foundation Stone of Medical School and Hospital at University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

On Friday, 5th April, 1963, a hot Rhodesian day, over 600 men and women gathered on the University campus to watch the Marquess of Salisbury, K.C., lay the foundation stone of the teaching hospital and medical school. The prevailing mood was one of confidence in the success of the youngest medical school in Africa. No matter what happened to Federation, the medical school had come into existence; and as we sat and reflected on the medical events of the last 17 years since the last war, we felt we must go ahead with the school. It is our duty to ensure that there will be enough doctors to cater for the many thousands of people in tropical Africa.

When the Federal Prime Minister, Sir Roy Welensky, arrived at 10.40 a.m. he received a rousing welcome. After the Governor General and the Governor of Southern Rhodesia were

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seated, three nurses and Miss Christine Fairley, a first-year medical student, presented bouquets to Countess Dalhousie, Lady Gibbs, the Marchioness of Salisbury and Lady Aitken. At precisely 11 a.m. the Most Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury arrived and took his seat on the platform, followed by the Honourable B. D. Goldberg, M.P. (Federal Minister of Health), the Right Honourable the Viscount Malvern (chairman of the University College Council), Sir Athol Evans, K.B.E. (chairman of the Interim Board of Governors), Dr. Walter Adams, C.M.G. (Principal of the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland), Sir Robert Aitken, F.R.C.P. (Vice-Chancellor, University of Birmingham) and Mr. John Richardson (Federal Director of Works).

Sir Athol Evans addressed the gathering:

"On behalf of the Interim Board of Governors of the University College Hospital, I extend a warm welcome to you all to this ceremony, especially those who have come from so far afield and such great distances from Salisbury.

"It is most pleasing and a very great encouragement to the board and to all concerned

At the opening of the medical school



Our Teachers –Professors and Lecturers

Our teachers that I remember: Gelfand, Thompson, Nelm, Dent, Cruickshank, Davidson ... They were good and dedicated as was their teaching. My favourite was.....

Professor Michael Gelfand (1912 - 1985)



Professor Michael Gelfand
(1912 - 1985)

Chisawasa – weekly trips – work with African medicine -Nganasa

**He was for me the instigator of my interest in alternative medicine
as were my parents and Hindu/Vedic upbringing –ayurveda/yog**

Pope confers Order of the Knighthood of St. Sylvester on Prof. Gelfand:

"He may wonder how such an honour could have come his way; but his multitude of friends, of all races, faiths and walks of life, who rejoice with him today, know why: it is because he has already, as doctor and teacher, earned for himself by his life's work, the highest of all accolades – 'good physician'".

Second Medical Intake UCRN 1964



Thats Us - 27 in all - 1964!! I was there for the first 3+ years

UCR CAMPUS



Manfred Hodson Residence Hall



Students Union



Medical School - Physiology



Sports Pavillion

Many Fond Memories.....

- At the start there were many anxieties – racialism/politics came into it all. How will I mix with other races? Am I good enough? Well at the end of the first year I got the physical science prize and you Howard the biological science prize. So things were not too bad until it all changed in 1966!!
- Fresher's Revue 1964 – organised by David Sanders - John Abeles skit – priceless.
- Students Union and the Sports pavilion –good times there.
- I remember Manfred Hodson hall where a lot of us stayed and Mrs Kylie was the Chef in charge. Also John Abeles playing the piano in the common room was a fond memory.
- Rag 1964 – Dave Sanders – our float “Loves Labours Lost” –Ahmed Latif was the ‘baby’. 1966 Dave chairman of Rag week –raised the highest amount for charity (I was the treasurer! –David said the ‘stingiest of em all – but no waste’)
- Sport – a highlight for me – cricket with Brian Bramston, hockey with Dave Monk, football with Dane Naidoo; + badminton, squash and table tennis.
- Medical clinic in? Dombashawa or Chisawasa – one evening a week – organiser David Sanders

SO WHAT CHANGED THINGS?

1964-67 were also troubled, traumatic times....



- UDI changed it all!
- 1966 College was shut down for several months because of unrest on the campus.
- As SRC chairman, I was in the middle of it all. Had to deal with the 'uprising' instigated by the Committee of Six politically outraged students (Michael Holman, Basker Vashee, Ishmael Malambo et al). Michel Holman I knew well – played hockey with him. There were also issues with 'dagga' and sex on campus!!



Michael Holman- white student in the picture at a demonstration on campus, while police stand by, Rhodesia Herald March 16 1966.

