



Christian Medical College Vellore

NEWSLINE



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Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Dr. O.C. Abraham retires



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Dr. O.C. Abraham, fondly known as Dr. O.C, retired from CMC on 16th September 2023 after 37 years of exemplary service to the institution. He joined CMC in 1986 as a postgraduate student in the Department of Medicine. After completing his post graduation, he joined as a lecturer in Medicine unit 1. He then went on to do a Masters in Public health in University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, USA, and a Fellowship in Infectious Diseases in Wayne State University School of Medicine, USA. Dr. OC was faculty in Medicine Unit-I from 1989 - 2016 (27 years). He left Medicine Unit-I in 2013 and after his short stint in Sultan Qaboos University as a senior consultant during his sabbatical leave, he joined Medicine unit 4 where he continued until retirement.

As a young doctor, Dr. O.C. is remembered as a dynamic young man willing to take on any challenge and manage any complex patient. His passion for clinical medicine has always remained high. In clinical areas, he led from the front. He was always there in the TB clinic, ID clinic, right through the grand rounds, a discussion of a difficult case or an emergency.

Dr. O.C. Abraham retires

His clinical analysis was sharp, his judgment keen and he could quickly come to a possible diagnosis and management plan. He enjoyed his rounds, the teaching, the students and the patients. His enthusiasm came from them and was infectious to everyone in the department. His particular emphasis on clinical diagnosis, rational ordering of investigations and evidence based practice of medicine has impacted clinicians at all levels. His patients looked forward to seeing him in his outpatient clinics. His consultations were rather friendly conversations where patients freely confided their problems.

He also did a lot of background work to make patient management better. He wrote the guidelines for HIV treatment in Medicine Unit 1 and was constantly updating them. He developed the department's approach to fever, diarrhea, respiratory presentations and CNS presentations in HIV infection and management of ART complications. This was the basis for the various training programmes run by Medicine-I for HIV care. He believed in the idea of a broad physician who was academically oriented and was always sharing scientific articles with others in the department.

Dr. O.C. was at his best when he taught at the bedside. Being an astute clinician and a teacher par excellence, he served as a role model for countless number of students. Students loved his clinical teaching and lectures. His grand rounds was a much awaited event every week. He patiently listened to students during rounds and provided clear solutions for complicated problems. He never hesitated to appreciate juniors for their hard work. He also served as an examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate level students in general medicine multiple times at various medical universities, the national board of examinations and for DM in infectious diseases at the Tamil Nadu MGR medical university. Fittingly, in 2019, he was given the 'Best teacher in CMC' award.

In the area of research, Dr. O.C. was a sought after guide for postgraduate dissertations. Dr. O.C. has been a part of many path-breaking research projects and has more than four thousand citations under his name. He played the role of a gentle guide and a constructive critic. He has also been a reviewer for many prestigious medical journals including Clinical infectious diseases, National medical journal of India, Journal of clinical virology and Plos One.

In the department of Medicine, Dr. O.C. provided exemplary leadership as a senior. He headed the department from 2016 to 2018. During his tenure he provided strong leadership when the department took a leap in increasing the postgraduate students from 6 to 16 and to increase the number of units from 3 to 5. He led like a Shepherd who led from behind casting a careful eye on the sheep going in front. He provided a broadness and rigor to clinical medicine and the department, providing it an identity in a time of increasing subspecialization. He always put others in the department first before himself. When Medicine Unit 4 became a full unit there was a need for a senior to fill in the gaps. Dr. O.C. graciously agreed to move to medicine unit 4 as the head. What stands out is the integrity in his personal and professional life. He held his position lightly, allowed others to grow and supported them through their journey.

Dr. O.C. built the department of Infectious diseases (ID) joining hands with his mentor Dr. Dilip Mathai. He ran the services, developed the teaching and mentored the young people. He developed clinical services, training and research in HIV care in a time when stigma was rife. He showed people around that patients with HIV infection can, and should, be treated as any other patient. He was the force behind CMC's antibiotic guidelines. During COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. O.C. did not hesitate from stepping into clinical care. He was part of guidelines development, evaluating the constantly growing evidence, starting COVID clinical services in Ranipet and in providing training. However, his most important contribution to infectious diseases was building a team. He was a role model, whom many followed. Many of our postgraduates have taken up ID because of Dr. OC. He established the ID department as part of Medicine 1 but when the time came for ID to be an independent department he chose to stay on in Medicine.

