

## Vilayanur S. Ramachandran MD, PhD

V.S. Ramachandran is Director of the Center for Brain and Cognition and Professor with the Psychology Department and Neurosciences Program at the University of California, San Diego, and Adjunct Professor of Biology at the Salk Institute. Ramachandran initially trained as a doctor and subsequently obtained a Ph.D. from Trinity College at the University of Cambridge. Ramachandran's early work was on visual perception but he is best known for his experiments in behavioral neurology which, despite their apparent simplicity, have had a profound impact on the way we think about the brain. He has been called "The Marco Polo of neuroscience" by Richard Dawkins and "The modern Paul Broca" by Eric Kandel.



In 2005 he was awarded the Henry Dale Medal and elected to an honorary life fellowship by the Royal Institution of Great Britain. His other honours and awards include fellowships from All Souls College, Oxford, and from Stanford University; the Presidential Lecture Award from the American Academy of Neurology, two honorary doctorates, the annual Ramon Y Cajal award from the International Neuropsychiatry Society, and the Ariens-Kappers medal from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. In 2003 he gave the annual BBC Reith lectures and was the first physician/psychologist to give the lectures since they were begun by Bertrand Russell in 1949. In 1995 he gave the Decade of the Brain lecture at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual (Silver Jubilee) meeting of the Society for Neuroscience. Most recently the President of India conferred on him the second highest civilian award and honorific title in India, the Padma Bhushan.

Ramachandran has published over 180 papers in scientific journals (including five invited review articles in the *Scientific American*). He is author of the acclaimed book "Phantoms in the Brain" that has been translated into nine languages and formed the basis for a two part series on Channel Four TV (UK) and a 1 hour PBS special in USA. *NEWSWEEK* magazine has named him a member of "The Century Club" – one of the "hundred most prominent people to watch in the next century."

### Recent Reviews

*A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness; BBC Reith Lectures.* New York: Pi Press, 2004

"Vintage Ramachandran, packed with ideas that are bold, irreverent, original, and ingenious. People who have never thought much about the brain will be intrigued, but so will those who, like me, have spent most of their lives thinking about the brain."

-David Hubel, Nobel Laureate, Harvard University, author of *Eye, Brain, and Vision*

"An extraordinary book by a remarkable scientist! Ramachandran is ... the modern Paul Broca, the great French neurologist who opened up the biological analysis of higher mental functions."

-Eric R. Kandel, M.D., Nobel Laureate, Columbia University

“The Marco Polo of neuroscience.”

-Richard Dawkins, Oxford University, author of *The Blind*

*Phantoms in the Brain*. New York: William Morrow, 1998.

“The patients he describes are fascinating and his experiments on them are both simple and ingenious. If you are at all interested in how your brain works, this is the book you must read.”

-Francis Crick, Nobel Laureate, Salk Institute

“...Enthralling not only for its clear and eloquent descriptions of neurological phenomena but also for its portrait of Dr. Ramachandran, a scientist in search of the secrets of the mind...and he is a splendid subject indeed.”

-Michael Goldberg, M.D., Chief of Neuropsychology NIH