

# Vellore News

CMCH Vellore Web site:  
Australian FOV web site:  
SA FOV email:

<http://www.cmch-vellore.edu>  
<http://www.australianfov.net.au>  
[safriendsofvellore@gmail.com](mailto:safriendsofvellore@gmail.com)

Oct 2017

President's  
Report

SA FOV  
Dinner Photos

SA FOV  
AGM Details

Looking Back  
Looking Forward



## SA Friends of Vellore Annual General Meeting

4:30pm, Sun 5th November, 2017

Rosefield Uniting Church  
2 Carlton St, Highgate

*Speaker:* Dr Celia Cooper

Head of Unit and Consultant in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (Womens and Children's Hospital), Clinical Director (WCH site of SA Pathology).

Dr Cooper will be speaking on her experiences in the paediatric infectious diseases unit at CMC Vellore

**Supper will follow at the conclusion of the meeting. You are all welcome!**

### SA FOV President's Report 2017

This year has been a blessed year in the activities of SA FOV. I would like to acknowledge the generous donation of the Hacket Foundation of \$500,000 which has been allocated to the emergency endowment fund known as the 'Hacket Golden Hour Trauma Care' endowment fund. I would like to thank Cath Lyon, WCH Nursing director, Jenn Hurn Equipment in-charge coordinator and the entire ICU team for their donation of the Emma capnography machine.

The scientific meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at the Rosefield Uniting Church. Dr Cephas Satyanandan, anaesthetist currently working in the ICU of RAH and Dr Viju Daniel Varghese, orthopaedic surgeon, spoke at the meeting.

The annual FOV dinner was held at the John DiFede Centre on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. The dinner was attended by over 440 guests. Hugh and Debbie Skeil spoke at the dinner and gave a very succinct and illustrated picture of the current and future activities of CMC. Mr Hugh Skeil spoke about the installation of the new director, Dr John Victor Peter, and outlined his vision for CMC,

- Further diversification in specialised areas as well as be more efficient.
- Increase Research Project funding by 2 ½ times
- Increase in the Distance Education Programme.

Dr JV Peter's message for FOV was that 'Charity was the soul of the work at CMC' and wanted the hospital to provide a 'compassionate, Christ centred, holistic, cost effective, quality health care'.

Mr Skeil acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the donations by Australian FOV for the various Projects:

- Endowment Fund for the unexpected Complications
- Emergency Fund (for all patients)
- PTP – (the grant for each patient has now increased)
- Scholarships
- Distance Education
- Jawadhi Hills
- Low Cost-Effective Unit
- RUHSA

The auction and raffle were

### Upcoming Events At A Glance

**4:30pm, Sun 5th Nov, 2017**  
SA FOV Annual General Meeting  
Rosefield Uniting Church  
Highgate

A reminder that if you wish to receive this newsletter by email and no longer require the paper form, please email: [safriendsofvellore@gmail.com](mailto:safriendsofvellore@gmail.com)  
Remember to let us know if you change your email address.

### South Australian Friends of Vellore Committee

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successful which was a reflection of the generosity of the guests a humbling experience. A specific auction for a syringe infusion driver for use in the paediatric emergency department was held for the first time. There were a number of very generous bidders.

I would like to thank Charminar and Wee Lee and his team from the Overseas Christian Fellowship for their contribution. I would also like to thank Dr Geetha Sadagopan, Temple of Fine Arts and Bellydance Arabesque for their magnificent dance performances at the dinner.

I would like to thank the numerous generous donors for their contributions. This year for the first time, we had \$8000 in sponsorship contributions for the dinner. I would like to thank Calvary Wakefield Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for their contribution of \$5000 as the gold sponsor and Odhavji & Associates, Dr Pandyan, Ingle farm Family Dental and Dr Suren Krishnan for their contributions of \$1000 each as silver sponsors.

