



Christian Medical College Vellore

NEWSLINE

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Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1

Dr. Antony Devasia Retires



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Situations Vacant

Dr. Antony Devasia superannuated from Christian Medical College Vellore as a Senior Professor of Urology on 6th August, 2023 after 33 years of exemplary service.

Dr. Antony is an alumnus of the CMC MBBS batch of 1976. An avid sportsman, he was the captain of the badminton team during his undergraduate days and Findlay house captain. On completion of his MBBS he volunteered to work with Mother Teresa in Kolkota, stayed with the brothers and provided medical care at various homes including Kalighat - home for the dying. Following his M.S. General Surgery in 1988 at CMC, he spent 3 years at the Padhar hospital in Madhya Pradesh where he developed an interest in Urology. In 1991, he joined Urology in CMC as a non PG registrar and has been associated with the department since then. After completing his training he worked in Urology Unit -I with Dr. Pandey. During his study leave, he spent three years at the Freeman Hospital at Newcastle upon Tyne UK, and obtained the FRCS (Urology). In 2001 he was inducted as ad hominem fellow of the royal college of surgeons, Edinburgh.

He became Professor in 2005 and in 2008, he took over as the head of Urology Unit-I. Following a sabbatical in Kuwait as a Senior Transplant Consultant, he rejoined the department as the head from 2013 to 2018. Then he stayed on in the department, contributing actively to all clinical, academic and research activities. He continues to be an examiner for the FRCS (Urol international) conducted by the joint surgical fellowship examination board of UK and Ireland. 1

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Dr. Antony Devasia Retires

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The contributions of Dr. Antony has made to the field of Urology through his work and publications in reputed national and international journals, have garnered recognition from the Urological community. His original publications covered a wide range of topics, from uro-oncology to endourology and transplantation and he has been a reviewer for top international journals in Urology. A senior training fellowship at the Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine in Winston Salem, North Carolina triggered his interest in tissue reconstruction from urine derived stem cells. In collaboration with the PMR department he continued this work at Vellore.

Dr. Antony's patient care has always been a superb example to all the trainees in the department. This is evidenced by the long list of patients who have been travelling from distant places over the years just to come and see him. His excellent listening skills combined with the empathetic tone of voice, are truly remarkable and leave a lasting impression. This is true from the first patient in the OPD to the last one of the day. He remembers his patients from years ago, fondly recalling their names and the treatment he prescribed them. It is no wonder that patients see his sincerity and prolong their stay in Vellore when he is on leave, just to meet him. His method of reassuring anxious patients who are fearful of surgery by making them meet those who have already undergone the same procedure goes a long way in giving them confidence. He manages to draw the fine line between over and under-intervention with ease. For trainees, his insights and anecdotes are a gold mine of learning.

Although Dr. Antony is from an era when Urologists were jack-of-all-trades and mastered them all, he found himself drawn to the world of complex procedures related to Oncology, Transplant and Endo- Urology. His meticulous planning, operative techniques, attention to detail, unparalleled patience while dissecting the trickiest of anatomical terrains, and an enormous reserve of physical and mental stamina made him the ideal surgeon for these demanding surgeries. He was fond of performing orthotopic neo-bladders after radical cystectomy and, with his modifications; his patients reported excellent quality of life following this complicated surgery.

Beyond his clinical and surgical expertise, Dr. Antony's passion for training and mentorship shone through his role as a faculty member. Throughout his career in the department, he mentored and nurtured numerous postgraduate trainees, shaping the next generation of Urologists in the country. Many of the relevant research topics that he proposed and guided for his thesis candidates have been published in reputed journals. His dedication to education and training has been instrumental in maintaining the institution's position as a centre of excellence in Urological education in the country. Whether in the outpatient clinic or the operating room, Dr. Antony has always found time to say a kind word or two to a resident who needed a moral boost. Even during the most complex of surgeries, or the longest ward rounds, he had the knack of keeping the atmosphere relaxed, giving each person in the room attention and respect for what they contributed to the scene, often sharing funny anecdotes to keep everyone alert.

