Milestones: Department of Haematology forays into Next Generation Sequencing

The Department of Haematology, Christian Medical College, Vellore, and MedGenome, India’s premier genomics-based research and diagnostics company and market leader for genomic diagnostics in South Asia, have come together to collaborate on research projects using the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) platform. The NGS facility was unveiled on the third floor of the Jos Alukkas Building on 30th March, 2017. This took place in a formal ceremony in the presence of Drs. Anil Kuruvilla, Associate Director, C.E. Eapen, Medical Superintendent, Alok Srivastava, Head, Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) and Vikram Mathews, Head of Haematology.

CMC’s Department of Haematology has been at the forefront of research in blood related disorders.

Obituary:
Dr. Devaprasad Pasumarthy (1957) on 30th March, 2017.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved members of the family at this time of grief and loss.
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This NGS facility is being established under a recently sanctioned 'Centre of Excellence in Haematology' Programme by the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi, India. With their expertise in sequencing and research background on the NGS platform, MedGenome will support the department in all aspects of NGS analysis including the Bioinformatics pipeline and interpretation of results.

Areas of potential diagnosis and research applications of NGS facility include non-malignant haematological conditions and leukemia/ Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT).

MedGenome’s mission to improve global health by decoding the genetic information contained in an individual’s genome empowers customers to advance clinical research, enable new biological insights and accelerate drug development. With MedGenome’s highest throughput lab in Southeast Asia, this collaboration will help CMC Vellore to not only gain rich genomic insights but also enable better understanding of the disease at molecular level and translation of insights into clinical practice.

The facility will be manned by three senior scientists - Drs. R.V. Shaji, B. Poonkuzhali and Eunice Sindhuvi E. - and life science graduates.

Postgraduates receive practical training in Paediatric Nephrology and Dialysis

The course was attended by 120 delegates who gained from the promising quality of scientific content delivered by some of the best specialists in the field. International faculty included Dr. Bradley Dixon, Assistant Professor of Paediatrics, Director, Nephrology, Clinical Laboratory, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Ohio, Dr. Detlef Bockenhauer, Professor of Paediatric Nephrology, UCLA Centre for Nephrology, Honorary Consultant, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, and Dr. Meghan Pearl, Clinical Instructor, Department of Paediatrics, Division of Paediatric Nephrology, Mattel Children’s Hospital, UCLA.

The training course concluded with a half-day workshop on Peritoneal Dialysis / Haemodialysis and Vascular Access, receiving 20 credit points from the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University. Faculties from the Critical Care Unit, as well as support staff were instrumental to the success of the programme.

Postgraduates Updated in Paediatric Dermatology through Continuing Medical Education

A CME in Paediatric Dermatology was conducted by the Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy Unit-I, on 17th and 18th March, 2017 at Bagayam. The CME was enriched by the presence of reputed international and national speakers, and was attended by postgraduates and faculty from institutions across India.

Topics of discussion included Genodermatoses, childhood vitiligo, childhood psoriasis and immunodeficiency. A quiz programme on the subject drew keen participation from postgraduates.

A workshop on wound management in Epidermolysis Bullosa was also conducted for the nursing staff. Stalls demonstrating clinical skills in keeping with this were put up by the nursing staff and the HLPT team.

With 188 in attendance, the programme was awarded 20 credit points by the Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R Medical University.
Continuing Medical Education brings Registrars up to date on Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery

The Department of General Surgery – Unit III (Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery) conducted its 3rd edition of the CME update in Upper GI Surgery, under the aegis of the Indian Association of Surgical Gastroenterologists on 31st March and 1st April 2017. This was intended predominantly for registrars in training from Surgical as well as Medical Gastroenterology.

World renowned faculty from India, Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and Netherlands addressed the conference. Live videos sessions, panel discussions on management of Upper GI malignancies, controversies and recent advances in the management of malignant and benign diseases added another dimension to the CME. The programme also served to showcase the institution to the international and national faculty, to enhance collaboration in clinical and research activities in the field of Upper GI Surgery.

Over 130 delegates from various parts of the country participated in the CME, which received 20 credit points under Category III, from the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University.

CHIPS Department installs 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 in CMC 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. Also, he commended the good team effort from CHIPS dept and the providers of InstaPACS towards effective installation of the system and customization 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 dept, therefore images can be viewed by the treating physician using the CMC “Clinical WorkStation”.

Launched initially in cardiology dept, the software helps doctors view angiography images and videos from their OP clinics and offices. Data can be stored in various formats (DICOM, PDF, JPEG, MP4, MP3, AVI), with templates and facilities for reporting also available.
As feedback, Dr. Paul George, Professor & Head, Cardiology II, spoke of the benefits of the software for patient management, enhancing efficiency, and undertaking research studies. Dr Mathew Alexander, Professor & Head, Neurology dept, 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, Chaplaincy Department.

We are thankful to God for His guidance in this project. We pray that it will contribute greatly towards improved efficiency and patient care.

