

# Christian Medical College Vellore



## **Newsline**

## **September 23, 2024**

Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be.

Job 8:7

## **Turning of The Sod:Paediatrics Speciality Centre, Fairfax-Quess Block CMC Vellore Ranipet Campus**



Termed a 'life-affirming' project by Rt. Rev. H. Sharma Nityananda, Bishop of Vellore Diocese, the Turning of the Sod event for the Paediatrics Speciality Centre which took place on August 12th, 2024 marked a new venture for CMC, the first step towards a Phase-2 expansion of CMC's Ranipet Campus. The new block is founded on partnership and innovation, quoting Associate Director of CMC Ranipet Campus, Dr. Deepak Selvaraj, who expressed his hopes that this project would enable CMC to expand its outreach potential and minister to a greater number of people.

Dr. Tarun John Jacob, Associate professor of the Paediatric Surgery Unit II, discussed the inspiration behind 'the unboxing of the boards of wood that make Noah's Ark' as the symbolic theme of the new block. Quoting 1 Corinthians 13:13, Dr. Jacob emphasised the values of faith, hope and love as being at the heart of the new development, with unconditional love as 'the greatest of these empowerments.



Just as the animals were taken on board with kindness and compassion, trusting the capacity of the ark in the hope of a brighter future, Dr. Jacob emphasised that children and families at the new speciality centre should be made to feel the same way, trusting CMC to care for them.

Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director of CMC, expressed his appreciation for the large number of people present, which attested to the care and dedication of the CMC community. The Director also thanked the Office of the General Superintendent for their significant contributions. The Director's predecessors Dr. Sunil Chandy and Dr. J.V. Peter were acknowledged for their leadership in initiating and paving the way for the project.

Mr. Ajit Isaac from Quess Corp, Bangalore, and partner in funding for the paediatric block, spoke in hindsight about the evolution of the project from earlier discussions over the years, and why Fairfax, one of Quess's major shareholders, can be trusted as a long-term partner.

Ms. Priya Ramesh Mehta, director of Charitable Giving, Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd, who had flown in from Toronto to attend the event, spoke promisingly about CMC's partnership with Fairfax, affirming a valued motto, that 'when we do well, we must do good'.

The Head of the Department of Paediatrics, Dr. Kalaranjini Ebenezer commended the commitment of CMC administration towards the health and wellbeing of children, despite limited resources and finance. The department prides itself in the consistent efforts of staff and alumni toward clinical excellence, research and education, having had a wide impact on disease incidence. However, a dire need for space due to growing medical complexities has necessitated this project dedicated towards paediatrics. The Head of the Department emphasised that the new centre will not just boast advanced technology, but is a promise to every child and family.

Five plaques of teak wood were unveiled by senior faculty, resembling the wood boards of Noah's ark. The plaques will be displayed through the corridors of the new block, with engravings of the animals and birds of the ark. In the spirit of environmentalism upheld by CMC's founder Ida Scudder, senior faculty took part in planting trees of the medicinal Neem, the Spanish Cherry/Magizham Maram, and Magnolia Champaca. Group songs of worship were performed by students from the College of Nursing, as well as Ida Scudder School, and children from St. Jude's India Child Care Centre, a centre providing cost-free holistic care for children from underprivileged families during cancer treatment.

Dignitaries present were Dr. Vikram Mathews – Director of the Christian Medical College Vellore, Dr. Deepak Selvaraj – Associate Director of CMC Vellore Ranipet Campus, Rt. Rev. H. Sharma Nityananda – Bishop of Vellore Diocese, Mr. Ajit Isaac – Chairman of Bangalore-based Westcorp Limited, Ms. Priya Ramesh Mehta – Director of Canada-based Charitable Giving, Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, Canada, Dr. John Oomen – Vice Chairman of CMC Vellore Association, and Rev. Finney Alexander – CMC Chaplain. A recorded video message from Mr. Prem Watsa, Founder, Chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings, was played to the audience. Mr. Watsa applauded CMC Vellore for 'showing what God can do' in their mission to serve the poorest of the poor in India.

