



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE  
[June 19, 2020; 12:00 pm Eastern]

CONTACT: SIRS, (615) 324-2370  
[info@schizophreniaresearchsociety.org](mailto:info@schizophreniaresearchsociety.org)

## **Rangaswamy Thara Receives the SIRS 2020 Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award**



The Schizophrenia International Research Society has named Rangaswamy Thara, Ph.D., FRCPsych, the 2020 Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Awardee. Dr. Thara is a psychiatrist by training and the co-Founder of SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation), located in the city of Chennai in Tamil Nadu, India. SCARF is a Collaborating Centre of the WHO for mental health research.

After receiving her Ph.D. at Madras University on the subject of disability in schizophrenia, she passionately lobbied for the inclusion of mental disability in the Indian Disabilities Act and was largely instrumental in the development of IDEAS, a measuring tool used to measure disability in mental disorders. Her prominent piece of research is the Madras Longitudinal Study, a 35-year follow-up of an incidence schizophrenia sample. Dr. Thara pioneered the use of mobile tele psychiatry to deliver high quality care for schizophrenia in resource-less rural communities, which is now serving more than 1,500 patients.

Dr. Thara has been largely instrumental in forging collaborations with premier institutions around the world. She is on the Advisory Committee to the Director General of the World Health Organization, Geneva and was a member of the Institute Body of NIMMHANS. In 2012, Dr. Thara was awarded the President's Gold Medal from the Royal College, UK and in 2014, the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, UK. She has served on the Editorial Board of numerous reputable journals, including Schizophrenia Bulletin. She participated in many International Meetings around the world in the last 35 years and has authored over 180 research publications.

Dr. Rangaswamy Thara will receive the 2020 Outstanding Clinical and Community Research Award at the 2021 Congress of the Schizophrenia International Research Society in Toronto, Canada.

**Media contact:** Tricia Sullivan at ([info@schizophreniaresearchsociety.org](mailto:info@schizophreniaresearchsociety.org); 615-324-2370)

*The Schizophrenia International Research Society (SIRS) was founded in 2005 with the goal of bringing together scientists from around the world to exchange the latest advances in biological and psychosocial research in schizophrenia. The Society is dedicated to facilitating international collaboration to discover the causes of, and better treatments for, schizophrenia and related disorders. Part of the mission of the Society is to promote educational programs about the latest findings in schizophrenia research, to effectively disseminate them worldwide, and to expedite the publication of new research.*