



# Christian Medical College Vellore NEWSLINE



## July 01, 2024

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17*

### Dr. Rupa Vedantam Retires



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**Dr. Rupa Vedantam** retired from Christian Medical College Vellore as Senior Professor of ENT after 41 years of exemplary service, on June 20, 2024. Born in June 1959 as the youngest of four siblings, Dr. Rupa completed most of her early education at La Martiniere School for Girls, Calcutta. Despite having no doctors in the immediate family, her passion for pursuing a career in medicine was evident from a young age.

Dr. Rupa Vedantam entered the portals of CMC as part of the MBBS batch of 1976. She joined the DLO program in 1983 and, two years later got selected for MS (ENT). She completed her MS (ENT) with flying colors in 1987, reflected by her winning the P.V. Cherian prize for the best outgoing student in MS (ENT) from Madras University and the J. Sugavanam Prize awarded by the Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu branch for securing the highest marks in the State for MS (ENT). She joined the Department of ENT as faculty soon after.

In 1990 Dr. Rupa Vedantam proceeded on study leave to Dartmouth Medical School, an Ivy League medical school in NH, USA where she completed a fellowship in brainstem evoked response audiometry (BERA) and otoacoustic emissions under the tutelage of Dr. Frank Musiek. She was also greatly influenced by Dr. Dudley Weider, an otolaryngologist renowned for his work in Neurotology, particularly perilymph fistula. Dr. Weider later delivered the 2nd Henerietta Seibers Batts oration at CMC Vellore in 1996.

Dr. Rupa returned to CMC in 1991 and helped establish brainstem evoked response audiometry for the assessment of hearing loss in children. At that time fewer than a handful of centers in India offered pediatric auditory assessment using electrophysiological techniques. She initially worked on the Nicolet Pathfinder, an evoked potential instrument set up in the Neurology EEG lab. The establishment of BERA testing was an important milestone in hearing assessment for infants, developmentally delayed children and other challenging patients in CMC. In 1995, she was also instrumental in starting click-evoked and distortion product otoacoustic emissions, another electrophysiological test which could detect cochlear dysfunction and diagnose auditory neuropathy in conjunction with BERA testing.

In 1997, Dr. Rupa Vedantam was awarded a senior training fellowship, which enabled her to visit Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, Dartmouth Medical School in Hanover and the Wehrs Centre in Oklahoma, USA. On her return, she introduced the surgical management of congenital perilymph fistula, the evaluation and management of benign paroxysmal positional vertigo and the institution of electrocochleography in the department.

Dr. Rupa went on sabbatical from 2003 to 2005 to Alice Springs Hospital, Australia. There she was awarded an adjunct professorship by Flinders University, enabling her to conduct a selective programme for medical students posted with her every few weeks. On her return in 2005, she took over the headship of ENT Unit-III and the overall headship of the Department of ENT. During her tenure, she managed to set up the first departmental classroom and library with a librarian. She was involved in setting up B Ward which was re-purposed for the ENT department and helped set up the temporal bone lab within the ward to enable postgraduates to practice after working hours. Subsequently, a structured temporal bone dissection course for postgraduates was introduced.

In 2014, when the ENT department divided into five subspecialty units, she headed the unit of Rhinology and Anterior Skull Base (ENT 3). She started the first Rhinology lab which offered skin allergy testing and olfaction testing services. She also initiated the 2-year post-doctoral fellowship in Rhinology in 2014 which received university affiliation in 2018. Dr. Rupa was instrumental in starting endoscopic transsphenoidal approaches to the pituitary (1999), endoscopic CSF leak repair (2000), endoscopic orbital decompression (2006) and endoscopic excision of skull base tumors. She also helped set up neuronavigation / image guidance surgery in the department in 2016. Protocols for the management of invasive fungal sinusitis, allergic fungal sinusitis and CSF rhinorrhoea with idiopathic intracranial hypertension were formulated during her term. Much before the era of NABH, quality control measures were instituted in the unit from 2007 in the form of weekly postoperative audits, OP chart audits as well as monthly morbidity and mortality audits.

### **Teaching:**

Dr. Rupa Vedantam has been very passionate about teaching. Her classes were well sought after as she had the knack of making even the most difficult topics very simple to understand. She has been involved in the training of over 150 postgraduates and a thesis guide for 25 postgraduates. She has helped train eight batches of candidates in post-doctoral fellowship in Rhinology.