## Centenary Events Marking 100 years of CMC Vellore Town Campus

#### **Heritage Lecture Series**

As part of the celebrations, the institution is undertaking a number of initiatives, directed both inward and outward. Those directed inward are aimed at reminding the CMC community of our great heritage and the wonderful ways in which God has led our institution. Despite our tremendous growth and diversification in the last few decades, the Town Campus still remains the "Main campus" which has grown from simple beginnings to its present stature, through innumerable and invaluable contributions to the nation and to the world, at large. On the historic occasion of the Centenary, we would like to honour the older departments of the Town Campus for the role they have played in the history of the institution and the seeds they have sown for its future.

As part of this, a 'Heritage Lecture Series' to be broadcast through Quality Circle has been planned from the beginning of September 2024. This series will give our departments an opportunity to share their history, milestones, inspiring anecdotes, future plans and dreams with the community - especially our students who will carry the torch forward.

The Series will continue as part of CMC's 125th anniversary celebrations in 2025 with more departments being able to showcase their contributions over the years.

The first lecture took place on 7th September, 2024; conducted by the Department of General Surgery. The lecture was delivered by Prof. S. R. Banerjee Jesudason, Former Head of Surgery on the topic; Our Heritage, Horizon & Vision along with Dr. Cecil T. Thomas, Head of General Surgery Unit I; Dr. Rohin Mittal, Head of Head of General Surgery Unit II and Dr. Suchita Chase, Head of General Surgery Unit IV. The moderator for the quality circle was Dr. Inian Samarasam, Head of General Surgery.



#### Launch of Emergency Medical Services

On July 18, 2024, CMC Vellore launched its state-ofthe-art Emergency Medical Services (EMS), inaugurated by District Collector Tmt. V. R Subbu Laxmi, I.A.S. The new EMS facility, managed by the Emergency and Transport departments, provides two 24x7 emergency helpline numbers: 9791979797 and 0416-228 2280. The EMS will handle inter-hospital transfers between CMC's campuses and provide prehospital retrieval services for emergencies within a 15 km radius of Vellore and Ranipet districts. This timely, life-saving initiative ensures medical interventions, reinforcing CMC's commitment to excellence in community healthcare.



These initiatives highlight CMC Vellore's dedication to enhancing healthcare access and quality for all. We look forward to the positive impact these new facilities will have on public health and emergency care in our region.

#### **Adult Immunization Clinic**

On August 1, 2024, CMC Vellore inaugurated the Adult Immunization Clinic, commemorating the centenary celebrations of the CMC Vellore Town Campus (1924-2024). This new clinic is a significant step in public health, providing comprehensive vaccination services to adults in our community. The inauguration began with an opening prayer by Rev. Paul Ravi Kumar, followed by a warm welcome from Dr. Ramya, Professor and Head of Medicine Unit-V.



The event was graced by the presence of Dr. P. Balachander, Joint Director of Vellore Medical and Rural Health Services, as the chief guest, along with CMC dignitaries including Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director; Dr. I. Rajesh, Medical Superintendent; and Mrs. Alice Sony, Nursing Superintendent. The clinic, located in Room 24 within the Alpha Clinic area, will operate Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., offering a range of vaccines, including those for influenza, pneumococcal infections, chickenpox, hepatitis A and B, diphtheria, tetanus, and typhoid.

#### Health Check-Up & Health Awareness for Ambulance and Auto Drivers

As part of the institution's centenary celebrations, the Office of the Medical Superintendent in liaise with the Department of Lifestyle Medicine, Medicine Unit IV at Christian Medical College Vellore, organised a Health Check-Up & Health Awareness Camp for Ambulance and Auto Drivers on the 10th of August, 2024 at C.K. Job Hall, Paul Brand Building with an attendance of 108 drivers.

