The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him. *Nahum 1:7*

**National Conference in Bronchology for Trainees and Students**

The Department of Pulmonary Medicine organised a three-day national conference - Broncocon 2017, from 2nd to 4th March, supported by the Indian Association of Bronchology, an interdisciplinary society dedicated to bronchoscopy and intervention pulmonology. In all, around 600 specialists including faculty and trainees in the field took part in the conference. Leading world experts in the field – Dr. Atul Mehta, Cleveland Clinic Foundation (USA), Dr. Pyng Lee (National University, Singapore) and Dr. M. Munavvar (Lancashire Teaching Hospital, UK), were among the overseas speakers. There were National Faculty drawn from leading institutions throughout the country including AIIMS and PGI Chandigarh.

It began with a one-day workshop on the 2nd of March, which was attended by more than 200 doctors from India and abroad. The programme set the tone with live demonstrations of selective cases and practical training, of quality that has not been matched by previous conferences in the country. In what may be considered unique in the history of such conferences, animal models were used in the workshop to provide delegates with a real life experience, which was widely appreciated. The participants — young and established pulmonologists, trainees and students — were guided by experienced interventional pulmonologists, who were doyens in the field. There were 5 categories in the workshop: Basic bronchoscopy, Medical thoracoscopy, Thoracic Ultrasound, Endobronchial ultrasound and Interventional bronchoscopy. Interventional procedures such as airway tumor ablation, airway stenting, linear and radial Endo bronchial ultrasound (EBUS), Mediastinal Endo-esophageal ultrasound (EUS), Cryo-biopsy technique and medical thoracoscopy, were transmitted live from the operation theatre to the auditorium.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr Jayshree Mehta, President of the Medical Council of India, who gave an insightful lecture on the healthcare scenario of the country. She emphasised the need for reforms in medical education, as this field has not kept pace with changes. She particularly dwelt upon the need for doctors practising sound medical ethics, as there has been an erosion of credibility of the medical fraternity.

The organising chairman of the conference, Dr D J Christopher, in his welcome address to the audience, gave an introduction to the field of Bronchology, its relevance to the speciality, and CMC’s efforts in putting together a conference of high caliber, and the novelties introduced.

**Special Prayers:** March 12 - 18, 2017

**Cardiology:**
- Dr. Paul V. George and Staff
- Dr. George Joseph and Staff
- Dr. Viji Samuel Thomson and Staff
- Dr. John Roshan Jacob and Staff
- Mrs. Jasmin Anand and Staff

**Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery:**
- Dr. Vinayak Shukla and Staff
- Dr. Madhu Andrew Philip and Staff
- Dr. Roy Thankachen and Staff
- Mrs. Jasmin Anand and Staff

**CSI Kanyakumari Diocese**
Council Members:
- Rt. Rev. Dr. G. Devakasham
- Dr. S. Rajesh Sathya

Hospital:
- CSI Hospital, Neyyoor, and others

**CSI Karimnagar Diocese**
Council Members:
- Rt.Rev. Dr. Prof.K. Reuban Mark
- Dr. G. Sam Pavan

**Sunday Services:** March 19, 2017
- 6.00 pm : Scudder Auditorium
  
  Dr. Alex Duncan

- 6.30 pm : Hospital Chapel
  
  Mr. Durai Jasper

**Congratulations:**
- Dr. Dheepak Selvaraj, Surgeon, Vascular Surgery has been elected as Treasurer of the Venous Association of India on his election held at Varanasi VAICON 2017 Conference.

**Memorandum:**
- Dr. Anna B. Pulmood, Principal, is appointed Acting Head of Distance Education Unit, with effect from March 1, 2017. Dr. Rebekah Dass Zechariah, Assistant Physician, will be In-charge of the day-to-day functioning of this Unit during the period Dr. Jachin Velavan is on study leave.
The president of the Indian Association of Bronchology, Dr Tridib Chatterjee, the Hon’ble Secretary, Dr Pratibha Singhal, and the CMC administrators – Director, Dr Sunil Chandy, Principal, Dr Anna Pulimood and Dr Debasis Das Adhikari, Deputy Medical Superintendent, offered their felicitations. Dr Prince James, the organising secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

Dr Atul Mehta’s keynote address on connecting the dots through the historical perspective of bronchoscopy, covered the big picture in the field of Bronchology. There were two orations - the M Santhosham Oration, delivered by Dr. KB Gupta, and the TR Ragupathi Rao Oration, by Dr Manoj Goel. The Lifetime Achievement Award in the field of Interventional Bronchology was given to Dr VK Vijayan.

