



Christian Medical College Vellore

NEWSLINE

NOVEMBER 27, 2023



We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

Sod-turning Ceremony at CMC Vellore's Department of Psychiatry to Celebrate the Upcoming 42-Bed Private Ward (medium-cost) and Extension of the Occupational Therapy Hall



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The turning of the sod ceremony was held on 20th November 2023 at 7.30 am in the MHC grounds of Bagayam Campus. The Chief Guest for the ceremony was Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director. The ceremony was graced by Dr. I. Rajesh, Medical Superintendent, Mr. Reni Charles, General Superintendent, Mrs. Alice Sony, Nursing Superintendent, Dr. Vinitha Ravindran, Dean, College of Nursing, Mr. Joseph Devaraj, Chaplain, Dr. Jacob George, Head of PMR, Mrs. Nirmala Samuel, Head of Planning Department and representatives from engineering and the Planning Department.

The programme started with prayer and bible reading led by Mrs. Mythily Vandana and singing of the hymn, 'To God be the Glory'. Dr. Suja Kurian, Head of the Department of Psychiatry, welcomed and addressed the gathering. The department's commitment to serving the marginalised in the community was emphasised. Dr. Arun R, Acting Head of Psychiatry Unit-III, briefed about the facilities in the proposed building. Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director and Mrs. Alice Sony, Nursing Superintendent felicitated on the occasion. Rev. Joseph led us in prayer and benediction. Dr. Vikram Mathews initiated the turning of the sod.

Sod-turning Ceremony at CMC Vellore's Department of Psychiatry to Celebrate the Upcoming 42-Bed Private Ward (medium-cost) and Extension of the Occupational Therapy Hall

The dignitaries staff members and students of the Department of Psychiatry participated in the ceremony and the function was followed by refreshments and a planning meeting between the Department Building Committee, Engineering Planning Department and the Contractor.



Thalassemia Awareness Programme Conducted in Jawadhi Hills

The Department of Community Health and Clinical Haematology organised an awareness programme on Thalassemia at Don Bosco Tribal Developmental Society, Jamunamarathur, Jawadhi Hills on 1st November, 2023. The theme for the programme was Thalassemia Support Group.



Thalassemia Awareness Programme Conducted in Jawadhi Hills

Dr. Anuradha Rose began the programme with a welcome address followed by prayer and blessing by Fr. Vinodh. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director; in his address, he spoke about the importance of addressing the attendees and spoke on the disease and emphasized the importance of thalassemia screening. During a session with participants, Dr. Sam Marconi, consultant at CHAD, discussed the genetic nature of disease as well as the basis of inheritance and the importance of screening. He also shared the results of the screening programme conducted by the department, highlighting the high prevalence of the trait in people residing in Jawadhi hills. The session was highly interactive, with Dr. Sam demonstrating the inheritance pattern of thalassemia using an innovative Bag and Ball technique, where red and green balls were used to represent faulty and healthy genes. The team from the Department of Haematology covered various aspects of thalassemia in their presentations.



The following topics were discussed by various resource persons:



Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director, discussed the global impact of thalassemia and emphasized the importance of screening for this genetic disease.

Dr. Aby Abraham, Head of Haematology offered his felicitation by emphasizing the importance of creating thalassemia awareness and stem cell transplants among the general public. He explained how individuals and society can reduce the global burden of thalassemia, highlighting the prevalence of severe haemoglobin abnormalities with statistical data.

Dr. Eunice Sindhuvi provided a detailed analysis of the basics of haemoglobin synthesis and thalassemia inheritance with a slide presentation.

Sr. Deva Kirubai and Sr. Beulah; BMT Nurse coordinators explained the causes, signs, and consequences of thalassemia, as well as treatment options including stem cell transplant. They also focused on the importance of prevention and the availability of prenatal diagnosis facilities.

Mrs. Gomathi Joseph, Sr. Social Worker, Department of Haematology coordinated with the team and ensured a fruitful outcome. She spoke about financial and social support required during treatment which can be less of a burden for the patients if funds are mobilized for their benefits. She was a great source of motivation for the patients in helping them to get over their fear and hesitation to prepare for transplant.

Ms. Mahalakshmi P. and Mr. Amose Vicky talked about HLA testing for evaluating donors and recipients for stem cell transplants. They highlighted that having an HLA-identical or fully HLA-matched sibling is the best and preferred option for an allogeneic stem cell transplant. Additionally, they demonstrated that collecting a sample of cheek cells through a buccal swab is a painless process.