The opening prayer for the event was offered by Mrs. Saramma Kuruvilla, senior chaplain. A group prayer song followed, performed by CMC Medical Assistants. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. David Mathew, Deputy Medical Superintendent (Ag.). The programme overview was relayed by Mr. I. Rajesh, Medical Superintendent. Mr. Durai Jasper, Public Relations Officer, Directorate, acted as host and interpreter for the event. Dignitaries present for the event included the Deputy Mayor of Vellore, Mr. M. Sunil Kumar, Associate Director (Medical), Dr. Ebby George Simon, and General Superintendent, Mr. Reni Charles. The cohort was thanked and honoured for their invaluable transportation services to CMC. In his address, Dr. Ebby Simon conveyed the crucial role of transportation in the matter of life and death, and temporary or lifelong disability. The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Rozaria David, Assistant Manager, Office of the Medical Superintendent. Sister Beulah, Medicine Department Educator, delivered a session promoting health and wellbeing for drivers, encouraging them to adopt healthier practices such as walking and exercising regularly, improving sleep and increasing water intake, avoiding food and beverages with high sugar content, overcoming negative habits such as smoking and excessive mobile usage, and maintaining stress levels by developing a positive outlook on life. Medical check-ups were performed subsequently for all transportation service providers present, before proceeding to the lunch banquet.



#### Asset Recycling programme

The Asset Recycling programme has been a beneficial initiative for years, both within CMC Vellore and for Mission Hospitals. It has improved the controlled lifecycle management of various items and helped in exploring cost-effective measures and sustainable disposal of reusable items. Various mission hospitals, especially those in resource-limited areas approach for items that may be condemned here at CMC but could be reused for comparatively lesser volume of patients. The Missions Office along with the Asset Recycling Office coordinates with various departments for potential items that could be donated to deserving Mission Hospitals.

Recently, two of the vehicles, a 60-seater TATA Bus and a Tavera were refurbished and donated. The TATA Bus was allotted to Christian Fellowship Hospital in Oddanchatram which is a network hospital, running a College of Nursing and needed a bus for transport of the students.

Similarly, the Tavera was also refurbished and donated to Mudhiyor Balar Kudumba Grama Pannai (MBKG) located at Kasam Village near Katpadi which is a Child Cum Elder Care Institution, a living community of destitute children, women and elderly females for the benefit of the children and elders.

Following various formalities and needful repairs both these vehicles were donated with the hope that these would help support and augment the existing work. Various teams from the General Superintendent's office, Transport & Asset Recycling Office and Missions Office were instrumental in facilitating this. CMC Vellore in its effort to support medical services being delivered through its network mission hospitals, continues to explore ways to support through Asset Recycling



## Short course series on Data Management and Visualisation using Open Source Tools

The Department of Biostatistics organised a short course series on "Open Source Tools for Data Management and Visualisation" at the Biostatistics Resource and Training Centre (BRTC) from September 9 to 11, 2024. This series featured three modules, each highlighting a modern open-source tool including R, Python and QGIS. The focus was on building a robust 'open-source' based toolset for data management and visualisation. The series covered key aspects of data management such as handling missing data, dealing with outliers, data documentation and effective geospatial visualizations. The workshop was highly interactive, involved hands-on exercises to ensure participants gain practical experience with these tools. The course drew around 90 participants, including clinical researchers, public health professionals, and post-graduate students from across the country. The course concluded by thanking God and encouraging participants to implement the tools learned within their organisations.



