

NEWSLETTER 2020



Dear Friends,

The pandemic has changed the way we live and see the world. Some of our alumni were affected and a few did succumb. Let us pray that the vaccine is widely available soon. In the midst of all this, the message of Christmas brings us hope and cheer.

In this Alumni Newsletter we summarize key events involving alumni in 2020.

Many departments in CMC, as well as its extramural and intramural alumni, made notable achievements in 2020. At the end of the year, it is good to review these accolades and celebrate our successes.

This newsletter also lists alumni who passed away in 2020 and whose lives, work, and friendship we honour and cherish.

We will be grateful if alumni could provide write-ups, pictures, reflections, or obituaries for inclusion in the website:

(<http://cmcvellorealumni.org/>). Our new Editor has revived the Alumni Journal so kindly give of your literary talents.

Christmas is a season of hope, peace and goodwill. We wish you all happiness and fulfilment. As we are at the brink of another new year, let us renew and rededicate ourselves to uphold the motto of our Alma Mater: "Not to be ministered unto but to minister". We have an important role in today's uncertain world to promote peace, uphold ethical values and share God's love.

Three cheers for the "**Silver and Blue**".

With warm regards and best wishes,

Abraham
Peedicayil
(1975)
President

Vaibhav Londhe
(1992)
Secretary

On behalf of the Office Bearers and staff
at the Alumni Office

The following CMC faculty retired in 2020 after years of dedicated service to the institution:

Dr. Thomas Kuriakose	MBBS batch of 1977	February 2020
Dr. Ramani Manoj Kumar	PG alumnus – Pathology	March 2020
Dr. Nitin S. Kekre	PG alumnus – Urology	May 2020
Dr. Simon Rajaratnam	MBBS batch of 1978	August 2020

CONGRATULATIONS

- ✚ Dr. Georgie Mathew (MBBS batch of 2006) won the 2nd Prize for his Oral Presentation in the Award Paper Category titled, “Sequential Rituximab Therapy with Continuous B-cell Depletion in Patients with Frequently Relapsing and / or Calcineurin-inhibitor Dependent Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome” at the 31st Indian Society of Paediatric Nephrology Conference held at Pune.
- ✚ Dr. Deepthi R.V. (PG alumnus, Nephrology) won the 3rd Prize for her Poster Presentation titled, “Correlation of Anti-phospholipase alpha-2 Receptor Antibody Immunohistochemistry in Renal Biopsy with Clinical Profile of Idiopathic Membranous Nephropathy in Children” during the 31st Indian Society of Paediatric Nephrology Conference held at Pune.
- ✚ Dr. Anisha Mathew (PG alumnus, Respiratory Medicine) won the first prize in Prestigious SN Gaur Young Scientist Award of the National College of Chest Physicians at the National Conference on Pulmonology (NAPCON 2019), held at Kochi.
- ✚ Dr. Benjamin Earnest Williams (PG alumnus, Respiratory Medicine) won the first prize in the ‘Grand Finale’ of the Indian Chest Society, National Talent Search Contests (Radiology section) at the National Conference on Pulmonology (NAPCON 2019), held at Kochi.
- ✚ Dr. Vimalin Samuel (MBBS batch of 2000) won the ‘SERVIER Young Researcher Award’ at the 13th Annual Conference of Venous Association of India held at Mumbai.
- ✚ Dr. Jess Elizabeth Rasalam (PG alumnus, Transfusion Medicine) won the first prize for poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine 2020, held at Mumbai.
- ✚ Dr. Snehil Kumar (PG alumnus, Transfusion Medicine) won the second prize for poster presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine 2020, held at Mumbai.
- ✚ The PICU Team: Dr. Siva Vyasam (PG alumnus, Paediatrics), Dr. Priyanka Medhi (MBBS batch of 2008) won the 1st Prize in the highly competitive ‘SIMWARS’; a national level simulation competition held among 18 expert teams across India at the National Conference on Simulation (PediSTARS) held at Chennai.
- ✚ Dr. Rahul George (PG alumnus, Orthopaedics) won gold medal for the best arthroplasty paper at the recent Tamil Nadu Orthopaedic Association state conference, held at Vellore.

