Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to send you this newsletter with news of alumni and our alma mater. Kindly continue to pass on to us any news that we could include in future newsletters.

Some Events from 2011:

The Ninth Winter Symposium, including the Fourth Malathi Jadhav Oration organized by the Department of Child Health was held from 6 - 8 January. The theme was 'Biology of Childhood Disease' and over 600 delegates from India and abroad attended the event. The delegates had a feast of listening to some of the best experts in the field. Dr. Sheila Pereira inaugurated the Symposium.

The Fourth Dr. Malathi Jadhav Oration was delivered by Dr Thomas Cherian (1970), Coordinator, Expanded Programme on Immunization, World Health Organization, who spoke about his efforts in the WHO to set up an Acute Respiratory Infection control programme and decrease the burden of pneumonia across the world through the use of newer vaccines.

The National Congress on Interventional Pulmonology, under the aegis of the American College of Chest Physicians (Indian Chapter) was organised by the Department of Pulmonary Medicine, on 21st and 22nd January.

The Department of Pharmacy organized a Regional Symposium and Refresher Course on Drug Safety Perspectives – A Focus on Patient Care on February 12.

A workshop and National Symposium hosted by Clinical Pharmacology to highlight the current trends in Therapeutic Drug Monitoring was held from February 22 – 25.

The Department of Clinical Virology has been granted accreditation with the National Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Department of Science and Technology.

The Out Patient Clinic at the new Chittoor Campus was dedicated on September 16.

The Medical Education Unit organized the Third National Conference on Health Professions Education (NCHPE) on September 16 and 17.

Neurosurgery organized the 13th annual conference of the Skull Base Surgery Society of India on October 21 and 22. The conference was for neurosurgeons, otolaryngologists and plastic surgeons. A neurosurgery alumni meeting that honoured Dr. Jacob Abraham and Dr. Mathew J. Chandy followed the conference.

Shiloh'11, the annual missions event took place from September 29 to October 2.

The IX Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Geriatrics (IAG), GERICON 2011 organised by the Department of Geriatric Medicine was held on November 4 and 5.

CMC hosted the 32nd Annual Conference of the Association of Medical Physicists of India from November 16 to 19.

The Department of Dermatology and Dermatologists from Vellore organised the second state conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), Tamil Nadu branch on October 28 and 29, 2011.

The Department of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology organized the 27th Annual Conference of the Indian Rheumatology Association (IRACON 2011) from November 30, 2011 to December 4, 2011. The theme of the conference was ‘Transforming Rheumatology – adding humanism to science.’ The Chief Guest for the inaugural function was the honourable Health Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. V.S. Vijay.
Awards:

Dr. Ashok Chacko, Head, Division of Gastrointestinal Sciences, is appointed Councillor of Asia Pacific Association of Gastroenterology for the period 2010-2012 and will be representing the Indian Society of Gastroenterology on the Governing Board of the Asia Pacific Association of Gastroenterology.

Dr. Sukesh Chandran, Head, Department of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology, has been nominated member of two Technical Committees of the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL), DST.

CMC was adjudged the Most Socially Responsible Hospital, and was also the First Runner Up in the category of India’s Best Multi Speciality Hospital at the CNBC TV award sponsored by ICICI Lombard.

Dr. Joe Verghese, Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry, has been awarded the Early Career Fellowship by the Wellcome-DBT India Alliance.

Dr. Venkatakrishnan H. Iyer, Senior Registrar, Department of Gastro Intestinal Sciences was awarded the Young Clinician Award at the Indian National Association for Study of Liver Conference (INASL 2011) held at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Dr. T. Samraj, former Professor of Dentistry and Associate Director has been elected president – elect of the Indian Association of Forensic Odontology. He was also was honoured with the Life Time Achievement Award by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University on Dentists Day, March 06.

Dr. P.S. Jairaj, former Head, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgeons.

Dr. Mohandas Chelliah (1967), has been awarded a special award by the Sultan of Brunei for meritorious services to the people of Brunei.

Dr. M.V. Daniel (1949) was conferred Life Time Achievement Award in the field of Orthopaedics and Medical Education by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G. R. Medical University.

Dr. George Mathew (1969), was conferred the Best Medical Administrator Award in recognition of his contribution to Medical Administration and Healthcare Management at the University Day and Doctor’s day celebrations in the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University.

Dr. Premila Abraham, Professor of Biochemistry, has been selected for the National Women Bioscientists’ Award by the Dept. of Biotechnology, under the junior category.

Dr. Vasantha Elango (nee Chelliah) (1970), Community Medicine Department, Coimbatore Medical college, was awarded the Best Teacher prize at the Doctor's Day by the MGR Medical University.

