

Dr Vijayasarathi Ramanathan

MBBS, MMed-STI/HIV, GDip-SexHlth, PhD, GCert-HighEd, DipCoun, FECSM, FHEA

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SUMMARY

To-date, I proudly hold **triple postgraduate qualifications** in sexual health medicine from the University of Sydney (USyd), Australia and an undergraduate **degree in medicine and surgery** from India. I am a **Fellow** with the European Society for Sexual Medicine and the Higher Education Academy (UK). My 15 years (and counting) of interdisciplinary clinical practice in sexual health spans across India (as a **consultant in sexual medicine**) and Australia (as a **psychosexual therapist**). Since 2017, have been working as a **Lecturer in Sexual Health (Sexology)** with the Faculty of Medicine (USyd) in both teaching and research capacities. For about 14 years (2006-2013, 2015-2022), I have worked as a **Project Officer & Manager** in various primary healthcare initiatives funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government. In 2015, completed a first-of-its-kind **doctoral research** on sexuality of Indian migrant men living in Australia. Have passion for **sexual health promotion** by means of designing and delivering educational activities for multidisciplinary healthcare professionals.

QUALIFICATIONS

2021: **Diploma in Counselling**, Australian Institute of Professional Counsellors
2018: **Graduate Certificate in Higher Education**, The University of Sydney
2013: **Doctorate in Philosophy**, The University of Sydney
2007: **Graduate Diploma in Sexual Health**, The University of Sydney
2006: **Master's in Medicine-STI/HIV**, The University of Sydney
2003: **Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery**, TN Dr MGR Medical University, India

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, UK [2018]
Fellow of the European Committee of Sexual Medicine [2014]

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

APRIL 2022 – PRESENT

Director – Research & Development, BloomLife Hospital, Chennai, India

JANUARY 2017 – PRESENT

Lecturer in Sexual Health (Sexology), The University of Sydney

AUGUST 2013 – PRESENT

Consultant in Sexual Medicine, Integrated Sexual Health, BloomLife Hospital, India

JUNE 2007 – PRESENT

Psychosexual Therapist & Educator, Integrated Sexual Healthcare, Australia

PAST EMPLOYMENT

JUNE 2015 – MARCH 2022

Educational Visitor, National Prescribing Service

Provide academic detailing on quality use of medicines and diagnostics to general practitioners, practice nurses and pharmacists. Website: www.nps.org.au

FEBRUARY 2015 – AUGUST 2015

Transition Coordinator, Eastern Sydney Medicare Local.

JUNE 2013 – JANUARY 2015

Medical Director, Bloom Hospital [India]

NOVEMBER 2006 – MAY 2013

Programs Coordinator & Project Officer, Inner West Sydney Medicare Local.

[Now called as Central & Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network]

KEY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AREA

CLINICAL:

- Obtained triple postgraduate qualifications in sexual health, including a PhD, from one of the renowned higher educational institutions in the world (i.e USyd).
- Continue to deliver sexual medicine services, via e-health platform, for patients in India
- Lead a multidisciplinary team (Gynaecologists, Physiotherapists and Psychologists) in a tertiary multispecialty hospital in India to deliver sexual healthcare services
- Continue to practice as an accredited psychosexual therapist in 2 Sydney-based private practices alongside general practitioners.
- Offer clinical mentorship and supervision to budding sexologists
- Design and deliver practice-informed clinical training programs for medical and allied healthcare professionals, both in Australia and India

TEACHING

- Teaching staff in the [Postgraduate Program in Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) (PGPSRH) at the USyd in varying capacities for over 5 years.
- Unit of Study Coordinator and teaching staff for a major unit in the Psychosexual Pathway called SEXH5404 – Variations in Sexual Function.
- Unit of Study Coordinator and teaching staff for the capstone unit for the whole of PGPSRH (all pathways) called SEXH5406 – Professional Practice.
- Ability to offer a highly structured practice-based educational intervention (i.e academic detailing) on various health topics to time constraint general practitioners.

RESEACRCH, SUPERVISION & GOVERNANCE:

- Successfully completed a master's level research project and doctoral research involving mixed methodology
- Have published my research work in reputed peer-reviewed journals
- Trained and approved supervisor for students undertaking Higher Degree by Research and currently being listed on the USyd/FMH website
- Have supervised one MD student project and a minimum of 2 Advanced Masters students in each semester since 2021
- Got recently appointed as a co-supervisor of a doctoral student in an external institution.
- Co-lead the recently established research committee of the PGPSRH
- Recently appointed as a Research Director at a multispecialty hospital in India with key strategic (e.g defining the scope of research & development unit, develop standard operating procedures) and operational responsibilities (e.g. establish the institutional ethics committee, facilitate research process in a clinical setting)