Thalassemia Awareness Programme Conducted in Jawadhi Hills

Ms. Anna Jacob, Counsellor explained the importance of psychological support during the transplant. She specifically mentioned the importance of psychosocial support to the children and family members for the alleviation of fear related to the treatment.

The academic sessions were followed by a round of frequently asked questions led by Dr. Sushil Selvarajan, Associate Professor of Haematology. This allowed the families to clear their doubts and misconceptions regarding the disease and treatment.

An overview of the haematology department located in CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus was delivered by Ms. Arifa S. and Ms. Gayathri Priya L. They helped the patients locate the department using a route map.

Ms. Rizwana A. and Ms. Jenitta J, social workers, distributed pamphlets related to the presentations and interacted with patients after the conclusion of the programme.



CHAD and Haematology Team



CHAD Staff with Health Care Workers

Thalassemia Awareness Programme Conducted in Jawadhi Hills



Ms. Monisha a brave donor for her younger sister baby Devanisha who was diagnosed with Beta Thalassemia Major. She was acknowledged and honoured with a shawl Dr. Aby Abraham, Head of Haematology.

Distribution of provisions by Dr. Balachander, Block Medical Officer at the Jammunamarathur Primary Health Centre.

Rev. Joseph, Chaplain, offered prayer support for the patients. Dr. Anuradha Rose, Professor CHAD and Dr. Sam Marconi, Consultant, CHAD were the anchors for the event. Dr. Sebin George, consultant paediatrician at CHAD, investigated and treated the cause of the disease. The social workers team (Mr. Pandiaraj, Mr. JohnPaul, and Mr. Nirmal), Mr. Jayapal, Nurse, from Jawadhi Hills and Mr. Dinakaran organised various activities which led to the success of this programme .



The participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the disease, available methods of treatment, and the screening process. They were pleased with the patient testimonies and had a chance to meet the doctors, social workers, and other hospital staff. As a token of appreciation for their participation, all the patients' families received a small gift. The team is thankful to Fr. Vinodh, from the Don Bosco team for having arranged the venue and facilities to run this programme. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Pandiarajan, and Reverend Joseph Devaraj offered a concluding prayer.

World Stroke Day 2023 - Together we are #Greater Than Stroke



World Stroke Day 2023 - Together we are #Greater Than Stroke

The Neurological Sciences department and nursing team celebrated World Stroke Day on 1st November 2023 at the foyer located on the ground floor of the Ranipet Campus. The theme for this year was, World Stroke Day 2023 - Together we are #GreaterThan Stroke. The programme started with an opening prayer by Rev. Vijayakumar, Chaplain. Badges for the occasion were made and distributed to all staff nurses. Various competitions like quizzes, posters and slogans in Tamil and English were organised to commemorate World Stroke Day 2023.

Mrs. Rebecca Sumathy Bai, HoU, Spl VII Nursing Department welcomed the gathering and offered an overview. Dr. Sanjith Aaron, Professor and Head, of the Department of Neurological Sciences felicitated the gathering and Dr. Sathish talked to the public regarding stroke prevention. Mrs. Shanthi, Nurse Manager offered the vote of thanks. The neurology team (consultants, Registrars, Staff nurses, Charge Nurses, Stroke Nurses, Epilepsy Educator, office workers, physiotherapists and occupational therapists) actively participated in the programme and Ms. Jayanthi Joy and Ms. Vasugi (Stroke Nurses) gave public awareness on stroke prevention, clinical manifestation and management. Posters were displayed in the stall and videos related to stroke awareness were played in the patient waiting area on the 4th floor.

Prize Winners :

Quiz :

- I Prize - Mr. Sathiyam.M – NICU Staff Nurse
- II Prize - Ms. Esther.P – D402 Staff Nurse
- III Prize - Ms. Suganya. R – NTICU Staff Nurse

Consolation Prize – Ms. Ruby. J - NTICU Staff Nurse

Consolation Prize – Ms. Sona Thomas - BSC (N) 3rd year Student

Poster :

- I Prize - Ms. Suganya.C - D104 Staff Nurse
- II Prize - Ms. Soundarya - ED Staff Nurse
- III Prize - Ms. Priyadarshini - D404 Staff Nurse