- ✚ Dr. Thomas Anand Augustine (MBBS batch of 2007) has been awarded the, Bindeshwari Sundarshan IAPMR Gold Medal for the best PGT paper titled, 'Assessment of Renal Function in Motor Complete Spinal Cord Injury Patients - Cystatin - C as an Accurate Single Marker' at the IAPMRCON 2020 at Kozhikode, Kerala.
- ✚ Dr. D.J. Christopher (MBBS batch of 1979-80) achieved the following:
 - Elected "President" of Indian Chest Society at the National Congress of Pulmonology, "Napcon 2019" held at Kochi. Indian Chest Society is the Principal Respiratory Society of the country with a life membership of over 4000. Dr. Christopher is the second President from the State of Tamil Nadu in its nearly 40 years of existence
 - Was awarded the Dr. Sheldon Spector Oration by the International Asthma Services, Colorado (USA) at the annual conference of the National Conference of Allergy and Immunology (Allergocon 2020).
- ✚ Dr. Surekha V (MBBS batch of 1983) has been awarded the certificate of excellence at the, 'Double Helical National Health Awards 2019', for distinguished contribution in Geriatric care. This ceremony was held in New Delhi.
- ✚ Dr. Anna T. Valson (PG alumnus, Nephrology) was awarded first prize for podium presentation in the Clinical Transplant category for the study titled, 'Living Kidney Donation in India: Do We Need to be More Cautious?' in the 40th annual conference of Indian Society of Nephrology, Southern Chapter held at Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru.
- ✚ Dr. Suma Susan Mathews (PG alumnus, ENT) has been awarded the best paper in the senior consultant award category for the topic 'Laryngeal Trauma - A Life Threatening Emergency' at PHONOCON 2020, the 16th Annual Conference of the Association of Phonosurgeons held at Daman.
- ✚ Dr. Gautam Waran (PG alumnus, Radiotherapy) won the Best Proffered Paper Award for his paper titled - 'A prospective Observational Study to Assess the Prognostic Value of Serum EBV DNA Titres in Undifferentiated Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma, Comparing Quantitative Baseline EBV DNA Titre at Diagnosis Versus Titre Post Treatment at the AROI TNPY Webinar 2020.
- ✚ Dr. Swathi B (PG alumnus, Radiotherapy) had a special mention for her presentation titled "Influence of Setup Uncertainties on CTV to PTV Margin in Total Marrow and Lymphoid Irradiation (TMLI)" at the AROI TNPY Webinar 2020.
- ✚ Dr. Thomas V. Paul (PG alumnus, Endocrinology) was awarded the prestigious S.P.S. Teotia Oration 2020 during the 16th Annual Conference of the ISBMR (Indian Society of Bone and Mineral Research).
- ✚ Dr. Priya Balasubramanian (MBBS batch of 1991) published a book "The Alchemy of Secrets".
- ✚ Dr. Sreekar Harinatha (PG alumnus, Plastic Surgery) published a book titled, "The Male Breast - What you should know about Gynecomastia".

- ✚ Dr. Rajaratnam Abel (MBBS batch of 1964) published a book entitled “COVID-19: How to prevent getting infected”.
- ✚ Dr. Ajit Pothan Varki (MBBS batch of 1968) was awarded “The Rosalind Kornfeld Award” for Lifetime Achievement in *Glycobiology* for the year 2020.
- ✚ Dr. Nitin Verma (MBBS batch of 1974) has been elected as the President of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO).
- ✚ Two books “Ranjit A Legend” and “The Man We Honour: Datuk Dr. Ranjit Mathew Oommen: have been written about late Dr. Ranjit Mathew Oommen (MBBS batch of 1965).
- ✚ Dr. Varadachary Srinivas (MBBS batch of 1966) has written a book entitled “A tale of two medics”.
- ✚ Dr. V. Rajshekhar (MBBS batch of 1975) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. B.S. Ramakrishna (MBBS batch of 1969) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. T. Jacob John (PG alumnus, Paediatrics & Virology) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. Alok Srivastava (MBBS batch of 1976) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. K.S. Jacob (MBBS batch of 1976) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. Gagandeep Kang (MBBS batch of 1981) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. Prathap Tharyan (MBBS batch of 1974) has been named in the Standford University list of the World's Top 2% Scientists.
- ✚ Dr. Samuel Asirvatham (MBBS batch of 1981) was inducted as a fellow into the National Academy of Inventors, the highest professional distinction accorded solely to academic inventors.

The Moving Big Band concerts

There are many physicians who are medical alumni of CMC Vellore who work a lifetime in small hospitals in rural and resource challenged settings. A few unexpectedly need specialized, sophisticated care for a critical illness. Often, these individuals do not have the financial resources to meet the expenses.

This fund raising initiative through the “Moving Big Bands” is to offset, at least a part of the financial burden of those thus affected. It is being planned, launched and administered through the generosity of world-wide medical alumni of CMC Vellore and the administration

of CMC at Vellore who have indicated a willingness to contribute their time, and money for an extremely worthy cause.

“Big Bands” developed playing jazz music during the swing era of the 1930s and 40s and typically contain a hearty group of horns (saxophones, trumpets and trombones) accompanied by a rhythm section. Founded in 1976 the MBB was always on the move searching for places in which to practice, thus the name “Moving” came naturally.

They first came to Vellore in 2017 for the Ida Scudder Memorial Concert. Our alumnus Dr. Donald Roberts (MBBS Batch of 1957) accompanies them on the keyboard, and was the person organised this tour of South India.

The Moving Big Band concerts were arranged in Chennai, Vellore and Bangalore between February 10-15, 2020. The Chennai concert was coordinated by Dr. R. Jebaraj (MBBS batch of 1983), Dr. Sumamalini Victor (MBBS batch of 1990) and team. The Bangalore concerts were coordinated by Dr. Premkumar Mony (MBBS batch of 1988) and team. The Vellore concert was held at the Scudder Auditorium with support from the Development Office.

