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# Obituary

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**Tamirisa Venkateswarlu**, formerly Consultant Psychogeriatrician, St Anne's Centre, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

Dr Venkateswarlu, known to his friends as Tom Venkat was born in Andhrapradesh, South India, on the 4 July 1941, and died suddenly on the 28 March 1997.

He studied medicine at Angaraya Medical College in South India and graduated MBBS in 1965. After deciding on a career in psychiatry, in England, he gained the DPM of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of both London and Dublin. He was elected MRCPsych in 1974 and proceeded to the Fellowship in 1992. His senior appointments in psychiatry were as Senior Registrar at the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley Hospitals from 1975 to 1978 and thereafter as Consultant to Hastings Health Authority.

Tom Venkat was a charming, wise man who was committed to the services of older people. When he took up his post 19 years ago there was no service for the elderly mentally ill in the Hastings Health District. All there were, were himself, his secretary and a caravan!

From this humble beginning Tom went on to develop what is now one of the best services for the elderly mentally ill in the region; thanks to three of his unique attributes – vision, determination and commitment.

As a clinician Tom was highly regarded by all – his patients, his colleagues and the relatives of patients under his care. On learning of Tom's death one of his former patients had remarked "Dr Venkat was a consultant but he held my hand and walked alongside me down the slope to the ward so I would not fall".

Tom was as good a teacher as he was a clinician. As a tribute to him one of his trainees, now a consultant, had remarked "I shall remember Tom with great warmth. It was my time at St Anne's that inspired me to go on to become a Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry." A professor of a London teaching hospital wrote "It was always a pleasure to work with him, and in my view he provided quite simply the best higher training placement in Old Age Psychiatry that I know of . . .". Tom had been an active member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and had served on several committees.

Tom was at the peak of his career when his life came to an abrupt end. He will be missed by us all, his family, his wife, Joan, and his son Robert.

ISAAC KUNGURU MUTIBOKO

## **The deaths of the following have also been reported:**

KARL WOLFGANG ARON (retired), St Edeyrns Road, Cardiff

JAMES HENDERSON BROWN, formally of Grace General Hospital, Winnipeg, Canada

MURRAY NEWELL COX, Broadmoor Hospital, Berkshire

MARGARET DAVENPORT, formally of Tameside General Hospital, Cheltenham

RALPH EMERY (retired), Guildford, Surrey

FREDERICK JUSTUS SWINTON ESHER, formally of Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield

PAUL FARRINGTON FINALYSON, Hornsby Hospital, New South Wales, Australia

MARIAN WATLING HAMILTON, Beaumaris, Anglesey, Gwynned

LEE KERR HOLLAND, Farndon Road, Oxford

CHARLES BAPTISA XAVIER, Queensway General Hospital, Etobicoke, Ontario

MICHAEL JAMES KEHOE, Mobile, Alabama