PROFESSIONAL TRANING & DEVELOPMENT

- Endorsed **Education Activity Representative** with the **Royal Australian College of General Practitioners** across 3 trienniums and to date have developed over 40 activities.
- Developed and delivered (in 2008-09) an Active Learning Module in Sexual Health, as part of my work at Central Sydney GP Network, which was first of its kind in Australia and the same got published.
- In 2019, developed and delivered a first of its kind short course for Australian primary healthcare professionals in Transgender Health in collaboration with the Albion Centre & T150 Clinic.
- Have successfully developed and delivered a short course in Sexual Medicine, with endorsement of the European Society for Sexual Medicine, specifically tailored to medical practitioners in India.
- Continue to develop and deliver highly structured workshops in sexual health for allied health professionals (of note practicing counsellors) in India.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM:

Australia

Experience gained over 14 years working closely with the members of Australian primary healthcare system in varying capacities (project officer, programs coordinator, NPS facilitator, educational visitor).

India

Have worked a rural doctor and casualty medical officer for about 2 years. As a Medical Director (2013-2015), was able to utilise my Australian project management knowledge and skills in establishing a new tertiary, 45-bedded multispecialty hospital in Chennai, India.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK CHAPTERS (Peer-reviewed)

- Ramanathan, V (2022) Risky Sexual Behaviours. In SR Prabhu (Ed.), Clinical Guide to Sexually transmitted oral diseases for dental practice, 5e. Melbourne: Wiley Publications
- Ramanathan, V. (2019) Management of male sexual dysfunction. In AP Reddy & Agarwal R (Eds.), Decision making in infertility (First ed., pp. 256-257). Mumbai: Jaypee Brothers.
- Ramanathan, V. (2019) Management of unconsummated marriage and vaginismus. In AP Reddy & Agarwal R (Eds.), Decision making in infertility (First ed., pp. 258-259). Mumbai: Jaypee Brothers.
- Ramanathan, V., & Weerakoon, P. (2012). Sexuality in India: Ancient beliefs, present day problems and future approaches to management. In K. Hall & C. Graham (Eds.), The Cultural Context of Sexual Pleasure and Problems: Psychotherapy with Diverse Clients (First ed., pp. 172-196). New York: Routledge.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (Selected)

- Ramanathan, V., Gautham, K., & Ramasubramaniam, U. (2022). Common pitfalls in the management of vaginismus in couples with sub-fertility in India. *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, 4(2):133-137.
- Ramanathan, V., & Redelman, M. (2020). Sexual dysfunctions and sex therapy: The role of a general practitioner. *Australian Journal of General Practice*, 49(7), 412.
- Ramanathan, V. (2015). Values, behaviour and identity: Acculturation of Indian immigrant men in Australia. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*, 16(3), 625-638.
- Ramanathan, V., & Sitharthan, G. (2014). Safe sex practices of Indian immigrant men living in Australia: An exploratory research. *Indian journal of public health*, 58(4), 274.
- Ramanathan, V., Sitharthan, G., Pepper, K., & Wylie, K. (2014). Masturbatory behavior and feelings: an exploratory study of Indian immigrant men in Australia. *International Journal of Sexual Health*, 26(1), 25-40.
- Ramanathan, V., Sitharthan, G., Pepper, K., & Wylie, K. (2013). Sexual health of Indian immigrant men in Australia: an exploratory research on help-seeking attitudes. *Sexual health*, 10(4), 380-381.
- Ramanathan, V. (2009). Sexual health and GP professional development. *Australian Journal of General Practice*, 38(4), 185.
- Ramanathan, V., Furner, V., Jeganathan, S., Lagios, K., Kang, M., & Jackson, E. (2006). *Accessibility and acceptability of public sexual health clinics for adult clients in New South Wales, Australia*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND MEMBERSHIP

International

Member & Fellow - European Society of Sexual Medicine

Member - International Academy of Sex Research

Australia

Accredited Clinical Psychosexual Therapist & Educator – Society of Australian Sexologists

Professional member – Australian Society for Sex Educators, Researchers and Therapists

Member (Level 1) – Australian Counselling Association

India

Member - Indian Medical Association

Member - Council for Sex Education and Parenthood International (India)

Member - Family Planning Association of India

Member – Indian Society for Assisted Reproduction

REFEREES

Dr Michael Lowy

Men's Health Physician,

Sydney Men's Health – Sydney, Australia

Dr Kavitha Gautham

Obstetrics & Gynaecologist,

BloomLife Hospital - Chennai, India

(Contact details to be provided at request)

DECLARATION

Information provided above is true and accurate.



Digitally signed on 19 Sep 2022