

Canadian Vellore Ludhiana Committee

Ministering God's love through medical training & care at CMC Vellore & CMC Ludhiana since 1913

Committee News

Dear Supporters,

This will be an abbreviated newsletter in recognition of this very busy time of year.

Having completed the restructuring paperwork we mentioned in our last newsletter, we are still in a "holding pattern" as we await our applications to be processed. In the meantime, we have not been completely inactive – please see the two "red letter" boxes below.

In the coming year we hope to identify specific "projects" to meet particular needs in both CMC Vellore and Ludhiana. This will not only highlight areas, you, our supporters can donate towards, but also specifically pray for. We want you to feel very "connected" to the work we are supporting. Please continue to pray for the approval of our applications in the near future and, as always, the amazing work in both, CMC Vellore and Ludhiana, for the staff, the students, the leadership and the patients receiving care.

Vellore News

Young mother, Latha delivered her first born son in a small government hospital on Christmas day but she knew something was terribly wrong, the baby didn't cry - his airways were obstructed.

They were advised to quickly go to a larger, better equipped hospital, but here too, the facilities were inadequate. They were then told they would receive the best care in all India if they went to CMC Vellore, where no one was turned away, no matter how poor.

With only a five to six hour window to effectively treat this condition, they rushed there where the baby was placed on a cooling bed that had been developed by one of the doctors in the Neonatology Department. The baby was kept in this cooled state for 72 hours, transferred to a conventional cot for several more days and then discharged to go home to his family.



The cooling facilities in western hospitals are far too expensive for a hospital in India to consider so this doctor took a three year leave from CMC Vellore to study the cooling technique in Australia and then Canada. He then returned to develop a cooling bed from materials used in air conditioning rooms and

special jackets for those who work in very hot environments. With experimentation and assistance from the bio-engineering department he was able to produce an effective cooling bed for 3100 rupees or \$ 52 Cdn! This won the best innovation award at the National Conference and has led to doctors from other medical colleges coming to study this new technique, using this ingenious and highly affordable new device.

Through a generous donation this year, we have sent \$ 5300 to be used to help pay tuition and expenses for the training of Lab, X-ray, or Pharmacy technicians.

"My work is for a King." Dame Edith Brown, founder of CMC Ludhiana

Ludhiana News

Earlier this year, Dr. Abraham Thomas, Director of CMC Ludhiana, was highly honoured by the American College of Surgeons. In this, their centennial year, they published a timeline of the most significant advances in surgery over the past 100 years. Dr. Thomas' groundbreaking reattachment of a young girl's entire face in 1994 was chosen as one of those "most significant advances."

We would like to bring you a little of the other side of the story of that young girl, the horrendous injury she suffered and how the subsequent treatment and care she received from the CMC Ludhiana staff shaped her future and the future of facial surgery for the world.

Sandeep Kaur was 9 years old when her hair caught in a threshing machine. Her entire face and scalp were torn off before she could be rescued. Unconscious and with her detached face packed in a bag, her family began the long 150 kilometer trip to CMC Ludhiana. Dr. Thomas was on duty when they arrived. "It was an utterly frightening sight to see that blood-drenched face. Initially I didn't think I could do anything." For ten hours straight, Dr. Thomas meticulously reconnected blood vessels, nerves, muscles and skin until

100years
Home > 1900s



finally, Sandeep's face was back in place. Only later did he realize he had accomplished a surgical feat that would become world recognized.

Sandeep was so impacted by the care she received that she decided, she too, would like to make, caring for others, her life choice. Although offered the opportunity to become a doctor, she chose to study nursing at CMC Ludhiana in order to have closer and more regular contact with the patients under her care. She is now a practicing nurse in Ludhiana.



The James Ashwin Memorial Scholarship in Physiology: We are very pleased to announce that we were able to establish the endowment fund for this scholarship in July. The initial funds have been sent and over the next years we would like to be able to add to the fund in order to increase the degree of benefit to the post graduate students who apply.

In Closing

First, on behalf of CMC Vellore and Ludhiana, we would like to thank you for your faithful support in prayer and finances through out 2013! At this time of year we, the committee, would also like to wish you, your families and loved ones, a Christmas season filled with joy and peace as you celebrate God's gift to us, His Son, Emmanuel, God with us.

DONATION & CONTACT FORM

Please complete and mail to:

The Vellore Ludhiana Committee, 23 Farmview Cres, TORONTO, ONTARIO M2J 1G5

Tel. 416-921-2301, email: vel.lud@sympatico.ca, please visit us on the web at: www.cmchospitals.ca

Please make cheques payable to: Vellore Ludhiana Committee.

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