



Smt. Kamal Satbir Award was instituted in 1987 by Commodore Satbir in memory of his wife. It is offered to individuals for outstanding contributions in the field of non-tuberculous Chest Diseases, especially Respiratory Allergy and Chronic Obstructive Lung Diseases.

The award for 2006 is being presented to Dr. Balamugesh Thangakunam, Consultant, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore for his research work on “Lung cancer in women”.

Dr. Thangakunam has conducted research to study risk factors of lung cancer in women, since smoking alone does not explain this condition in women. The study had very important findings, leading to an awareness of the harmful effects of biomass fuel. Indoor air pollution especially biomass fuel exposure (74.6%), was found to have strong association to lung cancer since a high percentage of Indian women in the study were non smokers. This information is not only important for physicians but also has a great implication for improvement of public health, in terms of having good housing facilities with better-ventilated kitchens and use of smokeless chimneys. These interventions could be effective means of reducing the risk of lung cancer in Indian women.