Dr. Antony is not all work and no play. He has been a tennis and badminton enthusiast, giving campus players less than half his age a run for their money on the court. He has a keen interest in music and has always been an avid reader. This is evident in his frequent references to books of various genres during conversations and the nuggets of general knowledge passed on during long surgeries. He has inspired quite a few of his colleagues and trainees to take up reading.

Apart from his strong faith, Dr. Antony's family life has been an integral part of his life journey. His wife Dr. Anna, a distinguished gastrointestinal pathologist and former Principal of the Christian Medical College, Vellore has been a source of strength and support always. Together, they have two accomplished children, Dr. Diya a dermatologist and Dr. Kirti a radiologist, sons-in-law Dr. Rahul and Dr. Neerav, an orthopedic surgeon and general surgeon respectively, carrying forward the family legacy of medical practice. The adorable Maya, their grand daughter is the new love of his life.

As Dr. Antony embarks on a new path in his life, the department fondly remembers his remarkable contributions to the field of Urology and Urological training at the Christian Medical College. His unwavering commitment to patient care, research, and mentorship has left an enduring impact. In tribute to a distinguished career filled with compassion, dedication, and innovation, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes for his future.

CME on Learning Disorders in Children

The Department of Continuing Medical Education and Developmental Paediatrics Unit organised a **CME on Learning Disorders in Children** on 22nd July, 2023.

The CME was moderated by Dr. Samuel P. Oommen, Professor and Head of the Developmental Paediatrics Unit. Dr. Srinivasaraghavan, Associate Professor, Developmental Paediatrics Unit, stressed the need to distinguish between different causes for poor scholastic ranging from intellectual disability to specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia. Mrs. Hannah Grace, Psychologist, discussed the application of tools and scales for the evaluation of such children.



Mrs. Anu Abraham explained how difficulties in visual perception could translate into deficits in reading, writing, and mathematics, and suggested remedial measures. In the final talk, Mrs. Aishwarya, Special Educator from Fun Learning, Hyderabad, explained the role of the teacher in identifying and supporting children with intellectual disability, slow learning, and specific learning disability.

We thank all the speakers for their valuable contributions to this academic venture, the participants from across the country, and the Telemedicine Department for their technical support in organising this event.

CME on Neonatology



The Departments of Neonatology and Continuing Medical Education organized a **CME on Neonatology** on 29th July 2023. Dr. Mintoo M. Tergestina welcomed the participants, providing an overview of the academic programme. Dr. Tirumalasetty Paramesh summarised the principles of essential newborn care.

Dr. Muhamed Shabeer explained the principles guiding the feeding of preterm and low birth weight babies, including guidelines for human milk fortification, vitamin supplements, and management of hypoglycemia. Dr. Jesinth Mohan from Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram explained the need to appropriately manage neonatal jaundice, in order to prevent long-term neurological sequelae. Dr. Neethu Rajeev highlighted the distinctive features of seizures in neonates, the diagnostic approach, and management. Dr. Shafini Beryl from Baptist Hospital, Tezpur, explained the scoring of respiratory distress, evaluation, and management. Dr. Ranjitha provided a comprehensive overview of the management and prevention of neonatal sepsis.

We thank Dr. Anil Kuruvilla, Dr. Mintoo M. Tergestina, and all the speakers for the efforts taken for this programme and the Telemedicine Department for their technical support.

Session for Staff Children "How to face an interview"

A Session for Staff Children "How to face an interview" was organised by the Personnel Department for two days on 27th and 28th July, 2023. A total of 73 students took part in the session. The sessions were held between 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. The session was conducted in view of the upcoming interview for the staff children who have completed 12th standard and have cleared their entrance exam in CMC successfully. They have been selected for the interview (both Nursing and AHS courses).