Executive Committee Meeting of the Alumni Association

The Executive Committee Meeting of the Office Bearers of the Alumni Association met on 12 December 2020 and recommended the following:

1. As Dr. Abraham Peedicayil will be retiring shortly, the committee recommended Dr. Alfred Job Daniel (MBBS batch of 1978) to complete the term of the President.
2. The dates of the Reunion 2021 was discussed and it was decided to have the Reunion 2021 from August 12-14, 2021. It was also decided to club both the Reunions 2020 and 2021 together.

Handing over the baton

I will be retiring from CMC early next year after joining Men’s Hostel in 1975 and the faculty of this great institution in 1988. It has been a privilege to serve the Alumni Association, after taking over from Dr. Prathap Tharyan in 2017. We had a great celebration to mark the 100th year of medical education at CMC, Vellore with great participation from alumni across the various batches. Unfortunately, this year we could not have the big reunion although small batch reunions and country reunions did take place.

I am thankful to Dr Alfred Job Daniel (batch of 1978 and former Principal) for agreeing to steer the Alumni Association in the next few years. I look forward to several more great reunions and to connect with many of you on a personal level.

Thank you and good-bye,

*Abraham Peedicayil
President, CMC Alumni Association
abraham@cmcvellore.ac.in*

UPCOMING ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION MEETING- 2021

India: August 12, 13 & 14

Special Batches: 1945, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '75, '79-80, '85, '90, '95

Special Batches: 1946, '51, '56, '61, '66, '71, '76, 81, '86, '91, '96

For further details, contact:

CMC Alumni Association: email: alumni@cmcvellore.ac.in

Condolences and Remembrances

Our prayers and condolences to the families of the following alumni / former faculty who passed away in 2019-20:



Dr. Leila Shahani (nee Pillai) (1945) on 2 May 2019.



Dr. Hilda Helena (1963) on December 16, 2019.



Dr. Manoj G Tyagi (former Professor of Pharmacology) on January 10, 2020.



Dr. Sunil Agarwal (1978) on February 4, 2020.



Dr. Stanley John (1950) on February 23, 2020.



Dr. Jitendra Kumar Maganlal Rathod (PG alumnus, Cardiothoracic Surgery) on April 6, 2020.



Dr. John Eric Henry Moody (former faculty in Dental at CMC Vellore) on 20 April 2020.

Dr. Santhappa Manuel (1961) on 20 April 2020.



Dr. J. Prakasa Rao (PG alumnus, Physiology) on 6 May 2020.



Dr. George Verghese Kurien (1967) on 9 May 2020.



Dr. M. Prasad Reddy (1962) on 12 May 2020.



Dr. Leela Mary Chacko (1943) on 23 May 2020.



Dr. Bahunlang Kharsyntiew (1981) on 24 June 2020.



Dr. V.X. Mathew (1955) on 2 July 2020.



Dr. Priyabrata Dey (PG alumnus, Neurosurgery) on 13 July 2020.



Dr. Vijayasri Rajulapati Sylvester (PG alumnus, Obstetrics and Gynaecology) on 15 July 2020.



Dr. Sakuntala Karat (nee Dorairaj) (1951) on 26 July 2020.



Dr. Tharyan Tharyan (1966) on 29 July 2020.



Dr Shanti Ruby David (nee Shanti Ruby James) (1971) on August 7, 2020.



Dr. Ammini Mathai (nee Ammini George) (1946) on August 8, 2020.



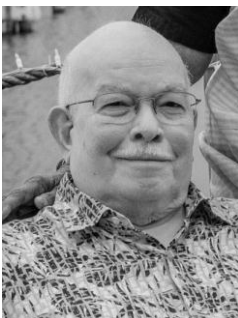
Dr. Christie Rajyam, (1960) on August 8, 2020.



Dr. Chandrahasan A Johnson (1948) on August 17, 2020.



Dr. Major Gandham Chandrasekhara Rao (1951) on August 21, 2020.



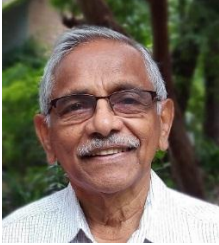
Dr. Chinniah Kulasingham (1957) on September 18, 2020.



Dr. O. Devadatta Joseph (1952) on September 26, 2020.



Dr. Aleyamma Joseph (nee Mathew) (1959-60) on 7 October 2020.



Dr. A.J. Thomas (1954) on 12 October 2020.



Dr. Anand Date (1957) on 15 October 2020.



Dr. Cecilia Zacharias (nee Mathews) (1945) on October 21, 2020.



Dr. (Rohini) Rachel Mathai (nee Thomas) (1964) on 8 November 2020.



Dr. K.A.P. Yesudian (MBBS batch of 1953) on 23 November 2020.

ALL OF US HERE IN THE ALUMNI OFFICE

TRUST THAT YOU WILL HAVE A

JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

AND TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO

WISH YOU A BLESSED AND HOPE-FILLED

NEW YEAR 2021!