Practical talks on how to increase the yield of EBUS-guided samples, newer approaches to solitary pulmonary nodule and other original ideas which were of significance, were shared by the experts. The interactive case discussion with voting pads was a first and a big hit among participants.

The conference set the platform for doctors, para-medicos and scientists to present their research. Poster and Oral Presentation prizes were keenly contested for and drew high quality presentations. Winners of the Oral Presentation were 1st prize (Dr. Sridevi on behalf of the CMC group), 2nd Dr. Rakesh Godara (Jaipur), and 3rd Dr. T Vivek (Hyderabad). In the poster Presentation category: Bronchoscopy 1st Dr. Indu M C (Mumbai), 2nd Dr. Umasankar (Erode) and 3rd Dr. Sreeraj R Nair (Ernakulam). In category: Pleural/Miscellaneous the following doctors won prizes: 1st Dr. Sowmya Reddy P (Hyderabad), 2nd Dr. Jeetendra Kumar Patra (Cuttack), 3rd Dr. Pradip Dabhi (Ahmedabad). The Scientific Committee Chairman, Dr. Balamugesh, had a special word of appreciation for the winners, given their distinctive presentations.

Broncocon 2017 raised the bar in all aspects of the expanding field of Bronchology and Intervention Pulmonology. Overall the conference was a roaring success and will remain in the memory of those involved for a very long time. It owes its success to the department, which is reputed for its stature in the field of interventional pulmonology, handling one of the largest volumes in the country. Furthermore, the entire team of Pulmonary Medicine doctors, respiratory therapists, nurses and support staff were involved in the arrangements, and the success is a testimony to their dedicated work.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology along with the Continuing Nursing Education Department, College of Nursing, organised a workshop labelled ‘Fetal Monitoring’ on 24th February, 2017 at the College of Nursing.

Mrs. Ebenezer Ellen Benjamin, Professor and Head, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, set in motion the programme, which was chaired by Dr. Manisha Madhai Beck, Professor and Head, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit-IV.

The initiative was felicitated by Dr. Selva Titus Chacko, Dean, College of Nursing and Mrs. Ruma Nayak, Deputy Nursing Superintendent.

Topics such as history and evolution of fetal monitoring, Daily Fetal Movement Count (DFMC), Non-Stress Test (NST), Biophysical Profile (BPP), Vibroacoustic Stimulation Test (VAST), Contraction Stress Test (CST) and legal issues in fetal monitoring were dealt in detail by various specialists in the field. A panel discussion was conducted to generate discourse on the importance of fetal monitoring. Participants were engaged in skill training where they conducted and interpreted NST and DFMC.

50 nurses from Tamil Nadu attended the workshop, which was awarded 8 credit hours by the Tamil Nadu Nurses and Midwives Council. The scientific content of workshop was found relevant and beneficial by the participants.

Mr. Prakasam, Sr. Gr. II Artisan (Non I.T.), Postal Department, whose journey in CMC began in 1981, retired on 9th March, 2017, following 35 years of dedicated service. He has two daughters and a son. His eldest, Mrs. Kalaiselvi, is a Post Basic Nursing Student, his younger daughter, Mrs. Revathi, is a Ward Clerk in P2 Ward and his son, Mr. Udayakumar works as Male Nurse at the Mental Health Centre of CMC.

The CMC Community acknowledges his many years of commitment to the institution and wishes him a blessed retired life.
The Department of Clinical Microbiology celebrated International Women’s Day 2017 in a distinct way, with all its women staff clad in hues of pink. Dr. V. Balaji, Head of the Department arranged for a special meet in honour of this day. Women form a predominant work force at the Microbiology Department. In recognition of such women, who draw strength from troubles, and find a reason to smile even in the face of challenges, growing from strength to strength with prayers and hope, the Department remembered with pride and thankfulness Dr. Ruth Myers, Dr. Grace Koshy, Dr. Lalitha, Dr. Mary Jesudason, Dr. Elizabeth Mathai and Dr. Mary Mathews - women who contributed tirelessly to the achievements of the Department through the years.

Department of Paediatric Emergency Medicine recognised as Centre of Excellence

Out of an exhaustive list of all its contemporaries from across the country, the Department of Paediatric Emergency Medicine was Accredited and Awarded as a Centre of Excellence by the Society for Trauma and Emergency Paediatrics in the 9th Annual National Assembly on Paediatric Emergency (NAPEM 2017) held on 9th February, 2017 in Hyderabad.

Obituary: Dr. K.V. Mathai

Dr. K.V. Mathai passed away on 7th March in Kozhencherry, Kerala. He belongs to the batch of 1947, his wife Dr. Rachel Mathai (nee Eapen) belongs to the batch of 1947 and their son Dr. Varughese Mathai belongs to the batch of 1977.