Ref: Subversive communities and the "Rhodesian Sixties" by Dan Hodgkinson
<https://www.routledgehandbooks.com/doi/10.4324/9781315150918-5>

After college was shut down, I saw an ad in the Rhodesia Herald about the Rhodes Scholarship – applied - Our students newspaper, Unicorn headlines "Ramanlal – Rhodes" – to Oxford in 1967

August 1967 at my Farewell Party



August 1967 at my Farewell Party



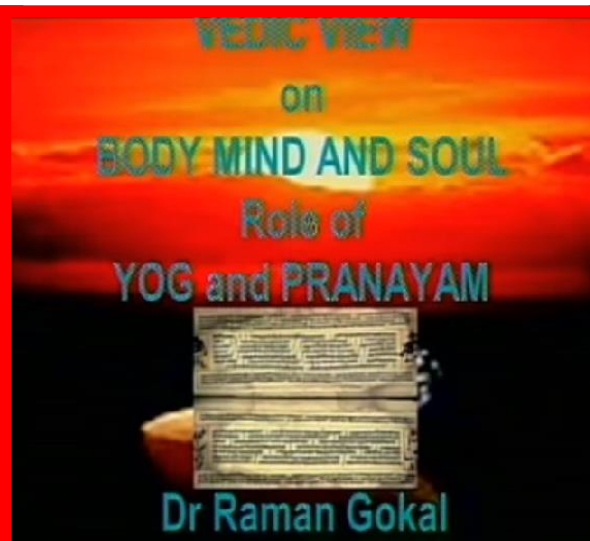
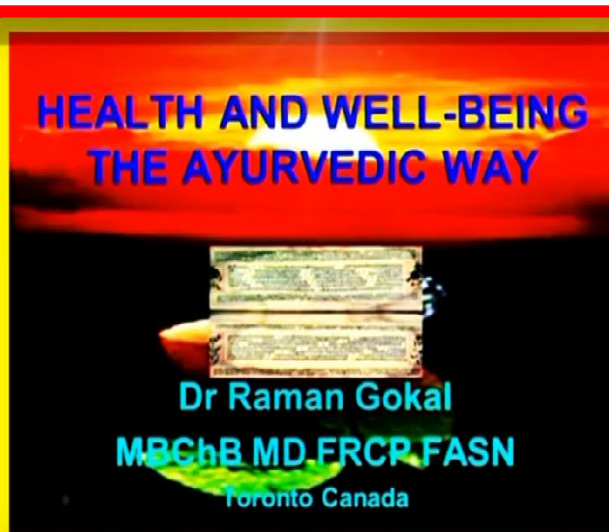
Since qualifying in 1970.....

- Training positions in the Oxford-London circuit 1970-75
- MRC Training Fellowship for MD at Oxford 1975-78
- Nephrology training in Oxford and Newcatle 1975-80
- Consultant Nephrologist and Prof of Medicine, Royal Infirmary and University of Manchester, UK 1981-2005 – “Retired”
- Many research publication, 3 books, chapters in textbooks
- Married to Renate-Katharina in 2008 and moved to Toronto Canada



In the Last 2 Decades.....

- Interest changed to Alternative therapies – integrating ancient wisdom and modern science – back to basics and spirituality.
- Ayurveda, Yog, Pranayam, Reflexology, Acupressure, Essential Oils etc with research, lecturing and teaching in these areas.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdZIP8jwjxc&t=13s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR6Lemk0BNw&t=4s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFhNXAygSZ8&t=131s>

Dr David Sanders 1945-2019

- 1964 – we struck up a close friendship – Dave immediately made me feel ‘at home’ in an intimidating first few months at UCR
- I remember having traditional Friday Jewish dinners at your home and having you over to my place for meals – my parents thought the world of you.
- What was he like?

He was funny with a great sense of humour – great jokes and laughter!

He had integrity, kindness and generosity of spirit

He made everyone feel at ease

He was committed to racial and social justice

Dedicated to improving the lives of people in the 3rd world – Public Health



Our last meeting Jan 2003 in Cape Town

Earlier this year 2019 David wrote to me:

I am officially retired but still very busy with some academic activities at the School of Public Health (teaching, research, writing) I founded in Cape Town as well as very active in health civil society, organising around the same inequities and unnecessary illness you seem to refer to. You may be interested in viewing the website of an organisation I work in and which I helped found (www.phmovement.org)



Health for All Now!

People's Health Movement

Founding member of PMH 2000

David Sanders (1945-2019) : An inspiration in the struggle of Health for All.



Pediatrician and Emeritus Professor

Head of School of Public Health at Univ of Western Cape 1993-2009

2012 Awarded Hon Doctorate by UCT

Author of many articles, 3 books. Worked extensively with governments, WHO, UNICEF and other agencies in child health, nutrition and health human resources.

Farewell Friend.....



- You will be missed by so many
- You touched so many hearts
- You gave a lot in your kindness - to your patients.
- David, thank you for being the friend that you were and for being who you were
- The world is less of a place without you
- Our condolences to Sue and the family –
know that you are in our thoughts and prayers



DEATH LEAVES A HEARTACHE
NO ONE CAN HEAL,
LOVE LEAVES
A MEMORY
*no one can
steal.*

GOD BLESS
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti
Peace Peace Peace