Consolation Prize - Ms. Keerthana. B - CB OR Staff Nurse

Consolation Prize - Ms. Latha. S - C602 Staff Nurse

Slogan (In Tamil) :

- I Prize - Ms. Sowmiya.R - NHDU Staff Nurse
- II Prize - Ms. Priya. R- NHDU Staff nurse
- III Prize - Ms. D.G.S. Komathi - Neuro Trauma Nurse

Slogan (In English) :

- I Prize - Ms. Sowmiya.R - NHDU Staff Nurse
- II Prize - Ms. Hanna George - NICU Staff Nurse
- III Prize - Ms. Sandra V. Sunil - Tutor. Consolation Prize - Ms. Painkily – C102 Staff Nurse.

Transperineal Biopsy Course and Workshop

The Department of Urology in association with The Freeman Hospital Newcastle, UK, conducted a Transperineal Prostate (TP) Biopsy workshop on 3rd and 4th November, 2023. The TP route of Biopsy is proven to be safer for lesser severe infections, as compared to the transrectal route. The course consisted of a mix of the theoretical aspects of TP-Biopsy, the benefits of the current practice of transrectal biopsy and the feasibility of changing practice. The faculty members from The Freeman Hospital included Mr. Rajan Veeratterapillay, Mr. Rahul Gujadhur, and Mr. Karan Prakash. They trained 47 Urology personnel including Urologists, Nurses and Urology Technicians over 2 days. The Freeman Hospital Newcastle is a pioneer in Local Anaesthetic transperineal prostate biopsy (LATP) in the UK. The Department of Urology, CMC Vellore added yet another modality in their armamentarium for the management of Prostate Cancer through this workshop.

Transperineal Biopsy Course and Workshop



Children's Day Celebrations

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Nambikkai Nilayam

Children's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the innocence of children. The team at Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Nambikkai Nilayam believe every child deserves to be protected and given equal opportunities to be nurtured to bloom into their full potential. The Children's Day celebrations were organised by Nambikkai Nilayam staff at the MHC on 14th November 2023. It was a heartwarming experience to see how neurodivergent children actively displayed their talents through fancy dress shows, and song and dance performances under the guidance of the Nambikya Nilayam staff and parents.



Department of ENT



The ENT team organised a fun-filled programme on 18th November 2023 in the VIP Hall. It was a heartwarming experience for the parents and the ENT team to see the children perform various art forms, poetry and songs. Most of them were children rehabilitated for hearing loss with cochlear implants and therapy and some of them had undergone surgeries for airway obstruction. The Chief Guest for the programme was Mrs. Susan Philip, a recipient of the Best Teacher award from the President of India and is currently working as the coordinator of May Flower School, Vellore. Her pleasant and warm personality with an interactive session with the children made the celebration a memorable one. Prizes were distributed to all the children followed by a group photo. In line with CMC's motto, the Department of ENT continues to make a difference in the lives of many children every day.

Children's Day Celebrations

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Department of ENT



Occupational Therapy OPD & Rehabilitation Institute

This year's Children's Day was celebrated with exuberance at Occupational Therapy OPD & Rehabilitation Institute. The programme commenced with prayer, followed by fun, games and a fantastic parade with fancy costumes. The little ones delved into the depths of their artistic souls, skillfully crafting dazzling masterpieces that later graced the stalls for sale. The day's event had enlightening sessions by parents, which were informative and inspiring. The children and their parents enjoyed the range of entertainment provided by staff and students, bringing them great joy.



World Prematurity Day Celebrations 2023

World Prematurity Day is celebrated every year on November 17th to raise awareness of the challenges associated with preterm birth faced by women and babies and to celebrate the lives of preterm babies. The Department of Neonatology celebrated World Prematurity Day this year with a 'Diya' Painting competition for mothers whose babies were admitted to the Nursery. The first prize for the 'Diya' painting competition was bagged by Ms, Jayalakshmi.

A poster competition on the topics: Healing Environment for Babies in the Nursery and Holistic care of Babies in the Nursery was held for staff and students. There were more than 40 digital and chart entries that reflected a clear understanding of the topic and creativity.

The prize winners in the Digital poster category:

Praveen Milkies-First prize

Blessing Jonathan-Second prize

Indhu Ravindran-Third prize

The prize winners in the Chart poster category:

Suganya C-First prize

Ms. Manimegalai and Ms. Chitra-second prize.



