

March 2018

# 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)

## VELLORE PRESENTATIONS EVENING

**7:00pm, Fri 18th May, 2018**  
Rosefield Uniting Church  
2 Carlton St, Highgate

Apologies for the lack of speaker information in this newsletter - early circulation was required on this occasion. Please contact Dr Renjy Nelson (see contacts below) closer to the evening if you'd like to know who the speakers will be. Otherwise, just turn up and be pleasantly surprised!

The presentations are always informative and fascinating (even if you're not in the medical field) covering a broad spectrum of medical areas and presented by diverse and interesting speakers.

Supper will be provided afterwards where you can chat with the speakers and each other in an informal and relaxed setting.



Vellore Clinical  
Presentations  
Evening

Initial SA FOV  
Dinner 2018  
details

From the  
Director

CMC is  
100 years  
young

### Initial SA FOV Annual Dinner Details

The John DiFede Centre was a hit for our dinner last year and it gives us great pleasure to announce we will meet there again for this year's annual dinner.

It will take place on **Sat 25th Aug, 2018**

**John DiFede Centre**  
10 Freebairn Street  
Windsor Gardens, SA 5087

More information to follow, but keep that night free  
and start inviting family and friends!

### Upcoming Events At A Glance

**7pm, Fri 18th May, 2018**

Clinical Presentations Evening  
Rosefield Uniting Church

**Sat 25th Aug, 2018**

SA FOV Annual Dinner  
John DiFede Centre  
Windsor Gardens

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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### New Year Message from The Director's Desk

Dear friends,

Every New Year brings with it new ideas, new challenges and new promises. This coming year 2018, is special as we remember God's faithfulness as we celebrate the centenary year in medical education. From the humble beginnings of "The Missionary Medical School" for women in 1918, God has blessed and enlarged the medical mission work in the country.

As we stand at the threshold of a new year and a new phase in the life of the institution, it is appropriate for us to look back and give thanks to our God. "This is what the Lord says; 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls'" (Jeremiah 6:16). It would be good to join together to "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1).

This time also provides us with an opportunity to look inwards. The psalmist cried out, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139: 23,24). As we look inwards and introspect we would be enabled to be moulded as vessels of honour.

Finally, it is a time to look forward. In these times of uncertainty and difficulty, we can be encouraged by the quote from Minnie Haskin's poem, "The Gate of the Year" read by King George VI on a New Year eve, "I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way.'" The Lord who has led us thus far will continue to do so in the coming year. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). What words of assurance! Can we have a better promise to begin this year!

I wish to conclude with the Aaronic blessing, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace" (Numbers 6: 24-26).

Dr. J.V.Peter  
Director



### Christian Medical College, Vellore Celebrating a Centenary of Medical Education 1918-2018

It was on August 12, 1918, that the first batch of Licentiate Medical Students was admitted to CMC. Imagine for a moment what Ida Scudder might have felt- pride, gratitude, nervousness....

A hundred years have passed since then, and as we step into 2018, Christian Medical College Vellore looks back with gratitude and looks ahead with hope and expectation. Countless students have trained in the portals of the Institution, carrying with them more than mere knowledge of Anatomy or Pathology, Surgery or Medicine. Countless teachers have imbibed them with a sense of medicine as a calling. And so many of them, teachers and students alike, have responded, in their own ways, to the 'three knocks' on the doors of their



College Building 1932



Ida Scudder with medical students  
on top of College Hill

Chennai, Monday, February 5, 2018



# CMC IS 100 YEARS YOUNG

*Started in 1918, the college, located in Vellore, has gained a reputation among common man for its emphasis on training doctors with a humane touch*