**Special Prayers This Week** 

September 22 - 28, 2024

*Pharmacy Service :* Dr. Ronald Albert Benton Carey and Staff

*Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacology :* Dr. Margaret Shanthi and Staff

*Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Washim* Council Member : Dr. Rhoda Faith

Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Churches Council Members : Dr. Devaraj Voola Rev. Dr. G.D.D. Diwakar

#### Reformed Church in America

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* Council Member : Mr. Y. Franklin Ishida



#### Welcome

**Dr. Biju George,** Professor, Department of Clinical Haematology, on his return from sabbatical leave.

#### **Laurels & Recognitions**

The following **M.Ch Paediatric Surgery trainees** secured prizes at Society for Paediatric Urology chapter of Indian Association of Paediatric Surgeons conference, Kolkata.

SPU-IAPS Award for Excellence in Bladder management second prize: Dr. Arani Sen.
SPU-IAPS Award for short paper second prize: Dr. Sulatha Dolui.

#### **Obituaries**

• Mr. K. Sampath, retired Hospital Attendant in Gastrointestinal Sciences Department., father of Mr. K.S. Balachandran, Office facilitator, Hospital Annex and Mr. S Senthil, Hospital Attendant in CHAD Hospital, passed away on 8th September, 2024.

Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

• Mrs. Paracleta Minz mother of Dr. Shantidani Minz, Sr. Professor in RUHSA Department CMC, passed away on 15th September, 2024.

Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family and relative in our prayers.

• Mrs. Padmavathi Edison, mother of Dr. Eunice Sindhuvi, Professor, Department of Haematology, and mother-in-law of Dr. Arun Jose Nellickal, Associate Professor, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, CMC, passed away on 19th September, 2024.

Let us uphold her husband Prof. Edison and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

• **Dr. George Cherian** (MBBS batch of 1950), passed away on 14th September, 2024. Dr. George Cherian was born on 18th April, 1933. Dr. Cherian, an alumnus of the Christian Medical College, Vellore (MBBS Batch of 1950), left an indelible mark on the institution and the world of Cardiology. After graduating from Madras University at the top of his class, he completed his postgraduate training in General Medicine and joined the inaugural DM Cardiology batch at CMC, finishing in 1967. He received fellowship training at the Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston) and at Hammersmith Hospital (London).



Dr. Cherian became the second head of the department of Cardiology (1967-1982), succeeding the esteemed Dr. Kamala Vytilingam. He was an astute clinician and excellent teacher, inspiring generations of cardiologists and other trainees. Under his leadership, CMC became one of the leading cardiac centres in India. His contributions to shaping the DM curriculum at CMC and across India were monumental. Dr. Cherian published over 225 research papers in national and international peer-reviewed journals. His landmark publications include work on juvenile mitral stenosis and the use of beta blockers in HOCM. His research on rheumatic heart disease and coronary artery disease in the Indian population continue to be widely referenced, marking him as a giant in his field. He was an examiner for the MRCP, as well as at numerous universities. He was advisor to several organizations including the World Health Organization, the Armed Forces of India, the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Union Public Service Commission. He was the youngest president of the Cardiological Society of India in 1978.

Dr. Cherian was visiting professor of Cardiology at UCLA (1980-82). He was professor of Cardiology at the Chest Hospital, Kuwait University (1982-2003), serving as consultant cardiologist and later chairman. From 2004 till his passing in 2024, Dr. Cherian was a distinguished professor of Cardiology at the Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences in Bangalore. In 2010, Dr. Cherian and Dr. Devi Shetty organized the first Conference on CTEPH at Bangalore, a transformative meeting for the care of these patients.

Dr. George Cherian was much loved by the countless patients he served. In addition to his legendary clinical acumen, his colleagues note that his most wonderful quality is the respect with which he treated everyone. His passing leaves a void that will be deeply felt by the CMC cardiology community and beyond. His legacy of hard work, commitment to patient care, dedication to education, and relentless pursuit of research will forever inspire. Though we mourn this profound loss, we remain committed to carrying forward his remarkable legacy, ensuring that his contributions to cardiology and medical education continue to benefit future generations.