We invite departments in need of an imaging solution and interested in joining this venture to write to CHIPS.

Educational Workshop on Epilepsy for Nursing Personnel

The Departments of Medical Surgical Nursing (Neuro) and Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) together organised a workshop on epilepsy and seizures on 24th March, 2017, to mark World Epilepsy Day celebrated on 26th March, 2017. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Maya Mary Thomas, Professor of Neurology, following which felicitations were offered by Dr. Vinitha Ravindran, Deputy Dean and Head of CNE Department and Mrs. Florence Segaran, Deputy Nursing Superintendent.

The workshop focused on epilepsy and seizures in adults and paediatrics, Status Epilepticus, investigations done, and the surgical interventions that are in practice to help those suffering with epilepsy, along with case study presentations, which were delivered by experts. The group also benefitted from talks on antiepileptic drugs and its nursing considerations, and assessment of a patient with epilepsy. This was topped off with a session led by the nursing faculty, on the various psychosocial and legal issues encountered by epileptic patients.

There were 50 delegates who participated in this workshop both from within the institution as well as from nursing colleges in and around Vellore and was awarded 6 credit hours by the Tamil Nadu Nurses & Midwives Council.

School Children offered guidance towards Career Opportunities

A one-day workshop for school children between grades IX and XII was organised by the Personnel Department on 5th April, 2017, to bring to them an awareness of possibilities that lay ahead of them. To maximise their understanding, the children were encouraged to attempt an introspective assessment of their strengths and weaknesses. The programme sought to equip them to face life’s challenges with confidence and comprehend the purpose of God for their lives. They were also trained in soft skills towards facing interview panels and were provided handouts on the range of courses offered at different colleges and their respective scope.

Seasoned resource people including Dr. Ezhil Christudoss, Principal In-charge, Voorhees College, Mr. T. S. Ravikumar, Professor, College of Nursing, CMC, Mr. Ranjith Kumar, Head of Social Work, Auxilium College, Mrs. Merlin Jenny, Psychologist, MHC, Mr. Durai Jasper, PRO, CMC and Mr. Swarup Singh, Sishya Team, were able to connect with the children.

A meeting for parents also went on in parallel; they were counseled by Mr. Ashok Vedanyagam, Founder, Sishya, to accept the uniqueness of their children, encouraging them with God’s perspective.

About 110 children of staff and 80 parents participated in the programme.
The Staff Sports Tennis Tournament of 2017 took place on 10th March, 2017, at the court in the College Campus, attended by Dr. Sukesh Chandran, Professor, Transfusion Medicine and Immunohaematology as chief guest. Drs. Ajith John George, Senthil S. and Giri Verghese, representing the Department of General Surgery, clinched a win, while Drs. Reuben Kurian, Ashish Geol and Rajv Karthik, who played on behalf of the Department of Gastroenterology, emerged runners-up of the series.

Also wrapping up after a series of matches was the Staff Sports Basketball Tournament, on 20th March, 2017 at the College Campus. The final match was graced by Principal, Dr. Anna B Pulimood. The tournament was won by the Orthopaedics Team, making the General Surgery Team the runners-up.

Retirements

After having served CMC's Community Health Department (CHAD) for 32 years, Mrs. Indrani Jayavelu, Health Centre Auxiliary Gr.I, retired on 12th March, 2017. She joined CHAD in 1985 following one year of the Hospital Auxiliary Training Programme. Her husband, Mr. Jayavelu, Supervisor has retired from CODES, CHAD. They are blessed with one daughter who is married and they have two grandsons.

Mr. V. Joseph Gnanasekar, Sel. Gr.II RCO, RUHSA, following 31 years of service since joining the institution on 1st July, 1985, retired on 1st April, 2017. He and his wife, Mrs. Ruth Darathy, teacher at a Government Middle School, have two sons. Their elder son, Mr. Roshan Jerwick Peniel is an engineer at Lucas TVS in Chennai and their younger son, Mr. Rohan Mark, is a final year student of B.O.T in CMC.

All their committed endeavors on behalf of the institution are remembered by the CMC Community, which unites in wishing them a blessed retirement.

Medical Post-Doctoral Fellowship Admission - 2017

Applications are invited for the Medical Post-Doctoral Fellowship Courses as given in the admission bulletin. Admission Bulletin and Application form can be accessed only on-line at the website:

http://admissions.cmcvellore.ac.in/

The last date for online application submission with payment is 15th June, 2017.
The last date for submission of supporting documents, where applicable, is 17th June, 2017.

Registrar (e-mail: registrar@cmcvellore.ac.in)

Upcoming Event

The Chaplaincy Department announces the commencement of Holy Week Devotions 2017 under the theme Were You There…?

Rev. Dr. Allan Samuel Palanna is an ordained Presbyter of the CSI, Karnataka Southern Diocese. He is presently serving as Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Ethics at the United Theological College. He has an MA (Lit.) from the University of Mysore and has a PhD from the University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom.