## MILESTONES

Establishing India's first college of nursing in 1946

The first reconstructive surgery on leprosy patients in the world in 1948

Creating the first Neurological Sciences Department in South Asia in 1948

Performing the first successful open-heart surgery in India in 1961

Performing the first middle-ear Microsurgery in India in 1961

Establishing the first Rehabilitation Institute in India in 1966

Performing India's first kidney transplant in 1971

Performing India's first bone marrow transplant in 1986

Performing the first carotid bifurcation stenting procedure in India in 1996

Performing the first trans-septal carotid stenting procedure in the world in 1996

Performing the first trans-jugular mitral valvuloplasty procedure in the world in 1996

Performing the first successful ABO Incompatible Renal Transplant in India in 2009

Even as the famed Christian Medical College in Vellore marks its centenary year, the institution looks forward to continuing its legacy of providing quality medical education and attracting the best of talents, especially those having the urge to serve the underprivileged in the far flung and remote corners of the country.

Though the hospital, situated on Arcot Road, and the medical college at Bagayam are separated by around 8 kilometres, both are together referred as CMC. This private, minority-run educational and research institute today includes a network of primary, secondary and tertiary care hospitals in and around Vellore and is considered one of the most respected medical destinations in India and internationally. The college itself figures in the list of top-ranked medical colleges in India.

"However, the college tries to improve and upgrade itself continually, as it does not believe in resting on its laurels," said college principal Dr Anna Pulimood. From January 2017, the college has undertaken a review of its undergraduate and post graduate curriculum. This is expected to be completed in about a year's time, she stated.

Similarly, the college is also trying to increase its research output by adopting various strategies. "There are plans to strengthen our human resource by enabling juniors to be mentored by seniors," she averred.

Speaking on the same lines, CMC's director Dr JV Peter said, "The focus in the coming years would be to ensure that treatment for patients is both relevant and contemporary, given the fact that medicine has made rapid strides in the 21st century." CMC's new unit at Chittoor in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh will provide more courses in allied health sciences, he added.

But Peter's aim will be to bring to fruition the ongoing new hospital project at Kannigapuram, 12 kilometres from Vellore on the Chennai national highway taken up at a cost of nearly Rs 500 crore. Once completed, CMC will shift 1700 of its 2700 beds to the new and spacious location. The remaining

1000 beds on the Arcot road campus will be used to primarily serve locals. "The new location will have all facilities including staff quarters and will not face space constraints the present hospital has," Peter added. The project is expected to be completed in four or five phases in around 15 years.

**Cherished history:** The hospital was started by Ida Sophia Scudder in 1900 to ensure total medical care for women as the then social and religious taboos prevented them from being treated by male doctors resulting in increasing fatalities.

The present medical college was initially started as the Union Mission Medical School in 1918 to train women physicians to meet the above-mentioned need. Scudder had earlier started road side dispensaries in rural villages in 1906, when life expectancy was only a mere 25 years.

When the government, due to a changed policy in 1938, declared that medical degrees could be granted only by universities, Scudder upgraded her medical school to a medical college, named as the Christian Medical College. It started the MBBS course in 1942 after being affiliated to the Madras University.

From such a humble beginning, the college today offers multiple Post Graduate courses. Besides, the institution also provides 19 allied health science programmes at the undergraduate and seven at the post graduate levels. Nearly 9000 outpatients visit the hospital daily, while the bed occupancy rate of 80.28% shows its public patronage. However, what sets this institution in a class by itself are its innovative community oriented programmes. While there is a degree of agitation in some quarters over the proposed move to make doctors serve in rural areas for a specific duration, the practice has been in vogue in CMC for nearly three decades.

Medical students compulsorily have to participate in a three-week residential village programme in nearby Kaniyambadi block under the COM (Community Oriented Medicine) programme organised by CMC's outreach unit, the Bagayam based CHAD (Community Health And Development) Hospital. Similarly, the institute's RUHSA (Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs) at KV Kuppam, 22 kilometres from Vellore, runs a community college offering various vocational courses for local youth, said Rita Isaac, who heads RUHSA.