Dr. Cherian is survived by his beloved wife of 64 years, Leela. His daughters and sons-in-law Minu and Jay Shah, Nina\* and Torsten Borchers, Rekha (MBBS Batch 1982) and Verghese (MD Anaesthesia Batch 1987) Cherian. His grandchildren Rahul and Tarun Shah, Rahael and Sara Borchers, Aditi (married to Thomas Gidney) & Akhil Verghese. His great granddaughters Keya and Evie Gidney.

Below is a tribute to Dr. George Cherian by Dr. Jacob Korula (MBBS batch of 1965)

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE CHERIAN

This morning, we received the sad news of the passing of Dr George Cherian at almost 5 score years. On reflection, this shows that he worked as a renowned cardiologist for more than 3 of those 5 score years, scoring a numeral record that few can compare.

My recollection of his presence on the wards noted during our clinical years, is of a fit individual in starched white "bush" shirt and trousers walking with a retinue of trainees behind him and a swinging stethoscope hanging from his neck. Those cardiology rounds were legendary as so many clinical skills emerged from one round alone. To imagine the depth and wealth of information imparted to many of our student generations itself is mind intriguing and amazing.

I learned enormously from Dr. Cherian while I rotated through the Cardiology Department when assigned to that service during my MD in Internal Medicine in 1976. The demonstration of the nuances and skill in accurate history taking followed by meticulous physical examination is one of the jewels imparted during that rotation. I decided then that I would emulate and hone that practice, which I still do today and despite all the technological advances, know that it is an irreplaceable facet of our clinical decision making.

On a lighter note, although Dr Cherian kept a serious countenance so that we would remain professional on our clinical rounds, he had a remarkable sense of humor, quick witted and with an appropriate repartee that livened our interactions. I must share two anecdotes that goes beyond Cardiology and his legacy in this field. During the labor strike at CMC Hospital in 1975 I recall, a few leaders of the faculty had to travel to Madras (now Chennai) to meet some important politicians. I was selected to accompany them as a decoy since I was tall, could be easily seen in the passenger seat next to the driver by the prying eyes of the hospital labor staff as we exited the main gate. To hide the important passengers Drs Cherian and Mathen, they were asked to remain recumbent in the back seat of the Hindustan Ambassador car covered in a sheet or blanket to which they admirably agreed. Never had I imagined that in that car, the Head of Cardiology and Gastroenterology could become momentary bedfellows for the few minutes it took us to pass the main gate. The other was the staff-student cricket match. I was asked to be the opening bowler and Dr Cherian was facing me as the opening batsman. In my juvenile arrogance I thought I could outsmart the older Dr Cherian with an outswinger. He adroitly knocked four runs off that ball which predicted a resounding victory for the staff. He appreciated our efforts and graciously smiled benevolently at our aspirations at the end of the match.

Dr. Cherian has been a leading force in Cardiology through its evolution from a clinical diagnostic service to a technologically advanced specialty through the years that he was at the helm of this specialty. His contributions earned the respect of national and international experts in the field. He was so dedicated to his specialty, that we heard on our recent visit to Bengaluru in March of this year, he was seeing patients in masterful management. My great regret now is not being able to meet him and shake his hand in quiet humble homage to a great man.

Jacob Korula CMC Batch 1965, MD 1977 September 15, 2024

For those who would like to get in touch with the family, details of his daughter is given below:

Dr. Rekha Aley Cherian (MBBS batch of 1982) Email: rekhaacherian@gmail.com

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

## Situations Vacant Click the following link to view the vacancies <u>https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx</u>

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

**1. Junior Research Fellow** for the **Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in multiple** government funded projects.

#### *Job Code* : 1558

**Qualification :** B.E./ B. Tech or M.E. / M. Tech with GATE qualification in Bio – Engineering / Biomedical Engineering / Computer Science / Information Technology / Electrical / Electronics / Instrumentation / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent.

Salary: As per sanctioned scale of the funding agency.

Mode of Appointment: Project Mode.

Accommodation : Not provided.