I thank the managers and staff of the John DiFede Centre for the venue and organisation of the event. I thank Greg Shroeder for managing the bar. I would specially like to thank all the committee members for a concerted effort in putting together this night. Once again, I would like to thank all the guests who generously donated their time for this wonderful cause.

Last but not least, I thank God for his blessings and for steering us along this journey.

*Dr. Renjy Nelson, President SA Friends of Vellore*



Many thanks to Prof Ian Olver who again has provided wonderful photos from the SA Friends of Vellore Dinner.



### Looking Back, Looking Forward

On the 22nd of September 2017, I will be finishing my term as Director of CMC Vellore and will be passing the baton of leadership to Dr. J.V. Peter, who will take over as the new Director with effect from 23rd September 2017. This is a moment of reflection for me looking back at the five years I was privileged to be the Director of this great institution, CMC Vellore. I remember taking my shoes off as I stepped up the Scudder Auditorium stage to say my acceptance, knowing that where I will be for the next five years was holy ground. Just a few days later, Dr. Kuruvilla Varkey and Dr. Samuel Paul, Chair and Vice Chair respectively, reminded me of the immense responsibilities I was going to shoulder. It has been a blessed experience for me, with its share of joyful and painful moments. This, I now understand, is an inseparable part of leadership. I thank God Almighty for choosing me from the fringes of the institution to the centre-stage of governance. I am immensely grateful to God for this unique privilege.

This being my last message from my desk as Director, I wish to take this opportunity to reach out to thousands of people who were part of my journey. Colleagues, faculty, students, alumni, friends of Vellore, council members and patients whose engagement with me and the institution has been very enriching. I have collected a huge number of cards and trivia which will remain with me as mementos of the fun and frolic we had together.



Thank you friends for what you have been. Thank you for support in new initiatives, criticism of outlandish ideas, prayers when the going was rough, words when I needed it most and even silence when it was too noisy on the outside. If we have achieved anything it is because we have done it together. My administrative colleagues (past and present) the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Council, Executive, Alumni, FOV formed a ring of support through all my initiatives. Thank you.

I have learnt that our institution is God's own. One cannot fathom how it works with such a high volume of patients and limited resources. It is the modern version of feeding the five thousand with

five loaves. There is a divine presence that serves as a fuel to the engine of our functioning. The resilience of our staff and their willingness to broaden their shoulders is simply unbelievable. I thank God for them, and pray that they will be blessed for the selfless service they render.

I have learnt the value of trust and good relationship. The salt of governance is undoubtedly friendship. Departments and institutions that are robust are those who have invested in people and trust. Trust must be a priority in governance and must never be replaced with lifeless processes and protocols which, in the absence of trust, can only cause breakdown of good governance.

I have learnt that CMC is a community more than a college. Residency in the campus and imbibing all that it has to offer adds tremendous value to the life of our staff and students. We must strive to preserve the interactions outside the domain of work, in order to foster better relationships.

I have learnt that CMC is a continuum. I managed to complete the unfinished work of my predecessor, and my successor, Dr. Peter, will complete mine. The goals we have set for the institution will transcend the variations of time and come to fruition in God's good time. I thank God for the miracles and resources He provided in helping us commence some mega-projects.

The healthcare needs of our country are escalating day by day. The resources are getting few and far between. We must brace ourselves for a major manpower crunch in

the coming years. Yet the work must surely go on and God will provide. The CMC model of education, service and research remains unique but with increasing relevance in India. I am confident that Dr. J.V. Peter, our new Director, will take the challenges forward and make CMC a role model for our nation. I welcome him to the Director's desk and hand him over the pen with which I wrote to you thus far.

God Bless you all and Adios!

Sunil Chandy Outgoing Director

Tax deductible donations to CMCH can be made online at: <http://australianfov.net.au/donations/>

Simply and easily make a donation to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore.

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Dr. Ian Roberts-Thomson  
8 William St  
Hawthorn, SA, 5062

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$..... to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore, India.

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Address.....

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(Donations are tax-deductible if made to the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital Support Fund)