4th Basic Course in Medical Education [BCME]

The National Medical Commission's 4th Basic Course in Medical Education (BCME) was conducted for In-house CMC faculty from 7th to 9th November, 2023 in the Nodal Centre, Medical Education Department, CMC Vellore. Thirty participants (4 Associate Professors and 26 Assistant Professors) benefitted from this course.

The objectives of the course were to:

- sensitize the participants to understand the principles of learning.
- frame specific learning objectives for a competency.
- enumerate various interactive learning methods within a group.
- choose the right assessment method for a competency.
- give timely feedback to the students.
- apply innovative methods in teaching and assessment of Attitude Ethics and Communication (AETCOM) modules.

4th Basic Course in Medical Education [BCME]

The event began with prayer and invocation rendered by Dr. Margret Shanthi F. X. followed by a welcome address by Dr. Solomon Sathishkumar, Principal.

The Medical Education Department is grateful to Dr. Margaret Shanthi F. X., Dr. Reena G., Dr. Sudha Jasmine, Dr. Vinod Abraham, Dr. Sathishkumar T., Dr. Vinay T. Oommen, Dr. Rajat Raghunath, Dr. Prakash S. S., Dr. Latif Rajesh and Dr. Audrin Lenin for all their contributions towards the successful conduct of the Basic Course in Medical Education.



November 26 - December 02, 2023

Special Prayers This Week

Choirs and their ministries

Service Association of the Christian Church

United Church Board for World Ministries

Council Member : Dr. Ajit G. Singh



Laurels and Recognitions

• **Dr. Vijay Alexander**, Assistant Professor, Department of Hepatology was awarded the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University medal for securing the highest mark in the final year university examination held in August 2022, in DM Hepatology.

• **Dr. Vinay Prasad**, 2nd year M.Ch. Registrar, won the first prize in paper presentation on the topic: Surgical Outcomes in Delayed Primary Closure of Omphalocele Major - at IAPSCON 2023, Aurangabad.

• The following participants won prizes at ANASCULPT 2023 at GMC, Thrissur on 11th November, 2023. **Dr. Lingala John Prabhakar Raju**, Demonstrator MBBS won the first place in MATRIX (pencil drawing - X-ray).

Dr. John Bino S, Assistant Professor Gr.II and **Dr. Lingala John Prabhakar Raju**, Demonstrator MBBS won the first place in ECORCHE (face painting).

Laurels and Recognitions

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Dr. John Bino S, Assistant Professor Gr.II and **Dr. Lingala John Prabhakar Raju**, Demonstrator MBBS won the second place in EXPECTO PATRONUM (live embryology model making).

Dr. Jenolin Bruna Jabaraj Felix Kala and **Dr. Angelina Sharon Thomas**, Junior Resident won the third place in EXPECTO PATRONUM (live embryology model making).

• **Mrs. B. Anu Bharathi**, Tutor, has been awarded first prize for the best paper presentation during the state level workshop on "Paradigm Shift in Colorectal Nursing: The Leading Edge", at Mahabalipuram.

• The following staff from the Department of Infectious Diseases won awards at the 2nd Cochrane India Network (CIN) Conference held on 27th and 28th October, 2023 organised by Cochrane Affiliate Center at King George's Medical University, Lucknow, India.

Oral Presentation :

2nd Prize – Dr. Jisha Sara John, Clinical Pharmacist, Department of Infectious Diseases.

3rd Prize – Ms. Naveena Gracelin Princy, Project Coordinator, Department of Infectious Diseases.

Obituries

• **Dr. Ravi Thomas** (MBBS batch of 1970), a distinguished professor and colleague, passed away on 12th November, 2023. Born on October 12, 1953, in Chengannur, Kerala, Dr. Ravi embarked on a remarkable journey that profoundly impacted the field of Ophthalmology.



Dr. Ravi's roots in Ophthalmology were deeply embedded in his family's legacy. Inspired by his parents, Dr. T.M.Thomas and Dr. Rosamma Thomas, both Ophthalmologists he pursued his medical education at Christian Medical College, Vellore. He belonged to the MBBS batch of 1970 and was fondly called Randy. He excelled academically and played on the college hockey team. His passion for learning extended beyond the classroom, as he mastered the harmonica and attained a black belt in karate.