Dr. O.C. Abraham retires

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At the national level, Dr. O.C. Abraham has contributed by being a member of many committees. Notable among them are the Technical Resource Group (TRG) on Anti-retroviral treatment (ART), National AIDS Control Organisation; Board of Studies (final MBBS), Tamil Nadu MGR Medical University; Board of Studies of Department of General Medicine, Banaras Hindu University; Expert Advisory Group, ICMR task force on COVID-19; and Expert Committee for treatment protocols for COVID-19, Tamilnadu Government.

Dr. O.C. contributed to the larger good of the institution in all possible ways. Apart from being part of various selection committees he was also the deputy chair of the Hospital infection control committee from 2008 to 2013 and chair of the Grievance Redressal Committee for Class 1 employees from November 2017 to 2023. He also contributed to the international scientific community through his membership in various societies such as Association of Physicians of India (API), International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID) and AIDS Society of India (ASI). He was the president of the Clinical infectious diseases society from 2020 to 2021. Honoring his contribution to medicine, he was granted a fellowship by the Royal College of Physicians of London (FRCP) in 2014.

Dr. O.C. had a very cordial relation with all staff in the department. There were always light hearted discussions on various topics like food and politics. He made others feel important and his conversation style was one of listening to the other person keenly and asking pertinent questions. He was also an active participant in the departmental prayer discussions. While Dr. O.C. was extremely committed to work, his love for his family was evident in his conversations and his profile pictures. He is married to Dr. Susanne Abraham (CMC MBBS alumnus, 1979), professor and former head of dermatology. They are blessed with two sons, Deepak and Nithin (CMC MBBS alumnus, 2010). As Dr. O.C. Abraham moves on to take a part-time role in Chittoor CMC, his presence will be missed in the main campus. CMC family is proud of his achievements and thanks him for his exemplary service to the institution, the people of India and God's kingdom. We pray that God will bless him and his family abundantly in the days to come.

Congratulations to CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus



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Congratulations to CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus



CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus was awarded as one of the best hospitals for the excellent performance in the Deceased Donor Programme in Tamil Nadu during 2022 – 2023.

The Transplant Authority of the Government of Tamil Nadu, celebrated the **Organ Donation Day** on 23rd September 2023, which was held in Chennai during which CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus was awarded as one of the best hospitals for the excellent performance in the Deceased Donor Programme in Tamil Nadu during 2022 – 2023.

The award was presented by the Honourable Minister for Medical and Family Welfare of Tamil Nadu Mr. Ma. Subramanian to the Medical Superintendent Dr. I. Rajesh.

During the ceremony the transplant Co-ordinator of CMC Vellore Mr. P. Jaishankar, was awarded as one of the best transplant coordinators for the excellent performance in the Deceased Donor Programme for the year 2022-23 and the award was presented by Mr. Gangandeeep Singh Bedi I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Government Department of Medical and Family Welfare.

3rd National Pharmacovigilance Week Celebrations

3rd National Pharmacovigilance Week activities by the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Center (AMC), Christian Medical College Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Center (AMC), Christian Medical College Vellore, under the aegis of the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), National Coordination Centre for Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (NCC-PvPI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, WHO Collaborating Centre for Pharmacovigilance in Public Health Programmes and Regulatory Services) celebrated the 3rd National Pharmacovigilance week (held on 17th to 23rd September, 2023) with the theme 'Boosting Public Confidence in Pharmacovigilance'.



At CMC Vellore, multiple activities were held to promote awareness and build capacity among stakeholders, including patients and their family members. A hand-drawn poster competition was held for the public and healthcare workers to elevate their voices and share their perceptions on the above theme.

Throughout the week, communication channels such as LED screens in the patient waiting areas were utilized to promote awareness on reporting ADR (details on the toll-free number, mobile application on the Play Store) with illustrations of drug-related reactions. To further improve the reporting a user-friendly online reporting mechanism was designed and implemented by utilizing CMC's clinical workstation and bed management system.

