Canadian Vellore Ludhiana Committee

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CMCH LUDHIANA

New Administrative Team
At the Governing Board Meeting in March 2008, the previously existing administrative team resigned and an interim team was appointed. A further Governing Board Meeting was held at the end of April and a new administrative team appointed.

The new Director of CMCH is Dr. Abraham G. Thomas, a plastic surgeon of international renown. Previously he had served as the principal of the Medical College and for the last few years he has worked in Pondicherry. He is well respected and brings considerable management experience in secondary and tertiary healthcare.

Induction of Dr. Thomas as Director

Other members if the new team include: Dr. Kim Mammen, Deputy Director; Dr. Sunil Singh, Medical College Principal; Dr. Abi M. Thomas, Dental College Principal; Dr. Triza Jeevan, College of Nursing Principal and Dr. Kanwal Masih, Medical Superintendent.

The proposed Wockhardt Cardiology Centre has been halted and the proposed Regional Cancer Centre has been abandoned. Dr. Thomas is now seeking funding for new cancer treatment facilities, to replace the Cobalt treatment funded by our Committee since 1958.

Betty Cowan Research and Innovation Centre
Well-planned research is vital to improving the quality of medical care. Research is an integral part of postgraduate medical training and knowledge; the understanding of research methodology is a necessity for postgraduate students. Dr Jeyraj Pandian is Head of Research and Dr Neeta Kang is Head of Innovation. Our Committee funded construction of the Centre in 2006 and contributed funds for computers in 2007. The Centre is now fully operative.

A researcher at work

In May 2008, the Betty Cowan Research and Innovation Centre organized its first Workshop on Research Methodology for students, faculty and staff. The workshop was held over four days, with over 200 participants.

Emergency Service

In June, The Ambulance, Mobike and Rescue Service (AMARS) of Christian Medical College & Hospital started a series of road shows around the city of Ludhiana. The team provides service in advanced life-support and pre-hospital life-support. They deal with a full range of incidents, which include road traffic accidents, household accidents and all medical emergencies. They will be demonstrating their life saving skills and specialised equipment over a 3-week period.

The AMARS Team is available for all rescue calls 24 hours a day seven days a week at no cost within the city. They are available through a dedicated telephone '104'. Motorbikes and ambulances can be dispatched in minutes to render life-saving treatment to all patients. The team consists of 19 paramedics. Our Committee provided funds for emergency equipment in 2004.

Other funds our Committee sent in 2007 were used to furnish the new examination hall for medical students and furnish new waiting rooms for patients' families. These projects represented a total of $40,000.

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CMCH VELLORE

In late December 2007, our Committee sent $30,000 from the Personnel Development Fund, raised by the Canadian Armed Forces. It will be used for the Junior Medical Faculty Training Fellowship. The purpose of this Fellowship provides opportunities for medical faculty who have a long-term commitment to the institution to go abroad and work for a short period in centres of their choice as Visitor Observers. Hands on experience develop new skills and expertise to improve the quality of patient care, teaching and research in their respective departments. This training opportunity will help staff to establish contacts with Centres of Excellence abroad for obtaining study leave opportunities and developing collaborative activities to enhance the quality of work at Vellore. In addition, $13,000 was sent towards the new College of Nursing, which will be under construction soon.

CMC Vellore Ranked Second Among Indian Medical Colleges

The AC Neilson Survey of Academic Excellence has ranked Vellore Number Two, based on the facts through an extensive nationwide study.

Excerpts from *India Today:* " . . .
CMC Vellore which takes in 60 undergraduates –at least 25 are women- every year, has been given a five star rating by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, an autonomous institution of the University Grants Commission, in recognition of the education and healthcare it provides."
"CMC's success is also due to its excellent faculty,. . .teaching 648 students. The hospital has 2,340 beds."

Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA) Implements Program for the Elderly
As part of the Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation Program, RUHSA has started a pilot project for the elderly poor in two villages. Day care centres have been established providing opportunities for physical exercise, reading, television watching, healthcare education and counseling. Free health care and lunches are also provided. One female goat kid is given to each participant. The group has started a community garden on their own initiative. A third centre is planned for.

RUHSA Community College
Vocational courses are popular among rural youth. During 2007-2008, 285 young men took courses, including 33 from the Tsunami Rehabilitation Project area. Industries in and around Vellore have taken the students for on the job training. More than 60 % of the graduates are employed successfully at this time.

Memorial Contributions to Schell Eye Hospital and the Department of Oncology
Dr. Ethel Pereira, Vellore alumnus, and her sister Vilma made very generous contributions in memory of their parents to the Schell Eye Hospital and the Department of Oncology earlier this year. Plaques will be installed in both facilities. Gifts or bequests honour loved ones and the benefits continue for many years to come.

Please complete this form, tear off and mail to:
The Vellore-Ludhiana Committee, 23 Farmview Cres. TORONTO ON M2J 1G5

Please accept my gift of $_____ to be used:
  As needed   CMC Vellore   CMC Ludhiana   Divided equally
Name:_____

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