Dr. K.S. Jacob (1976), Prof. & Head of the Dept. of Psychiatry and Dr. Binayak Sen (1966) have been appointed members of the Planning Commission’s Steering Committee on Health, which will advise the panel on the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

Dr. Binayak Sen was awarded the Gwangju award, a prestigious South Korean award for human rights.
**Dr. Binayak Sen** and Dr. Jack Minker are awarded the Heinz R Pagels Award by the New York Academy of Sciences, Human Rights of Scientists Committee.

**Binayak Sen** and his wife **Illina Sen** were chosen for IIPM's Bharatiya Manavata Vikas Puraskar for their social contribution.

**Dr. Anindyaa Dutta** (1975), has been appointed Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Virginia.

Christian Medical Association of India awarded the Dr. D.W. Mategaonkar National Award to **Dr. Thomas Sen Bhanu**, (1956).

**Dr. Shirin Sukumar**,nee Gergan (best outgoing student, 1989) was appointed to the Medical Board of the Senate of the Oregon State Legislative Assembly, USA.

**Dr. Srinivasa Babu**, Senior Scientist, Department of Neurological Sciences has been appointed member of the National Committee of International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) and the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR).

CNBC-TV18 / ICICI Lombard Health Insurance recognised and honoured India's best healthcare providers for the year 2011.

- The Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore was awarded the "Best Multispeciality Hospital" in the non-metro category.
- The Cardiology department of CMC, Vellore was awarded the "Best Specialty Department" in India during the Awards ceremony on 22nd Dec, 2011 in New Delhi.

**MEDICAL ALUMNI REUNION 2011**

The Medical Alumni Reunion was held from 11 to 13 August, 2011. Over 153 alumni from various parts of the world gathered in Vellore to take part in the celebrations. The events commenced with a CME session on August 11. The speakers included Dr. Rekha Pai (PG alumnus), Dr. Gagandeep Kang (1981), Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan (1986) and Dr. Noel Wheeler (1986).

On the following day, it was the turn of representatives of the special reunion batches to share their experiences with those at CMC, especially with the medical students. The alumni who spoke included Dr. G.S. Jayakar (1956), Dr. Stephen Aseervatham (1961), Dr. Thomas Mathews (1961), Dr. Lee Hoo Teong (1961), Dr. Sudhir Cecil Joseph (1971), Dr. P.V. Ramesh Babu (1976), Dr. Stephen Wu (1976), Dr. Mani Rajagopalan (1981), Dr. Prabir Kumar Chatterjee (1981) and Dr. Anand Gnanaraj (1986). The talks, some of them peppered with a lot of humour were enjoyed by a packed audience in the Norman Auditorium.

The General Reunion on 13 August, 2011 began with an open meeting in Scudder Auditorium. The Presidents of the Alumni and Students' Associations and the Administrative Officers of CMC welcomed the visiting alumni. Dr. Varghese Philip (1974) was presented the Dr. Emmanuels Sunder Raj Award in recognition of his commitment in pursuing the Christian healing mission. The Alumni Association presented the Alumni Awards to Professor A.D. Singh, former Head of Radiotherapy, (in absentia) in recognition of his dedicated service and contribution to the life and work of the institution, and to Mrs. Glenys Ray, in recognition of her significant contributions to the CMC community. At the General Body Meeting of the Alumni Association, Dr. Dilip Mathai (1969) was unanimously chosen the new President. Other office bearers who were elected are Dr. Chiramel George Koshy (1993) as Editor of the Alumni Journal for three years, Dr. Smitha Jasper (1992) as Treasurer for three years and Dr. Sudha Jasmine (1992) as Entertainment Secretary for a year. Dr. Sara Bhattacharji, Dr. Sowmya Sathyendra, Dr. Philip Joseph and Dr. Vaibhav Londe handed over their offices and were thanked for their distinguished services.

The Thanksgiving Service, in the College Chapel, was both solemn and touching. Dr. Mammen Varghese (1971) gave the message on the occasion. The newest batch of alumni, the present interns, were given the charge to serve and not to seek to be served.

Later that evening, Dr. J. Joseph Samuel (1986) was honoured with The College Motto Award for his life of steadfast faith in the face of adversity and for translating that faith into significant service in the spirit of his alma mater. The informal entertainment by the special batches went on till late into...
the night. The following morning, the special batches of 1986 and 1981 arranged a lunch at Alumni House. The alumni left with photographs and memories of happy times spent in Vellore.
Alumni Endowment Fund update: Target 50,00,000/-. Received so far 13, 97, 698/-. Thanks to the 249 donors. Your continued contributions are always welcome!

Online Alumni Directory is almost done! New/Additions/Change of information if any, to be intimated to alumni office alumni@cmcvellore.ac.in

Alumni who wish to reserve rooms in the Alumni House, College Campus other than during the alumni reunion, are requested to book the same through Alumni Office (alumni@cmcvellore.ac.in) well ahead of time to make sure accommodation.

