

In History

Medical Personality of the week

The Sherlock Holmes of Neuroscience

Prof. Dr. Vilayanur S. Ramachandran

Born on- August 10, 1951

Indian Neuroscientist

His Contributions...

- Prof. Dr. Ramachandran was born in Tamil Nadu. He has done his medical studies at Stanley Medical College, Chennai and later completed his PhD at Trinity College, Cambridge.
- After completion of his studies, he got appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of California, San Diego in 1983 and subsequently promoted to a Professor in 1998.
- In fact, he is well-known for his optimal performance in Behavioral neurology and visual perception.
- He further did his groundbreaking research on Phantom limbs and invented a "Mirror Box"- the mirror visual feedback (mirror therapy) as a treatment for phantom limb paralysis.
- Moreover, he was recognized as one of the first scientists, who conducted research by using Functional MRI for Color Synesthesia which arises from cross-activation between brain regions.
- He also researched the fascinating role of Mirror Neurons, which explains the various human mental abilities such as empathy, imitation learning and evolution of language.
- Thereby, he declared that "Mirror neurons will do for psychology what DNA did for biology".
- Furthermore, he was the first to publish the "Apotemnophilia" (Body Integrity Dysphoria) as a neurological disorder caused by damage to the right parietal lobe of the brain and the neural basis of Capgras delusion.
- He has published more than 200 research articles in neuropsychology and he is well-known for his following best-selling books
- Phantoms in the Brain (1998)
- Encyclopedia of the Human Brain (2002)
- The Emerging Mind (2003)





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- A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness (2004)
- The Tell-Tale Brain (2010)
- The Encyclopedia of Human Behavior (2012).
- He has been conferred with two honorary doctorates from Connecticut College in 2001 and the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai in 2004. Also, he received many awards and Fellowships from reputed institutions and societies including
- Ariens Kappers Medal from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences in 1999
- Annual Ramon y Cajal Award from the International Neuropsychiatry Society in 2004
- Henry Dale Medal from the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 2005
- Fellowship from All Souls College, Oxford University
- Fellowship from Stanford University
- The Government of India's third highest civilian award "Padma Bhushan" in 2007
- "Scientist of the Year" from the ARCS Foundation (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists), the United States in 2014
- Besides, he is very fascinated by Paleontology. While he was a young boy, he used to collect sea shells and fossils and send his findings to the American Museum of Natural History. He has shown interest to unearth the rareties that are needed for the museum.
- Indeed, he purchased the skull fossil of a dinosaur for \$10,000 and donated it to the Victor Valley Museum, California in 2009. To honor his work, that Dinosaur was given the name "Minotaurasaurus ramachandrani".
- Eventually, his consistent performance promoted him to the present post of Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California and an adjunct Professor at the Salk Institute.
- Prof. Dr Ramachandran is a mesmerizing speaker, who delivers lectures on neuroscience connecting psychologically and philosophically in a simple way. His meticulous role in medicine made him recognized as "A latter-day Marco Polo of Neuroscience" and as "The Modern Paul Broca".

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