Those candidates who have completed their graduation / post – graduation between 2022 - 2024 only need to apply.

Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated good engineering skills and have independently worked on a research project leading to design and developed towards providing technological solution to a complex problem.

Applications to be done only through online application system. **Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx**  *Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted.* Applications will close by **October 05, 2024.**  Vacancies under the office of Medical Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

2. Jr. Cardiac Technician (Term Appointment) for the Department of Cardiology (CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus)

**Qualifications :** B.Sc., in Cardiac Technology or B.Sc., (Sciences Subject) with PG Diploma in Cardiac Technology.

Consolidated Pay : Rs.26,450/-. Age Limit : Below 30 Years.

Job Description : To assist in Cath Lab, Echo Cardiography, ECG, Treadmil and Holter.

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

Applications are to be done only through the online application system. **Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx**  *Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted.* Applications will close by **October 07, 2024.** 

#### 3. Jr. Critical Care Therapist (Term Appointment) for the Department of Neonatology

**Qualifications :** B.Sc., Critical Care Technology degree from Recognized University or H.Sc., with 2 Year Diploma in Critical Care Therapy Course.

Consolidated Pay: Rs.22,130/-.

Age Limit : 30 Years.

Job Description : Setting up and maintaining ventilators, monitors, pumps, therapeutic gas administration apparatus and other nursery equipment. Shift Duty. Taking care of cardio respiratory support.

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

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

Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted.

Applications will close by October 07, 2024.

4. Jr. Pharmacist (Term Appointment) for the Pharmacy Services & Peripheral Units

Qualifications : D.Pharm / B.Pharm.

Candidates with Typing and Computer skills will be preferred.

Appointment will be given only for pharmacists who have registered in the Tamil Nadu State Pharmacy Council and who have completed one year traineeship in the Department of Pharmacy.

**Consolidated Pay :** As per institutional rules.

Age Limit : 30 Years.

**Job Description :** Dispensing of Drugs, Charging the prescriptions, receiving cash and other roles assigned. *Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence will be not accepted.* 

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

Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

Hard Copies and emails will not be accepted.

Applications will close by October 07, 2024.

Vacancies under the office of Nursing Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

5. Assistant Night Supervisor for Nursing Service, Town Campus, Christian Medical College Vellore

**Qualifications :** B.Sc. in Nursing with five-years work experience (preferably CMC Graduate).

Age : Between 35 and 45 years.

Salary Scale : As per the institutional rules.

Accommodation : Not Provided.

**Job Description :** Supervisory coverage of the Nursing Department and patient care areas during night shifts in the Town campus.

Apply with bio-data, certificates and testimonial copies, contact phone number, email ID & address with pin code to :

The Nursing Superintendent, Office of the Nursing Superintendent, Ida Scudder Road, Christian Medical College Vellore - 632 004. Email : nso@cmcvellore.ac.in on or before October 07, 2024.

Vacancies under the office of General Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

#### 6. Jr. Audit Assistant (Term) for Internal Audit

Qualification : B.Com + One Year Computer Training + One Year CMC Trainee Passed.

Consolidated Salary : As per Institutional Norms.

Age Limit : 30 years and below.

**Job Condition :** Candidates should have completed one year Audit Assistant training in CMC. Those who do not fulfill the above criteria will not be considered.

Applications to be done only through online application system.

Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

**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.

Apply on or before September 27, 2024.

#### 7. Jr. Accountant (Term) for Finance & Accounts

Qualification : B.Com + One Year Computer Training + One Year CMC Trainee Passed.

Consolidate Salary : As per institutional norms.

Age Limit : 30 years and below.

**Job Condition :** Candidates should have completed one year accountant training in CMC. Those who do not fulfill the above criteria will not be considered.

Applications to be done only through online application system.

Please log on to: https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapp/listapplication.aspx

**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.

Apply on or before September 27, 2024.

Vol No.60 No.64 Published & Designed by : OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS <sup>12</sup>