

# Conquerer of all quarters

Chandreyee Bhaumik

“On February 27, 2011, while getting ready to go for a party, sheer intuition made me examine my left breast, and to my utter horror, I felt a lump. I decided not to press the panic button. I was 42-years-old then

and a beautiful life lay ahead of me.” These are not the lines from any inspirational book but are the pages from Dr Mary Francis’s life. Dr Francis had never lost hope in whatever she did and this time was not an exception. Next morning she

Prioritising responsibilities in life is the way to maintain a perfect work-life balance. Dr Mary Francis has never allowed the two worlds to overlap. Here is the journey of a true winner who has battled against all professional and personal odds to emerge successful.

consulted her best friend Dr Aparna. Dr Francis continues, “She too did my breast examination and took me for Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC) tests to

check the malignancy. The reports showed what I feared the most. I tested positive for duct carcinoma, epithelial malignancy on my left breast.”

### A brave heart

Fifteen years of marriage - a loving husband Biju Francis, a ten-year-old son, Bryan, and a circle of close relatives and friends made her life perfect. Determination and strength of mind together with God’s help and family’s prayers were enough to bravely face this trauma. She boosted her spirits by reading books and articles on the

power of positive thinking. She went for movies, shopping and get-togethers. She says, “After my third chemotherapy and getting a green signal from my doctors, I went on an official trip to France for four days, followed by other business trips to Hyderabad, Delhi and Kerala.”

### Then and now

Born on December 13, 1968, Dr Francis has always been focussed in life. After earning her doctorate in Analytical Chemistry, within a span of 10 years, she had reached from the position of an analyst to Assistant Director of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Laboratory, a sister concern of Ramnarain Ruia College. Later, she was heading the clinical research projects of the Indian region for Pliva. She says, “I was also the CEO of AceBiomed. My ambition was to become an entrepreneur in the clinical research field. With this in mind I set up Jovis Clinical Research Pvt Ltd. Apart from this I have my own training institute - CRIMSON. Other than all these, I am also the CEO of Mascot Spincontrol Pvt Ltd.”

With time Dr Francis has realised that God has made her an instrument to serve others. She says, “I decided to share my experiences to the needy patients as a counselor and help others in whatever way I can. On these lines, at the Oncology Day Care centre, where I was undergoing chemotherapy, I started soothing the fears of the patients lying on the next beds.”

Dr Francis is an innovative thinker, with broad-based expertise in operation, finance, and business development. She has proven her ability to quickly analyse key business drivers and develop strategies to grow the bottom line. She is visionary and goal oriented, with demonstrated experience in planning, developing and implementing result-oriented solutions for business opportunities.

### Feminism?

Dr Francis says, “I am proud to be a woman. Along with the society, it is a

### Quick bytes

- Inspirational figure: Mother Teresa and in the industry Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. But the main inspirational figure was my Dad
- Believe in: Money is not the only thing in life. Concentrate in your work and money will come in
- Success: Hard work
- Motherhood: Every woman should be a mother. It is challenging
- Areas of interest: Sports (particularly cricket and football)
- Culinary skills: French fries
- Regret: I do not have any regrets but I wish I had done a management course from a management school
- Shopaholic: Whenever I am down I go to the mall and start shopping. I love spending money. If I love anything I just pick it up
- Priciest possession: My son

male-dominated industry. But women can do multi-tasking better than men because God has given us the ability to face any situation.” Dr Francis reiterates, “Feminism to me is a mother, wife, and daughter. To be a female is not an easy task at all.”

### Three men in her life

Dr Francis is fortunate to share a wonderful relation with three men. She says, “We are coming from a conservative South Indian family and a woman gets married after she is 18 years. But my father was keen that I study. There was an agreement between me and my father that after I complete my PhD, get a job and then get married. My husband was a marine engineer. So, at that time I was taking care of my parents, my married life. Then came my son. We are extremely close to each other.” While parting she quotes Anne Frank, “I do not think of all the misery but of the beauty that still remains...!” **(MFB)**

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### Photographer’s take:

Dr Francis’s most passionate moments are spent in teaching and interacting with her students at her alma mater, Ruia College.



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