On 21st of September, Dr. Delphina Pathinathan, WHO Consultant - NTEP, WHO Country Office for India, spoke on the importance of reporting adverse drug reactions and the global impact of drug safety to charge nurses. Mrs. Anne Jarone, Associate Nursing superintendent and approximately 95 charge nurses attended the event. Further, in coordination with Mrs. Alice Sony, the Nursing superintendent, a pharmacovigilance training module has been developed to broaden the scope of reporting, especially by nursing staff. This module will be instituted for training and elevating the current reporting system of all nursing staff working within the institution.

On the 22nd of September 2023, an exhibition stall creating awareness on reporting of adverse drug reactions functioned from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm in the open area near the ISSC building. Dr. I. Rajesh, Medical Superintendent, inaugurated the programme and Mrs. Sophia Lawrence, Deputy Nursing Superintendent, shared her experience with reporting medication harm. Dr. Roshna Rose Paul, Professor, ENT Department, distributed pens with the toll-free number printed on them to the public; to promote awareness of the reporting mechanisms. Mr. Jacob Prabhu, in charge of dispensing, pharmacy services inaugurated a pledge signage board, later signed by all those visiting the stall. The top three poster prize winners received gifts and certificates from the dignitaries on the dais. Throughout the day, pharmacists educated patients, families, the public, healthcare workers, students, and staff on the different ways of reporting Adverse Drug Reactions.



3rd Annual Intramural Undergraduate Quiz

The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology conducted its **3rd Annual Intramural Undergraduate Quiz, "Toxic InQUIZition"** for undergraduates and interns of all streams in CMC at New Examination Hall, Bagayam on 9th September, 2023.

Dr. Vinod Joseph Abraham (Vice Principal - UG), Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya (Former Head of Forensic Medicine) and Dr. Noel Walter (Former Head of Forensic Medicine) graced the occasion.

A total of 12 teams participated in the Quiz.

The following teams were the Prize Winners :

- Winning Team** : Team Thor (Jaswanth Kumar, Rachel Minushyla)
Runner-Up team : Team Doctor Strange (Frank Yuriel Ajaykumar, Nawin Deva Priyan)
3rd Place : Team Hawkeye (Benita Mercy Karunya, Nanditha Vinod Souringal).



Annual Sports Day of College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor

The **Annual Sports Day of College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus** was held on 9th September, 2023 at CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus.

The Chief Guest for the programme was Mrs. Florence Segaran, Former Principal, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus. The Guests of honour were Dr. Kenny David, Associate Director, Chittoor Campus, Dr. Manoranjitham Sathiyaseelan, Professor and Head of Psychiatric Nursing department and Deputy Director (Hospitality and International Relations), CMC Vellore and Mrs. Anne Jarone, Associate Nursing Superintendent, CMC Vellore. The gathering was welcomed by Dr. Pastin Pushpa Rani, Vice Principal, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor campus. The programme started with a prayer song followed by the introduction of Chief Guest by Mrs. Nirmala Margaret, Principal, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor campus.



The National Flag, College Flag and Olympic Flag was hoisted by the Chief Guest Mrs. Florence Segaran, Mrs. Nirmala Margaret, Principal and Mrs. Anne Jarone, Associate Nursing Superintendent, CMC, Vellore followed by the inspection of the March- past teams. The students of College of Nursing CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus performed a spectacular March-past parade, which was led by Ms. Arthi A, SNA Sports Chairperson.

The Chief Guest Mrs. Florence Segaran lighted the Olympic torch that was carried by students and declared the Annual Sports Meet open by releasing the doves which symbolises peace, hope and freedom. Students from all the batches performed colourful mass drill.

Annual Sports Day of College of Nursing, CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus

The finals for relay race, tug-of-war, staff and staff children sports were conducted. Mrs. Florence Segaran, Dr. Kenny David, Mrs. Anne Jarone, and Dr. Manoranjitham Sathiyaseelan, distributed prizes for the winners of the events conducted over the past few weeks. The Individual championship was won by Ms. Sindhuja. T, IV year B.Sc. (N) student of Taylor House. The rolling-shield for march-past was won by Taylor House and Overall Championship was bagged by Nightingale House.

Mrs. Annie Elizabeth, faculty and Senior Sports Advisor proposed the vote of thanks followed by the singing of the National Anthem.