There were sessions on choosing the course, history of CMC, dress code, general advice and tips on facing an interview successfully. The resource faculty were Dr. Ezhil Christudoss, former Principal, Voorhees College, Prof. T.S. Ravikumar, College of Nursing (retired), Mr. Durai Jasper, Deputy General Superintendent, Mrs. Sonia Valas, Deputy General Superintendent, Mr. Ashok P. Davis, Personnel Manager (retired) also gave their inputs. The Students found these sessions to be highly informative as it is the season of interview, choosing the career to achieve their goals.



August 06 - 12, 2023

Special Prayers This Week

Division of Surgery : Dr. Inian S. and Staff
Dr. Cecil Thankachan Thomas and Staff
Dr. Mark Ranjan Jesudason and Staff
Dr. Suchita Chase and Staff
Dr. Amit Jiwan Tirkey and Staff
Dr. Sheela Durai and Staff

Endocrine Surgery : Dr. Paul M.J. and Staff

Surgical ICU : Dr. Subramani K. and Staff

Hepato Pancreato Biliary Surgery (HPB) : Dr. Ravish Sanghi Raju and Staff

Vascular Surgery : Dr. Dheepak Selvaraj A. and Staff

Trauma Surgery : Dr. Sukria Nayak and Staff

Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital, Kotagiri.



Welcome

- **Dr. Regi Thomas**, Professor, ENT Unit - I, on his return from sabbatical leave.
- **Dr. Arun Jacob Philip George**, Professor, Urology Unit - III, on his return from study leave.
- **Dr. Sanita Korah**, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, on her return from sabbatical leave.

Laurels and Recognitions

- **Dr. D.J. Christopher**, Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, on being appointed as 'Chairperson' of ICMR - National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis - Scientific Advisory Committee) SAC.
- The following candidates who were successful in the **Postgraduate M.Sc. Examination May 2023 session (M.Sc. Epidemiology and Medical Physics – University results published on 26.07.2023)**.

M.Sc. Medical Physics :

Part-II **Mr. Haridharan S.**
Ms. Shalin Udaya U.

M.Sc. Epidemiology :

Part-II **Ms. Sentikumla Longkumer**

Retirement

Mr. Jackson, Medical Lab Technician voluntarily retired on 30th June, 2023 after 25 years of services to the institution. He Joined the department in 1st July 1998, in Schell Campus Lab. Mr. Jackson was known for his forthrightness and his active participation in all department activities. He was able to identify poor or destitute patients who needed additional help and would do so. His compassion extended to animals too and he has rehabilitated birds and squirrels. He was enthusiastic in team building and would give his opinion on how LCECU should progress in future. He was an avid badminton player and often played with colleagues from the Ophthalmology Department and LCECU on the Schell Campus.



His wife, Mrs. Subhashini is a Nurse working in UK. His elder son is studying in BOT in SRM College and younger son is studying 10th Standard in Ida Scudder School.

The CMC community is thankful for his years of dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes him 5 God's blessings on his retired life.

Obituaries

• **Dr. Thomas Varghese**, father of Dr. Regi Thomas, Department of ENT, grandfather of Dr. Zachariah Thomas (Junior Resident), Dr. Abiel Thomas (Intern) and Judah Thomas, passed away on 31st July, 2023. Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

• **Mr. Jeromiah M.J.**, husband of Mrs. Rosalit Jeromiah, Multipurpose Health Worker, Plastic Surgery OR, passed away on 4th August, 2023. Let us uphold his wife, Mrs. Rosalit Jeromiah, son, daughters and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

Sports News

• **The Badminton Club, CMC, Vellore, conducts the First Golden Racquet Members' Badminton Ranking Tournament.**

The tournament was organised exclusively for the club members of the Badminton Club, Oval, CMC Vellore. Around 50 members actively participated in the event held from 17th to 22nd July, 2023. The various categories included Men's singles, Men's doubles, Women's singles and Mixed doubles. The finals were held on 22nd July, 2023. Dr. Antony Devasia, Senior Professor, Department of Urology, who is also an avid badminton player, was the chief guest for the occasion. All the prize winners were felicitated.