Along with Prof Jacob Abraham, Prof. Mathai ran the Neurology Service from 1973-1983 and prided in calling themselves ‘Operating Neurologists’. He was known for punctuality and one could set their clocks for 6.45 am when he left for work each day. After long hours of surgery, he would see patients in the office and his work ethic and commitment was really commendable. He was always dressed very professionally with full sleeves shirt and neck tie and so well-groomed even when he showed up for surgery late at night. He had an Epidemiological Study on Epilepsy, showed his commitment to research.

In 1983, the Madras University allowed to restart DM Neurology with Prof. K.V. Mathai as the Professor of Neurology. He was the President of the Neurological Society of India in 1977 and superannuated in 1986. Prof Jacob Abraham on a personal note has said it was a joy to work with Prof Mathai and he was his successor and followed his path. Dr.K.V. Mathai held several Administrative positions’ including Associate Director and was the Head of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for a period after Dr Mary Varghese had retired.

Prof. Mathai after retirement continued to help develop Neurology in the North East states of India. Several of his students from Assam hold him in high regard and speak of him with reverence.

On a personal note, until 2013, when fading memory caught him, Prof. KVM was the first to greet his students on their birthdays.

He entered his 90th year in November and we need to celebrate the life of Prof Mathai and try to be good mentors for the ‘Gen Next’ and rededicate ourselves to our calling with a similar kind of work ethic and commitment.

Let us thank God for the life and contribution of Dr. K.V. Mathai and uphold the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.
The CMC Woodworking Club is grateful to have had Charlotte and Sven-Erik Bengstomn with them the previous month. Charlotte is a Paediatrician from Stockholm and Sven teaches woodworking to school children at the primary level there.

During their stay here, Sven helped the CMC Woodworking Club organise two workshops for children at the College Campus, Bagayam. Measures taken in preparation towards this involved organising the club itself, besides purchasing hand tools and raw materials that were appropriate for children. The workshops proved to be rather engaging: the children made name-plates in the first workshop and small boxes in the second.

In the hope of continuing the initiative started by Sven, the CMC Woodworking Club intends to conduct similar workshops for children and classes for adults.

For further details on joining the club or being involved in classes, please contact Dr. Vinay Oommen via e-mail at vinayoommen@cmcvellore.ac.in

Situations Vacant

1. **Assistant Professor** with MCh (Paed. Surgery) for the **Department of Paediatric Surgery**
   Salary scale: Rs.38,240-83,790/- Accommodation provided (Partly furnished, depending on availability).

2. **Assistant Professor Gr.II** with M.D. (Biochemistry) for the **Department of Biochemistry**
   Salary scale: As per institutional rules. Accommodation provided (Partly furnished, depending on availability).

3. **Associate Research Officer Gr.IV** for the **Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory**
   Qualification: M.Sc. (life sciences) with five years experience in Rotavirus laboratory.
   Salary scale: As per institutional rules. Accommodation not provided.

4. **Professor** with MCI-recognised Post Graduate degree in MS General Surgery (with 9 years Teaching experience) in a recognised teaching institution and should have minimum 4 publications according to the latest MCI Guidelines for the **Department of Surgery Unit-I**
   Salary scale: As per institutional rules. Accommodation provided (Partly furnished, depending on availability).

5. **Registrar (Non PG)** with MBBS for the **Department of Paediatric Casualty**
   Salary: As per institutional rules. Accommodation provided (Partly furnished, depending on availability).

6. **Tutor Gr.IV** with BOT (Regular Course) for the **Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (Occupational Therapy)**
   Salary scale: As per the institutional rules. Accommodation not provided.
   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 March 18, 2017 for Items 1, 2, 3 and March 25, 2017 for Items 4, 5 and 6.

7. **Junior Research Fellow** for the **Department of Clinical Genetics**
   Qualification: M.Sc. Life Science.
   Mode of appointment : Project mode. Salary : As per institution rules. Accommodation not provided.
   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.hr@cmcvellore.ac.in on or before March 24, 2017 for Item 7.
   Note: Please mention the Job Code in the application form/email. The application / email without Job Code will not be accepted.

8. **Staff III Critical Care Therapist** for the **Department of Neonatology**
   Qualifications: H.Sc. with Diploma in Critical Care Therapy Course (2 years + 1 year internship). or B.Sc. Critical Care Technology. Salary scale: As per institutional rules. Age limit: 35 years.
   Job description: Setting up and maintaining ventilators, monitors, pumps, therapeutic gas administration apparatus and other nursery equipment. Shift duty. 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 March 27, 2017 for Item 8.