She has been instrumental in organising various educational courses in the institution and at national and international levels in the field of audiology, neurotology, emergencies in ENT, fungal sinusitis, surgical otology, including temporal bone dissection and functional endoscopic sinus surgery. She has also been an invited faculty member for FESS workshops at the Karolinska institute in Stockholm, Sweden and the University of Malaya, Malaysia. She has been a visiting Professor at Universiti Pelita Harapan, Indonesia and the Shreveport Medical School, Louisiana, USA.

Dr. Rupa is a member of various national and international professional societies. She was chairman of the educational committee for the International Society of Otitis Media and helped develop guidelines on potential for interventions for children with CSOM in 2011 at Brussels, Belgium. She also served as the Chief coordinator and trainer for Tamil Nadu for the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (NPPCD) under the Ministry of Health, Govt. of India from 2007-2009.

She has been part of the expert committee for the Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Kerala in formulating Standard Treatment Guidelines in ENT. Additionally, she was a member of the expert committee for revamping the M.S. (ENT) curriculum for the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR and Manipal Universities.

Dr. Rupa has delivered approximately 84 invited talks in the field of hearing loss, otitis media and fungal sinusitis. She delivered the Dr. Kaza Krishnamurthy Endowment Oration at the Andhra Pradesh AOI State Conference meeting in 2011. She has also given numerous invited talks at international forums. Of particular note was her talk on postoperative oral steroid in allergic fungal sinusitis: a randomized controlled trial at the Joint meeting of European Rhinology Society and International Society for Infection and Allergy at Geneva in 2010.

Dr. Rupa has written eight chapters in various books. In 2010, Dr. Rupa published the book, “Emergencies in ENT” that was based on practical procedures followed in the department and aimed at medical students, postgraduates, doctors in mission hospitals and fellows.

### **Research Experience:**

Dr. Rupa has 108 articles to her credit and is an expert reviewer for 31 ENT journals. Her main areas of research include hearing loss and otitis media in the early part of her career, followed by fungal sinusitis in the latter half. Influenced by the COP programme in first MBBS, she was interested in community based epidemiological studies and obtained two research grants.

1. Department of Science and Technology (DST) grant titled, “Characterisation of pneumococcal serotypes that colonise the nasopharynx of Indian infants and their role as a risk factor for acute suppurative otitis media” in 2008.

2. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) grant titled, “Prevalence of connexin 26 (Gap Junction protein Beta 2 GJB2) gene mutations in patients with congenital sensorineural hearing loss and correlation with their audiological profile” from 2007-2010.

Dr. Rupa has held various institutional posts, some of which include being a member of the library committee (2012-2014), Institutional Review Board (2006-2008), Screening Committee for promotion of staff (2008-2010) and convenor of Committee for Publications for Promotions (2013- 2020).

She is married to Dr. Vedantam Rajshekhar (MBBS Batch of 1975) a retired Senior Professor and former Head of the Department of Neurological Sciences. Their son, Dr. Aditya Vedantam (MBBS Batch of 2003) is a faculty at Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. They are blessed with two granddaughters Asha and Meera who are the new loves of their lives.

As Dr. Rupa Vedantam embarks on her retirement and a new role in the development of the ENT department in Chittoor Campus, we extend our deepest thanks for her years of exemplary service and unwavering dedication to her alma mater. Her enduring impact on the institution and community is immeasurable, and we join the CMC family in expressing our profound gratitude as a tribute to her distinguished career.

## World Environment Day 2024

**Theme: “Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience”**

**Slogan: “Our Land, Our Future”**

The College of Nursing, Christian Medical College Vellore Chittoor Campus, commemorated World Environment Day 2024. The following activities were organised to create awareness among the Nursing students and the public of the Chittoor District.



**1. Rally:** A rally was conducted from Collector Bungalow to Gandhi Statue, Chittoor town on May 30, 2024. Mr. Viswanath Reddy, Inspector, Chittoor One Town Police Station joined us and flagged off the rally. Mr. Prince, PRO, Chittoor Campus joined us for the rally. The students prepared the slogans in Telugu, Tamil and English. Around 50 students and 10 teachers joined for the rally. All the participants took an oath to preserve and protect the earth at the end of the rally.

**2. Shramadhan:** The NSS volunteers of the College of Nursing, CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus observed Shramadhan on 31st May, 2021. They went around the Chittoor Campus and cleaned the environment by removing the plastic and waste thrown in unwanted places.

**3. Talk on Protecting Environment:** A special session was organised for all the nursing students on 4th June, 2024 at 3.30 pm in the Working Women’s Hostel. Mr. Caleb, Environmental Engineer, Head, Environmental Engineering Department, CMC Vellore addressed the students. He gave information about protecting and serving the earth, saving water, and ensuring pollution-free environment. Around 120 students and all the teachers attended this session. All the participants took an oath for Environment Day.