All are invited to take part in this programme, which has been scheduled as follows:

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8th April</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Scudder Auditorium</td>
<td>Easter Play</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th April</td>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>Scudder Auditorium</td>
<td>Evening Service</td>
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<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
<td>Palm Musicals</td>
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<td>10th April</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall</td>
<td>...when Jesus entered Jerusalem?</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
<td>Matthew 21:1-11</td>
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<td>11th April</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall</td>
<td>...when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
<td>John 13:1-11</td>
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Upcoming Event

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12th April, 2017</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall</td>
<td>...when Jesus spoke of abiding?</td>
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<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
<td>John 15:1-11</td>
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<td>13th April, 2017</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall (Holy Communion Service)</td>
<td>...when Jesus felt betrayed?</td>
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<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel (Holy Communion Service)</td>
<td>John 18:15-18</td>
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<td>14th April, 2017</td>
<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall</td>
<td>...when Jesus forgave?</td>
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<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
<td>Luke 23:33-34</td>
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<td>15th April, 2017</td>
<td>9.00 am</td>
<td>RUHSA Chapel</td>
<td>...when Jesus laid down his life?</td>
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<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>New Exam Hall</td>
<td>John 19:38-42</td>
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<td>8.00 pm</td>
<td>Hospital Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th April, 2017</td>
<td>05.00 am</td>
<td>Sun Rise Service - ASHA Building Terrace</td>
<td>...when Jesus defeated death</td>
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<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>College Hill (Holy Communion)</td>
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<td>6.30 pm</td>
<td>Scudder Auditorium</td>
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<td>Preacher: Rev. Dr. Allan Samuel Palanna</td>
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Situations Vacant

1. **Assistant Professor** with M.S. (General Surgery) for the **Department of Surgery Unit-I**
   - Salary scale: Rs.31,195-68,355/-. Accommodation provided (Partly furnished, depending on availability).
   - Apply with bio-data, certificates and testimonial copies, contact phone number, email ID & address with pincode to the Principal, Christian Medical College, Bagayam, Vellore-632 002. email: princ@cmcvellore.ac.in on or before **April 22, 2017** for Item 1.

2. **Senior Research Officer (Medical)** for the **Department of Pharmacology**
   - Apply with bio-data, certificates and testimonial copies, contact phone number, email ID & address with pincode to the Principal, Christian Medical College, Bagayam, Vellore-632 002. email: princi.hr@cmcvellore.ac.in on or before **April 17, 2017** for Item 2. **Note: Please mention the Job Code in the application form / email. The application / email without Job Code will not be accepted.**

3. **Erratum: Staff II Nuclear Medicine Technician** for the **Department of Nuclear Medicine**
   - Qualifications: B.Sc. Degree with 2 year CMAI Diploma in Nuclear Medicine Technology / B.Sc. in Nuclear Medicine Technology can also apply. (Preference will be given to female candidates). Salary scale: As per institutional rules. Age limit: 35 years. Job description: Patients Care, Quality Control, Radio Pharmaceuticals - preparation, Diagnostic Procedures, Radionuclide Therapy, Radiation Safety.

4. **Senior House Surgeon** for the **Department of Medical Oncology**
   - Qualifications: MBBS with Tamil Nadu Medical Council Number. Consolidated pay: As per institutional rules. Job description: To manage the Medical Oncology Day Care.
   - Applications to be done only through online application system. Please log on to http://www.cmch-vellore.edu Link: “Vacancies”. **Note: Only online applications will be accepted; Hard copies will not be accepted.** Applications will close on **April 17, 2017** for Item 3 and **April 24, 2017** for Item 4.

5. **Staff Nurses B.Sc. & Diploma** to work in a Project on term appointment basis under the **Departments of Infectious Diseases and Neonatology**
   - Apply with biodata, photograph, certificates, testimonial/s and references to the Dean, College of Nursing, Christian Medical College, Vellore - 632 004 on or before **April 22, 2017** for Item 5.

6. **Ida Scudder School** has a vacancy for the post of **Junior School Librarian**.
   - Candidates who are graduates and postgraduates in Library Science can apply along with the photocopies of the academic certificates to The Correspondent, Ida scudder School, No.1, Kalinjur Road, Virthampet, Vellore-632 006, before **April 20, 2017** for Item 6.

7. **The College Hill Nursery (Regular), Bagayam** invites applications for the post of a **Teacher**.
   - Graduates with a Minimum Educational Qualification of +2 from a Recognised Institution, with Diploma in D.T.Ed./D.E.Ed./Home Science or Degree in Home Science or B.Ed. or Certificate from any recognised institution on dynamics of child behaviour or connected discipline with a good command of English and an ability to work well with children in the age group 2-4 years will be preferred. Please submit applications along with a recent CV by email to hillnursery@cmcvellore.ac.in or by post to College Hill Nursery, CMC, Bagayam, Vellore - 632 002 on or before **April 28, 2017**.