Remembering 154th Gandhi Jayanti



Remembering **154th Gandhi Jayanti**. On this Gandhi Jayanti, this photograph reminds us, of the visit of Mahatma Gandhi to CMC Vellore in 1928. Gandhiji was invited by Dr. Ida Scudder, the founder of the College, to witness the service that was being provided at CMC. Dr Ida Scudder believed that healthcare was a fundamental human right. She echoed the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhiji "When woman, whom we all call 'abala' becomes 'sabala', all those who are helpless will become powerful". Gandhiji was impressed by the Institution's commitment to providing quality healthcare to the poor and marginalized.

Today, CMC Vellore a 123-year-old institution with its motto "Not to be served but to serve," continues to pioneer Rural & Urban poor healthcare through its outreach programmes, such as RUHSA, CHAD, LCECU, CONCH and Jawadhi Hills. These programmes provide essential healthcare services to the underserved communities in and around Vellore.

CMC Vellore also has a network of around 168 mission hospitals across India, largely in rural areas. These hospitals provide high-quality affordable healthcare to people in remote and underserved rural villages. This indeed reflects Gandhiji's statement "The future of India lies in its villages."

CMC Vellore's rural healthcare programmes are making a real difference in the lives of millions of people. They are promoting health care equity and ensuring that everyone has access to quality healthcare, regardless of their location or social status. As we commemorate the birth and life of Gandhiji, may we continue to strive for social justice and equity especially in healthcare

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver." – M.K. Gandhi.

#cmcvellore#GandhiJayanti #ruralhealthcare #healthcareequity

<https://www.cmch-vellore.edu/>

October 01 - 07, 2023

Special Prayers This Week



Staff and Students' Health Services :

Dr. Rajesh I. and Staff
Dr. Kanagalakshmi and Staff
Mrs. Sheeba Rani Nelson and Staff

Outpatient Services :

Dr. Rajesh I. and Staff
Dr. Felix Jebasingh and Staff
Mrs. Sheeba Rani Nelson and Staff

Medical Records Department :

Dr. Rajesh I. and Staff
Dr. Jenifer Jeba S. and Staff

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Catholicate of the East

Council Members : HG Geevarghese Mar Philaxenos Metropolitan
Fr. M.C. Poulouse

Hospital : M.O.S.C. Medical Mission Hospital, Kolencherry and others.

Laurels and Recognitions

The **Department of Pulmonary Medicine** has been honoured and recognised as “**ICMR-Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCoE) for TB research.**”

In recognition of research carried out, **Department of Microbiology** has been honoured and recognised as “**ICMR-Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCoE) for translation research in clinical infectious disease, for laboratory diagnostics and antimicrobials**”.

In recognition of research carried out, **The Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory** has been honoured and recognised as “**ICMR-Collaborating Centre of Excellence (ICMR-CCoE) for soil transmitted helminths and other parasitic NTD**”.

Obituaries

• **Mrs. Samburnam W**, mother of Mr. William Bose (MRO Gr.I), passed away on 26th September, 2023. Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

• **Dr. Annie Horo**, wife of Dr. Walter Horo (ex-Council Member), mother of Dr. Saban Horo, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology Unit-IV, and mother-in-law of Dr. Manisha Beck, Professor and Head OG Unit-VI, passed away on 25th September 2023.

Let us uphold her husband Dr. Walter Horo and her son Dr. Saban Horo and her daughter-in-law Dr. Manisha Beck and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

Situations Vacant

1(a) Clinical Pharmacist Gr.III for the **Department of Infectious Diseases**

Qualification : Pharm D from a PCI recognised institution with one year training in Antimicrobial stewardship and Infectious Diseases.

Experience : Those who have 4 years experience in pharmacy field are eligible to apply for Clinical Pharmacist Gr.III .

Age Limit : 35 Years.

Stipend : As per institutional rules.

Accommodation not Provided.

1(b) Junior Clinical Pharmacist for the **Department of Infectious Diseases**

Qualification : Pharm D from a PCI recognised institution with one year training in Antimicrobial stewardship and Infectious Diseases.

Age Limit : 35 Years.

Stipend : As per institutional rules.

Accommodation not Provided.

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 **October 14, 2023** for Items 1(a) and 1(b).

2. Jr. Speech Therapist (Term Appointment) for the **Department of PMR**

Qualifications : BASLP, (Bachelors in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology).

Consolidated Pay : Rs.32,870/-.

Age : 35 Years.

Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence 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 **October 16, 2023** for Item 2.