Alumni Chapters in India:
Interested alumni are requested to contact Alumni Association for a reunion of CMC alumni in their region.

CMC Certificate of Honour for serving Mission Hospitals over 25 years were given to:

Dr. Gordon M. Rangad (1966)

Dr. Subhashini Rachel Dutta (nee Kishan) (1970)
Graduation Day 2011:

The Chief Guest was Dr. Mayil Vahanan Natarajan, Vice Chancellor, The Tamil Nadu Dr.MGR Medical University, Chennai.

**Dr. Sunil Thomas Chandy** (1978) was given the Drs. Molly and Thomas Bhanu Award for the best Teacher, on the basis of a vote by medical students.

Paul Harrison Award for Meritorious Service in Rural Areas was presented to Dr. Solomon S. Chelliah (1973).

**Dr. Vikram Mathews** (1985) was awarded the Rev. Fr. Lourdu M. Yeddanapalli S.J. Award for contributions to research in acute promyelocytic leukaemia:
Dr. Deepu David (1997) was awarded the best Research Publication of the year by a junior member of the faculty.

The crowd gave Dr. Georgie Mathew, the best outgoing student of the batch (2006), the traditional standing ovation.

Retirements:
Dr. Isaac Jebaraj (1969), February.
Dr. Samuel Chittaranjan, Professor of Orthopaedics, February.
Dr. Aravindan Nair, Professor of Endocrine Surgery, March.
Dr. G.D. Sundararaj (1967), March.
Dr. Sara Bhattacharji (1968), April.
Dr. Korula George, Professor of Reproductive Medicine, May
Dr. M.S. Seshadri, Professor of Endocrinology, August.
Dr. George Mathew (1969), September.
Dr. Ninan Chacko (1970), October.
Dr. Lakshmi Seshadri, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, October.

Obituaries:
Dr. J.K. Shanthiah (1961), June 6, 2010
Dr. Lily Navamany Fernando (nee Lawrence) (1946), January 7 2011
Dr. Benjamin M. Pulimood, former Principal, Director and Professor of Medicine, February 5
Dr. A.J. Selvapandian, former Head of Orthopaedics Department, April 1
Dr. Niharika (2004), April 9
Dr. Rajinikant Shanker Rao Arole (1954), May 25
Dr. Premkumar Rangala (58-59), August 26
Dr. Ketayun A. Dinshaw (1961), August 26
Dr. Pankaj Mehta (1972) and his wife Dr. Chaya, September (plane crash in Nepal)
Dr. George Van Rossum, Reader in the Department of Biochemistry (1965-1967), October 21
Rev. Dr. Ernest Fritschi (Orthopaedics Dept. and SIH-R & LC Karigiri) October 23
Dr. S. Amarjothi (1957) November 29

You may be happy to know that this year 186 new residences have been opened for our faculty in the College campus and Kagithepettarai campus.

The dedication of the new C and D grade housing at Sunset Avenue in the College Campus was held on August 12, 2011. The complex were inaugurated by Dr. M.S.Seshadri and Dr. Lakshmi Seshadri, who played a vital role in this initiative.
ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION MEETINGS - 2012

NORTH AMERICA - U.S.A & Canada (G.O.T.C)
Venue: St Louis, Missouri
Date: June 21, 22, 23 & 24
For further details, please contact:
Dr. Tara Talwar (1974): ttalwa@gmail.com
Dr. Arun Venkatesan (1985): we5venkys@charter.net
The Hilton Hotel is open for booking, alumni from anywhere in the world can access the hotel booking via the above weblink.

INDIA
Venue: CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE CAMPUS, VELLORE.
Date: Aug. 9, 10 & 11
For further information, contact:
CMC Alumni Association: alumni@cmcvellore.ac.in

U.K.
Venue: Derbyshire hotel, Derby (same as 2011)
Date: Sept. 14, 15 &16
For further information, contact:
Dr. Darly Mathew (1983) : darlymathew10290@hotmail.com
Dr. T.K.Mathew (1955): annmatt38@hotmail.co.uk
Dr. Sunil Zachariah (1990) : zachariah_sunil@hotmail.com
Dr. Ajith George (1986) : ajith86@hotmail.com OR
Dr. Dayalan Clarke (1977) : clarkedv@hotmail.com

AUSTRALIA
Place: Griffith, NSW (the venue and the details of contact person(s) will be intimated later)
Date: Oct. 13, 14 & 15

All of us here in the Alumni Office trust that you have had a joyous Christmas and take this opportunity to wish you a blessed and hope-filled New Year!

Priya Abraham