**4. Sow and Show Competition:** A sow and show competition was organised for the students and staff of Chittoor Campus. Seeds were distributed to 83 participants on 18th May, 2024 and they were asked to hand over the seedlings on June 3rd June, 2024. The seedlings were evaluated for the germination, growth, quality and the effort taken by the participant. The best five seedlings were chosen for prizes.

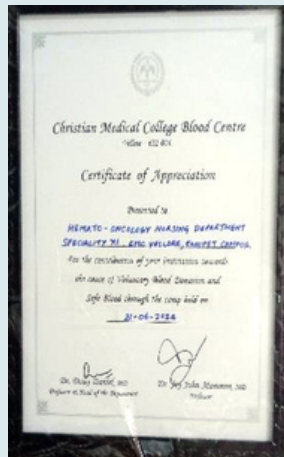
**5. Public Meeting:** An awareness programme was conducted in the patient waiting area, CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus on 5th June, 2024. The programme started with a prayer song by first-year students. Rev. Giftus Joshua, Chaplain shared the devotion. Dr. Pastin Pushpa Rani, Vice Principal, College of Nursing, CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus gave the welcome address. Mrs. Nirmala Samuel, Superintending Engineer, Planning Department, Deputy General Superintendent, CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus was the chief guest who graced the occasion and addressed the students, patients, and relatives about the importance of eco-friendly environment. Mrs. Anbarasi S, Associate Nursing Superintendent, CMC Vellore, Chittoor Campus represented the Nursing Services and gave the felicitation. A choreography on land restoration was performed by the first year B.Sc Nursing students. The chief guest distributed the certificates to the prize winners of the seedling competition. Mrs. Aarthi D, M.Sc. (N) Tutor reported on the World Environment Day activities and offered vote of thanks. The programme ended with closing prayer and benediction by the Chaplain.

**6. Creation of Kitchen Garden:** Kitchen garden was created near the Working Women’s Hostel, Chittoor Campus. First year students actively participated in preparing the garden. The garden was inaugurated on 6th June, 2024.



## Blood Donation Camp at CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus

In commemoration of Haematology Cancer Month, the Department of Haemato-Oncology Nursing organised a blood donation camp in CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus on 20th and 21st June, 2024. The event began with a prayer by Rev. Biswadeep. Staff, staff relatives and friends of staff volunteered for this noble act. A total of 145 volunteers were screened, of which 74 donated. It was a very rewarding experience. We extend our warm appreciation to all the voluntary donors.



## 7th & 8th Basic Course in Medical Education (BCME)

The National Medical Commission's 7th Basic Course in Medical Education [BCME] was conducted for in-house CMC faculty from 11th to 13th June 2024 and the 8th Basic Course in Medical Education [BCME] from 12th to 14th June 2024 in the Nodal Centre, Medical Education Department (MED), CMC Vellore. We had 60 participants [30 participants for each workshop] (8 Professors, 5 Associate Professors and 47 Assistant Professors) benefiting from this course.

The objectives of this programme was to:

- Sensitise the participants to understand the principles of learning
- Frame specific learning objectives for a competency
- Enumerate various interactive learning methods in a large group or a small group
- Choose the right assessment method for the competency
- Give timely feedback to the students
- Apply innovative methods in teaching and assessment of AETCOM (Attitude Ethics and Communication) modules.

Dr. Margret Shanthi F. X. started the day with a word of prayer, Vice Principal (PG), Dr. Tripti M. Jacob and Dr. Vinod Joseph Abraham, Vice Principal (UG), welcomed the members present. Resource persons from various departments in CMC Vellore facilitated the most active sessions. Dr. Sudha Jasmine and Dr. Tripti M. Jacob, proposed the vote of thanks on the third day.

The Medical Education Department gratefully thanks Dr. Margaret Shanthi F. X., Dr. Reena George, Dr. Sowmya S., Dr. Sudha Jasmine, Dr. Vinod Abraham, Dr. Sathishkumar T., Dr. Vinay Oommen, Dr. Tripti M. Jacob, Dr. Reeta Vijayaselvi PR., Dr. Venkatesan S., Dr. Vandana K., 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 [BCME].



## Staff Sports Badminton Tournament

Dr. Arun Jacob Philip George, Professor, Department of Urology was the Chief Guest and distributed the prizes to the winners of Badminton staff tournament for the year 2023-24 on 23rd March, 2024.