#### NOTABLE ALUMNI

Binayak Sen: Paediatrician, human rights leader and recipient of the Jonathan Mann award

KA Abraham: Interventional cardiologist and Padma Shri awardee

Suresh David: Pioneer of emergency medicine in India

Ajit Varki: Medical researcher and Director, Glycobiology institute, UCSD

Nagarur Gopinath: Cardiothoracic surgeon and Padma Shri awardee

*source: DT NEXT News India, Feb 5, 2018*

#### Thanks to Australian Friends of Vellore from Professor Abraham, CMC Vellore

We received the following email from Professor Vinod Joseph Abraham regarding their new mobile clinic vehicle for use in the Jawadhi Hills – a modified 4WD.

We are happy to inform you that the 4 WD vehicle with the body modifications is now ready. We had a dedication of the vehicle along with our department staff and the Chaplain on Monday, 5th March.

Attached are 3 pictures of the vehicle.

We will have an inscription indicating that it is a gift of the Friends of Vellore, Australia.

We will send more pictures once these have been included and of the clinic in action.

Please do convey our heartfelt thanks to all the donors on our behalf.

Thank you once again.

Sincerely,

Vinod Joseph Abraham

Professor, Department of Community Health

Christian Medical College



Mobile Clinic Vehicle Interior



Mobile Clinic Vehicle Dedication



**Living Our Legacy  
The Sacrifice of Love**



The idea of a hospital for women in Vellore came from Dr Louisa Hart, a Canadian missionary working in Ranipet alongside Dr. John Scudder. When Dr Ida Scudder heard this news, she had just qualified as a doctor from Cornell University and was looking forward

to joining her father in India. The hard task of raising the money needed for the hospital - 8000 US dollars - fell on her young shoulders. A gift of 10,000 dollars in memory of his loving wife was given by Mr. Taber Schell, and the hospital was ready to start.

There was a great deal of excitement, planning and shopping for medical supplies before the trip back to India. Dr Ida was at the centre of all these happy activities, but there was a corner of her heart that throbbed with deep anguish that no one was aware of. During the period of her studies, she met a young man who had fallen deeply in love with her, and she too felt her young heart stir. But knowing the harsh life she had committed herself to as a missionary doctor, Ida felt that it would not be right to reciprocate her feelings, and with much sadness turned down his proposal. She longed to love and be loved and have a happy marriage like her parents, and children who adored their mother like she did. Her calling, however, demanded this sacrifice from her.

This is a good time to remember that the CMC Hospital and College were built on the personal sacrifices of not only Dr. Scudder, but of many others. Some who donated funds from faraway places; others like Annie Hancock , Delia Houghton, and

Drs Jessie and Elizabeth Findlay who joined Dr Scudder in the early days. As the college grew, staff and faculty at every level willingly gave up opportunities to earn a higher salary in other places; to send their children to good schools; to be near family, to have luxuries - just to be able to work at CMC. The CMC way of life - as it became known- involved personal sacrifice of some kind.

Self-sacrifice is a very old fashioned virtue today. The self, seems to be the most important part of one's life. "How will this affect me? What do I stand to gain? What do I stand to lose? Why should I do it just so that someone else can benefit? , are questions that flip through our minds as we are faced with choices that sometimes call for personal sacrifice. Self - sacrifice doesn't ask that we give of our excesses, or that which we no longer want - it asks that we give what is most precious to us to someone who needs it more than we do. It asks that we give up something for the greater good of others. Time, our presence, our financial help, our knowledge and skills. What helps us make these choices? I believe that it is love. The kind of love that enabled Mary to pour the expensive jar of perfume over Jesus' feet.

As we celebrate the glories of the past hundred years, can we ask ourselves this question? Can a Christian community like CMC today, thrive without personal sacrifices from its members? Knowing the amazing sacrifices made by those in whose path you walk, what are you prepared to sacrifice so that CMC can look forward to another hundred years?

*Usha Jesudasan  
CMC Web Site, Feb 2018*

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.

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.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Phone No.....

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