

One-Stop Database for Medical Imaging

A platform-independent Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) as an imaging solution for all medical disciplines and modalities was launched at CMC Vellore on April 5, 2017. The dedication of 'InstaPACS' (Meddiff Technologies, Bengaluru) was held in Wheeler Hall with a welcome address by the Director, Dr Sunil Chandy. Dr Anil Kuruvilla, Associate Director (Admin) gave an overview of the new system, highlighting the steps involved in finding a comprehensive and cost-effective software solution to handle medical images for a variety of medical and surgical departments. He also commended the team effort of the CHIPS department and the providers of InstaPACS that enabled the effective installation of the system and the customisation needed to meet the needs of various departments and improve clinical efficiency.

Mr Tapesh Agarwal, CTO and co-founder of Meddiff demonstrated the salient features, drawing attention to the zero-footprint image viewer that allows users to easily view images amongst a range of operating systems, using any device. The software has been integrated with the existing HIS developed by CHIPS allowing images to be viewed by the treating physician using the CMC 'Clinical WorkStation'.

The screenshot displays the InstaPACS software interface. At the top, the title bar reads "Christian Medical College, Vellore - India. User ID: Super Administrator(URO1) Logged on time: 08:11 Version - 5.71.72 - [Patient Search Screen]". Below the title bar is a navigation menu with icons for Home, Patient Info, Discharge Summary, Medical Report, Operation Notes, Pharmacy, Lab Master, Yellow Sheet, Patient Results, Intranet/Web, Theatre Posting, X-Ray/Imaging, IP Bill Info, SMS Gateway, Change Password, Login/Logout, and Exit Clin WS. The main interface is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** A vertical list of buttons for various functions: QP Appointments, JP List, Doctor's Appointments, Fix Apt(Perm, Chris Card), Apt Perm(For Secretaries), Bonemarrow Appointment, Radiology Appointments, DS Checklist, User Creation, Configure Unit / Reports, Miscellaneous services, Sick Leave, Online Cancel, Alpha Booking, Secretaries are not permitted to issue Prescriptions. Lab orders (no concession) is restricted to secretaries with sanction from HOD and MS, and Version New Features.
- Top Section:** A "Patient ID:" search field with a "Find Patient" button.
- Table:** A table with columns for "Hum", "Name", "Age", and "Sex".
- Form Fields:** Fields for Name, Patient ID, Age, Sex, Address, State, Country, Pin, Email, and Mobile/Fax.
- Right Sidebar:** A vertical list of buttons for various actions: Alert patient, Metabolic Sheet, Haemat Sheet, ABG chart, Mark as Study, Record Allergy, Record MedAlert, Follow-up, Record H1N1, View PAC data, Growth Charts, Em. OR Posting, OP Referral, TPA Insurance, View Lab Orders, Anaesthesia, InstaPACS (highlighted with a red arrow), ADR, and CMC Free.

The software, launched initially in the Department of Cardiology, helps doctors view angiography images and videos from their OP clinics and offices. Data can be stored in various formats like DICOM, PDF, JPEG, MP4, MP3 and AVI, with templates and facilities for reporting also available. Giving his feedback, Dr Paul George, Professor & Head, Cardiology II, spoke of the benefits of the software for patient management, for enhancing efficiency, and for undertaking research studies. Dr Mathew Alexander, Professor & Head, Department of Neurology, commended the project as a step towards having a common storage for images which would aid in treating patients.

Additionally, imaging studies done elsewhere and brought by patients on CD/DVD discs could be imported into InstaPACS which would also help the physician. The meeting concluded with a prayer of dedication by Rev. Finney Alexander of the Chaplaincy Department.