### Results:

#### Badminton

##### Singles :

**Winner :** Mr. Ravi P., Civil Engineering

**Runners-up:** Mr. Gopinath G., Transfusion Medicine

##### Doubles :

**Winners:** Mr. Gopinath G., Transfusion Medicine  
Mr. Kiran Kumar, O Block

**Runners- up:** Mr. Bibin Mathai, G.S. Office  
Mr. Joel John, Prosthetics & Orthotics

##### Veterans Single:

**Winner:** Mr. Yuvaraj S., Emergency Medicine

**Runners-up:** Mr. Mahendran, MRD

##### Veteran Doubles:

**Winners:** Mr. Yuvaraj S., Emergency Medicine  
Mr. Vasantha Krishnan Psychiatry

**Runners-up:** Mr. Rajini, Radiology  
Mr. Peter Samuel Raj G., Laundry Department.





## Special Prayers This Week

June 30 - July 06, 2024

<i>Civil Engineering</i>	: Mr. V. Sankar and staff
<i>Planning Engineering</i>	: Mrs. Nirmala Samuel and staff
<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>	: Mr. Subramani and staff
<i>Electrical Department</i>	: Mrs. Bindu Paul and staff
<i>Air Conditioning Engineering</i>	: Mr. Eswaran and staff
<i>Environmental Engineering</i>	: Mr. Caleb A. and staff
<i>Biomedical Engineering</i>	: Mr. Arockiaraj Arul Prakash and staff
<i>Communications Engineering</i>	: Mr. Dinesh R. and staff
<b>CSI Rayalaseema Diocese :</b>	
Council Members: Rt. Rev. Dr. P. Isaac Varaprasad & Dr. K. Naveen	
Hospitals : CSI Arogyavaram Medical Centre, Arogyavaram MLL Hospital, Madanapally and others CSI Campbell Hospital, Jammalamadugu.	



## Memoranda

- **Dr. Ramamani M**, Professor, is appointed as Head of the Department of Neuroanaesthesia with effect from 1st July, 2024 for a four year term.
- **Dr. Samuel George Hansdak**, Professor & Head, Department of General Medicine, is appointed as Head, General Medicine Unit-I with effect from 21st June 2024 and
- **Dr. Krupa George**, Associate Professor, will be in-charge of the day to day functioning, of the Unit during the period when **Dr. Ravikar Ralph**, Professor & Ag. Head, General Medicine-I, is on study leave.

## Laurels & Recognitions

- **Dr. Benjamin Earnest Williams**, Assistant Physician, Pulmonary Medicine has been awarded 3rd prize in the presentation entitled 'NARCOLEPSY - Clinical profile in a tertiary centre in South India' at the Sleepcon 2024 conference, New Delhi, between 14th and 16th June, 2024.
- **Dr. Mohit Gupta**, Assistant Professor, Neurosurgery Unit-III has been awarded the best paper in the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Young Neurosurgeon's Forum of the Neurological Society of India held on 14th to 16th June 2024, at the Orchid Hotel, Balewadim, Pune.
- The following students have represented the Clinical Toxicology Unit and Poison Control Center, Department of Medicine Unit-I and won the following awards at TOXOCON-19: **The 19th National Conference of the Indian Society of Toxicology held at Sri Devaraj Urs Medical College (SDUMC), Kolar, Karnataka from 21st to 22nd June 2024:**
- **Mr. Akhil Timothy Jiwanmall**, MBBS final year (Batch of 2020) secured first place in the Undergraduate Podium presentation at TOXOCON-19.
- **Dr. S. Prem Raghul**, Postgraduate Registrar (2nd year) in General Medicine, secured second place in the Postgraduate poster presentation at TOXOCON-19.
- **Dr. M Rizwana**, Postgraduate Registrar (2nd year) in General Medicine, secured third place in Toxiquiz-2024 at TOXOCON-19.

## Obituaries

- **Mrs.Thankamma Thomas**, mother of Dr. Elsy Thomas, Professor, Obstetric and Gynaecology Unit-I, mother-in-law of Dr. Deepak Thomas Abraham, former Professor of Endocrine Surgery Department, grandmother of Dr. Atul Philipose, Asst. Professor, Plastic Surgery Unit-II and Dr. Sharon Ann Sam, Asst. Professor, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit-IV, passed away on 26th June, 2024. Let us uphold her children, grandchildren and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.
- **Mrs. Amudha**, mother of Ms. Jayachitra, Multifunctional Technician in Medical Records Department, CMC, passed away on 28th June, 2024.  
Let us uphold her husband Mr. Jagadeesan, children Mr. Ashok Kumar, Ms. Jayachitra and Mr. Venkatesan and all the bereaved family members in our prayers.