After completing his service obligation at Marthoma Mission Hospital, Hoskote, Karnataka, Dr.Ravi embarked on his postgraduate studies in Ophthalmology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He further pursued Fellowship in Glaucoma with Prof. Jeff Jay at the Tennent Institute of Ophthalmology in Glasgow and Fellowship in Squint with Prof. Frank Bilson at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

In 1982, Dr. Ravi Thomas joined the Department of Ophthalmology (Schell Eye Hospital) as a junior lecturer, marking the beginning of an illustrious career at CMC Vellore. He became the Head of Department in September 1989. His contributions to our department were immense, as he played a pivotal role in establishing it as a leading centre for ophthalmic care and education. He has setup systems in place for undergraduate and postgraduate training, which are followed even today. He was also instrumental in developing ophthalmic subspecialties within the department, identifying individuals with different subspecialty interests to take it forward.

Dr. Ravi was a brilliant teacher. His ability to simplify complex concepts and engage students made him a beloved mentor. He knew every undergraduate student by name, and his passion for teaching inspired many students to pursue Ophthalmology as their profession. For his postgraduates, he was a more than a teacher; he was a friend and a pillar of support and many owed their career to him. Dr. Ravi was an astute clinician and a great surgeon. He was very patient, taking his students through each step of complex microsurgeries by holding hands. He was a compassionate doctor, who treated all his patients with utmost care and ethical values, irrespective of their socioeconomic status.

He was a pioneer in the field of glaucoma, conducting epidemiological and clinical research that has led to significant advancements in the management of the disease. His contributions were recognized by the Glaucoma Society of India, which elected him as its President from 1998 to 2000. In 2002, Dr. Ravi Thomas moved on to LVPEI, Hyderabad, where he served as Director from 2004 to 2007 and later as Professor and Glaucoma Specialist at the

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Obituries

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Queensland Eye Institute, University of Queensland, Australia. His dedication to excellence and his unwavering commitment to training were evident in all his endeavours. His impact on global Ophthalmology was enormous. He was the first Indian to be elected to the Board of Governors of the World Glaucoma Association. His active interest in Epidemiology research led to his election as the President of the International Society for Geographical and Epidemiological Ophthalmology.

Dr. Ravi Thomas cared deeply for the less fortunate too. His parents who served in a remote part of Madhya Pradesh inspired him to always look out for the less privileged. While at CMC he used to contribute to the education of children of many of our attenders. He has even picked up blind beggars from the road and brought them to hospital in his vehicle for treatment. His tough exterior held a very caring person inside.

His passing leaves a profound void in the Ophthalmic community, but his legacy will continue to inspire and guide future generations. Though we miss him dearly, Dr. Ravi will continue to live in our memories. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences and prayers to his dear wife, Mrs. Promila Thomas and his children, Mr. Ariez Thomas and Dr. Aleysha Thomas.

The link for the funeral can be viewed at <https://streaming.naoca.com.au/e/24073af0-4514-4868-b2bc-487dbdc0f772> PIN: 3652

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved members of the family at this time.

• **Dr. Selvakumar Vettivel**, former Professor of Anatomy, father of Dr. Solomon Sathishkumar, Principal, CMC and Professor of Physiology and father-in-law of Dr. Asha Solomon, Professor, College of Nursing, passed away on 21st November, 2023.

Let us uphold his family in our prayers - Nitish & Anubel, Solomon & Asha, Ivan & Deepti, his six grandchildren, all the bereaved and extended family members.

Situations Vacant

1. Medical Officer for the Department of LCECU

Job Code : 1495

Qualification : Post MBBS.

Female, Preference will be given to those who have experience in Palliative Care and Cervical cancer screening.

Gender : Female.

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 : "Vacancies". **Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted.**

Applications will close by **December 09, 2023** for Item 1.

2. Non- Technical Assistant (NTA) for Registrar's Office (for selection work).

Qualifications : Any Graduate (regular course).

Age Limit : Below 30 years.

Duration : 8.5 Months.

Those who have worked earlier for selection work need not apply.

Preference : Persons with multi-language skills. Male candidates. Candidates who have English Typewriting in Junior Grade. Undergraduate degree candidates.

Please log on to <http://www.cmch-vellore.edu/>

Link : "Vacancies". Icon "Non- Technical Assistant (NTA)".

Apply on or before **December 02, 2023** for Item 2.

Note: Only Regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted. Final Year Students are not eligible. Applications should be made online. Applications through other job portals will not be considered.