The winners were:

Men's singles :

1. Mohammed Ameer K. (Gastroenterology)
2. Pranav S.J. (1st year MBBS).

Women's singles :

1. Reshma Angeline R. (Occupational Therapy), 2. Hannah Claris J. (2nd year MBBS).

Men's doubles:

1. Joel John (Prosthetics and Orthotic)/ Bibin Mathai (GS office)
2. M Stalin (PMR) / M. Praveen Kumar (Bioengineering).

Mixed doubles:

1. Bibin Mathai (GS office)/ Sharanya M (Physiotherapy)
2. C. Sasi Kumar (Medical Records) / Sheetal Devdas (Nephrology)

The Managing Committee would like to thank all the organizers and participants for successfully conducting the tournament.



• Badminton Coaching for CMC Staff Kids :

The Badminton Club (Oval Ground, CMC, Bagayam Campus) announces the start of badminton coaching for staff children aged 6 – 15 years at the Badminton Club from the 3rd of August 2023 onwards. Coaching is available for juniors (8 years and below) / beginners on Mondays and Thursdays and for seniors (9 years and above) / advanced on Tuesdays and Fridays between 5 pm and 7 pm (in 2 batches). You can use the following Google Form link to register (<https://forms.gle/cVzJWjtVXCmCdJyi7>).

For further details, contact the managing committee members :

(Dr. Latif: 9488484161; Dr. Balu Krishna: 9626262296; Dr. Joe Varghese: 9843243682).

Upcoming Events

ALUMNI REUNION 2023

• **Date : Friday, 11th August, 2023. Time : 4.00 pm Venue : Scudder Auditorium, CMC College Campus**



Identifying risk factors for dementia through large-scale, longitudinal, aging cohort studies

Dr. Jonas Suganthan – Batch of 1998



Extracellular Vesicles - Message in a Bottle

Dr. Priya Samuel – Batch of 1995



Interventional pulmonology - rapid fire!.

Dr. Tuhina Raman– Batch of 1993



Tele Critical Care - Beyond the Walls of the ICU

Dr. Sanjay Subramanian – Batch of 1988



Plasma exchange to treat liver failure: The Vellore protocol

Dr. C.E. Eapen – Batch of 1983

Chaired by **Dr. Suceena Alexander**
Addl. Vice Principal – Research, CMC Vellore.

Upcoming Events

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• **Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration on Thursday 10th August 2023 at 6.30 pm in Scudder Auditorium**

Christian Medical College Vellore and the United States based Vellore CMC Foundation partnered to establish the Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration in 2011. The oration seeks to perpetuate the legacy of Dr. Ida Scudder by honouring exceptional individuals who exemplify her compassion, integrity and character. These extraordinary individuals, from different walks of life, inspire others to emulate her dedication to the service of humanity. Previous awardees include Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mrs. Sudha Murty and Mr. Azim Premji.

This year, the 12th Annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration is awarded to **Dr. George Cheriyan**, CEO and Chief Medical Officer of the Kingdom of Bahrain's American Mission Hospital (AMH). AMH was established by medical missionaries sponsored by the Reformed Church in America – the same mission that supported Dr. Ida Scudder. Under Dr. Cheriyan's leadership, AMH has grown from a small charitable mission hospital to become the largest and most modern, private, non-profit, model hospital in Bahrain. Known globally as a ministry of compassion, it offers affordable, high-quality care and strives to preserve wellness and health in the community.

Transport will be arranged for the programme. Three buses for staff and students will leave from KPTR campus at 5.15 pm. One bus from Ranipet campus and another from Town campus (ASHA building) at 5.30 pm. Refreshments will be served before the programme from 5.15 pm onwards at Scudder Auditorium (outside the foyer).

