



Visitors to CMC - Jonas Salk

It was in March of 2014 that India, for years hyperendemic for polio, a dreaded disease that affected thousands of children, was declared polio-free by the World Health Organisation. In the early 1980s, [Dr. T. Jacob John](#) who headed clinical virology services at CMC Vellore from 1970 to 1995 - one of the pioneers of global polio eradication - had found that inactivated polio vaccine, popularly called 'Salk vaccine' after [Jonas Salk](#) who developed it, was more suitable for the prevention and control of polio in India than the oral polio vaccine (Sabin vaccine) that was in use at the time. It was in appreciation of this scientific contribution that Dr. Salk visited the [Department of Clinical Virology](#) on 1 March, 1984 (at its original location in the old block, below the clock tower).



Dr. Salk is seen here talking with Dr. John. Also in the picture are [Dr. Jacob Abraham](#), renowned neurosurgeon (CMC alumnus and faculty member, seen in the background) and one of his trainees, Dr. Santosh Venkatesan, standing to the left of Dr. John.