about 100 feet away. He studied the social order in the various species of animals he came across—namely, the bands of Srirangam’s roaming monkeys, the roadside goats, chicken, pigs, donkeys; as well as chameleons, salamanders, frogs, toads, spiders, insects, millipedes, snails and slugs etc. in the family garden. He authenticated his observations with the two encyclopedias his family possessed. He could recall the sections, line numbers and page numbers that referred to the strangest habits from the Aardvark to the Zebra!

He gained admission into one of the two most competitive medical schools in India at the time: Jawaharlal Institute of Post-graduate Medicine and Research (JIPMER). He graduated in 1989 with a MBBS (MD equivalent) and in 1994 with a MD (board certification) in Psychiatry. He was universally popular during his JIPMER days. He led friends on early morning nature walks, liked to swim in the Bay of Bengal and went for long jogs. He was a trained singer with a melodious voice and often performed on stage. After moving to the USA, he completed his US Psychiatry residency program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, graduating in 2000 with Fellowships in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Addictions Psychiatry. He was triple boarded in Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Addictions Psychiatry.

Shreeram was a devoted husband and doted on his two adorable boys, 6 and 2 years old, actively participating in their activities and interests. He also made it a priority to host his extended family and friends at his hospitable home, even during their work visits to DC. Many considered Shreeram to be their ‘best’ friend!
Srirangam S. Shreeram (Shree), aged 42, was a deeply honest and kind human who touched innumerable lives with his warmth, affection, respect and consideration. He was an outstanding psychiatrist beloved by his patients, resident trainees and colleagues who looked up to his knowledge, analytical reasoning, dedication and compassion. His family and friends adored him for his unwavering sense of responsibility, for his objectivity, calmness, thoughtfulness and intelligence, and for his willingness to always lend a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on.

Shreeram practiced as a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Addiction Psychiatrist in Washington, DC. He was the Associate Director of Psychiatry Residency Training at Saint Elizabeths Hospital, stepping down after having revitalized the residency program as the Director. In addition, he participated in research at the National Institute of Mental Health, MD and served as a consultant psychiatrist at Capital Clinical Research Associates, MD.

Shreeram was born in February, 1967 as the second child of Dr. Pankajam and Dr. S.V.S. Rao of Srirangam, Tamil Nadu, India. His childhood was close to being idyllic. Shreeram and his sister Meera were largely left to their own devices, free to roam, savor and explore their environment at their own pace. Their parents, physicians committed to treating the poor, worked long hours and trusted the town to raise the kids, which was possible in the 60's and 70's in a town like Srirangam. Their parents and other caring relatives, neighbors, teachers, friends, employees and patients gave them time, affection, encouragement, intellectually stimulating environments, constant exposure to diverse types of people and many different role models.

Shreeram was a nature lover, like his father and sister. Tropical Srirangam is a river island surrounded by paddy fields, mango, coconut and plantain groves and had a huge variety of song birds and wading birds. He and his sister had a series of pets, including unusual ones. Shreeram studied them minutely. His capacity for detailed observation was evident right from his childhood. He could listen, identify and locate 15 birdsongs at the same time. Just a momentary glimpse of a wing in flight with his bare eyes was sufficient for him to identify the bird: Drongo at 1 o'clock from north, about 30 feet high,