All are welcome!

The event will be livestreamed at this link: <https://bit.ly/Oration2023>

Notice

Institutional Support for Higher Specialty Courses 2023

Invite requests from eligible faculty for institutional support for Higher Specialty courses.

The categories of staff eligible for institutional support are:

- Confirmed faculty.
- Candidates who are eligible for confirmation or completed postgraduate sponsorship obligation
- Candidates eligible for confirmation (worked in the institution as faculty for 3 years) or eligible for sponsorship (worked two years in the mission network or in CMC, but not towards a MCI or University recognized degree or fellowship) and candidates who have completed their postgraduate sponsorship obligation are eligible for institutional support for higher specialty courses in CMC and other approved institutions (see below).

Note: For candidates who are fulfilling service obligation for broad specialty courses in the Institution, the following criteria apply:

Candidates fulfilling broad specialty service obligation in the institution may be allowed to apply and join for higher specialty courses after 2 years of obligation with re-sponsorship after permission from the broad specialty department and acceptance by the higher specialty department for which the candidate is being sponsored. This applies only for higher specialty admissions to CMC and NOT for institutions outside CMC*.

Under special circumstances, to meet institutional needs, the candidate may be re-sponsored for higher specialty course prior to the two-year period (at least one year in the broad specialty is desirable) PROVIDED permission is obtained from the broad specialty where the candidate is doing the obligation AND the higher specialty department to which the candidate is seeking admission AND administrative approval PRIOR to applying for NEET. This applies only for higher specialty admissions to CMC and NOT for institutions outside CMC*.

* In exceptional circumstances for institutional need (particularly if course not in CMC), training in other institutions may be considered (during bond) ONLY with PRIOR approval from admin and broad / higher specialties).

Eligible institutions:

Candidates should carefully select the institution for training. The eligible institutions would be reviewed by the institution every year prior to sponsorship.

Christian Medical College, Vellore

MCI recognised central and state government colleges who have no service obligation

Christian Medical College, Ludhiana

Other Christian Institution with prior approval from Administration.

Last date for sending the request to dir.hr@cmcvellore.ac.in through HOD (both broad specialty and higher specialty) is **31st August 2023**.

Situations Vacant**1. Senior Resident Gr.III with MS (ENT) for the Department of E.N.T. Unit-IV**

Salary scale : As per institutional rules.

Accommodation Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

2. Senior Resident Gr.III with MD (Dermatology) for the Department of Dermatology Unit - II

Salary : As per institutional rules.

Accommodation Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

Applications are to be done only through the online application system.

please log on to <https://www.cmch-vellore.edu/JobVacancy.aspx?jtype=ALL> Link : “Vacancies”.

Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by **August 19, 2023** for Items 1 and 2.

3. Research Assistant for the Department of Paediatric Neurology

Job Code : 1487

Qualification : B. Sc. / M.Sc. / B. Pharm / M. Pharm / Allied Health / Life Sciences.

Specifications : Good Communication Skills in English, Knowledge in MS Office, Experience in Data Entry.

Age : Less than 35 Years.

Salary : As per institutional rules.

Mode of Appointment : Project Mode.

Accommodation not provided.

Applications to be done only through online application system. Please log on to <http://www.cmch-vellore.edu>

Link : General - “Vacancies”. **Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted.**

Applications will close by **August 16, 2023** for Item 3.

4. Graduate Technician Trainee for the Department of Community Health

Qualifications : B.Sc., Science Graduate.

Stipend : Rs.8,800/-

Age Limit : 30 Years.

Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence studies will be not accepted.

Applications to be done only through online application system. Please log on to <http://www.cmch-vellore.edu>

Link : General - “Vacancies”.

Note : Only online applications will be accepted; Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on **August 21, 2023** for Item 4.