## Situations Vacant

**Vacancies under the Principal's Office - for queries contact the mentioned office**

**1. Jr. Psychologist (Term Post) for the Department of Paediatrics Unit – I (Paediatric Hemato-Oncology)**

**Qualification :** MA / M.Sc. (Psychology) (Regular Course).

**Salary Scale :** As per institutional rules.

**Accommodation :** Not Provided.

**2. Junior Training Officer for the Department of Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU)**

**Qualification :** Masters in Sociology / Social Work / M.Sc. Medical Sociology / Masters in Health Management / Masters in Public Health +2 years Appropriate experience or M. Phil in Social Sciences.

**Consolidated Salary:** As per the institutional rules.

**Accommodation :** Not Provided.

**3. Graduate Technician Trainee for the Department of Anatomy**

**Qualification :** B.Sc., Science Graduate (Regular Course) / Preference will be given for a person who has undergone Histopathology Technician Course.

**Age limit :** <35 years.

**Salary Scale :** As per the 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 **July 13, 2024** for **Items 1,2 and 3.**

**4. Staff II Respiratory Therapist for the Department of Pulmonary Medicine**

**Qualifications:** B.Sc., Respiratory Therapy / B.Sc. with PG Diploma in advanced Respiratory Therapy (CMC) and those who have four years experience as Asst. Respiratory Therapist (Term Appointment) or equivalent only need to apply.

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

**Salary Scale:** Rs.15,318 - 613 – 30,643 + DA & HRA as per rules. **Age Limit:** 35 years.

**5. Social Worker (External – Project) and Lab Technician (External – Project) for the Department of Clinical Virology**

**Qualification:**

(a) **Social Worker:** M.Sc., (Medical Sociology) / M.S.W. with 2 years experience.

**Consolidate Pay:** Rs.30,520/-.

**Job Description for Social Worker:** Recruitment and counseling of study subjects / Participates.

(b) **Lab Technician:** B.Sc., MLT / H.Sc., with 2 Year DMLT with 2 years experience also can apply.

**Consolidate Pay:** Rs.21,800/- **Age Limit:** 35 Years.

**Note:** *Only Regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted.*

Applications to be done only through online application system. Please login to

<http://www.cmch-vellore.edu> **Link:** “Vacancies”.

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

Applications will close on **July 08, 2024 , 2024** for **Items 4 and 5(b) and 5(b)**.

**6. Staff III Graduate Medical Lab Technician for the Department of Clinical Virology**

**Qualifications:** B.Sc. MLT and those who have completed 4 years as Jr. Graduate Medical Lab Technician (Term Appointment) or equivalent only need to apply.

**Salary Scale:** Rs.13,577 - 543 - 27,152 + DA & HRA as per rules.

**Age Limit:** 35 years.

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

**7. Graduate Technician Trainee for the Department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology**

**Qualification:** B.Sc., in Chemistry, B.Sc. in Life Science or B. Pharm. Candidates with previous experience of working in Clinical lab will be preferred.

**Only male candidates need to apply.**

**Stipend:** Rs.8,800/- **Age Limit:** 30 years.

**Job Description:** To work in Toxicology Lab.

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

Applications to be done only through online application system. Please login to

<http://www.cmch-vellore.edu> **Link:** “Vacancies”.

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

Applications will close on **July 15, 2024 , 2024** for **Item 6 and 7**.

**8. Management Trainee for the Office of Communications**

**Qualification :** College students who have recently completed their post-graduate degree in Mass Communication, Visual Communication and related fields; or English Literature with Journalism, Public Relations or related fields as subsidiary subjects.

**Required Skills :** Candidates should possess good communication skills (LSRW in English and Tamil), basic computer skills (Word, Excel, Power Point etc.) and awareness of social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter etc). Creative writing skills and / or skills in amateur photography and videography would be an advantage.

**Stipend :** As per institutional norms.

**Duration :** 6 Months.

**Age Limit :** 30 Years and below.

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

**Link :** General - "Vacancies". **Tab :** "Management Trainee".

Applications should be made online. Applications through other Job Portals will not be considered.

Apply on or before **July 06, 2024** for **Item 8**.

**Others**

**9. Applications are invited for the post of Teacher in Balavihar Kids Corner**

**Qualification:** Montessori / TTC / Any Degree with B.Ed.

Preference will be given to the female candidates who are fluent in English, have a teaching experience and are below 35 years of age.

Interested candidates may apply to Balavihar Kids Corner, CMC Hospital Campus, Vellore.

Phone : 0416-2283499 email: [balavihar@cmcvellore.ac.in](mailto:balavihar@cmcvellore.ac.in) on or before **July 06, 2024**.