



Christian Medical College Vellore



Newsline
July 14, 2025

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Dr. Manoranjitham Sathiyaseelan Retires



Dr. Manoranjitham Sathiyaseelan, Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, retired on June 20, 2025, after 34 years of exemplary service at Christian Medical College Vellore. Her association with the institution began in 1982 as a B.Sc. Nursing student. After fulfilling her service obligation at Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet, she joined CMC and completed her M.Sc. in Community Health Nursing in 1993. In response to the institution's evolving needs, she graciously transitioned to the Department of Psychiatric Nursing, where she played a pivotal role in student education and staff supervision, and continued working until October 1997. She then moved to Bahrain to work as an instructor for a brief period, and returned to CMC in 1998 as a Lecturer. She finished her Ph.D. in Psychiatric Nursing in 2010. Dr. Manoranjitham taught students across all levels—GNM, B.Sc., P.B.B.Sc., P.B.D., M.Sc., and Ph.D.—and was known for integrating theory and clinical practice, shaping students into compassionate, competent psychiatric nurses. As an accomplished researcher, she has authored over 40 publications and guided many postgraduate students in research. Her Ph.D. work on developing a nursing intervention to reduce suicide among the population remains a valued resource. She received the Best Researcher Award from The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in 2024 and was also awarded a Senior Training Fellowship in psychiatric emergencies in the United States. She continues to mentor Ph.D. scholars and serves as an examiner and committee member for various universities. Administratively, she has held roles such as Additional Deputy Dean, Registrar, and Deputy Director for International Relations and Hospitality.

Dr. Manoranjitham is known for her graciousness, generosity, and unwavering belief in individuals' potential. She quietly supports students in need, fosters meaningful relationships across borders, and offers wise counsel to many. Supported by her loving family, her husband, Mr. Sathiyaseelan, teaches Medical Records at SMH, Ranipet. Their son, Mr. Samuel Rajkumar, is a Talent Advisor at Google, and their daughter-in-law, Ms. Monica Samuel, holds an MSW degree. Dr. Manoranjitham is also a proud grandmother to young Ezra. Her dedication to nursing education, research, and compassionate care has left an indelible legacy. The CMC family expresses heartfelt gratitude for her immense contributions and wishes her a fulfilling and joyful retirement life.

CMC Vellore and Kotak Mahindra Bank Collaborate to Treat Eye Cancer Among Children

On 8th July, 2025, CMC Vellore launched advanced ophthalmic diagnostic and therapeutic services for patients with eye cancers, especially children with retinoblastoma, the most common type of childhood eye cancer, as well as retinopathy of prematurity, an eye disease seen in preterm births. Retinoblastoma is an eye cancer that affects approximately 1 in 15,000-20,000 live births worldwide and is typically diagnosed before the age of five. However, with early detection and advanced treatment modalities, the prognosis for life and eye salvage is excellent.

The equipment, financed by a CSR grant from Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), included a retinal wide field digital system - a high-end wide field camera for imaging the insides of affected eyes, a diode laser transpupillary thermotherapy unit- a laser machine to treat eye tumours, a new tonometer for measuring eye pressure as well as a selective laser trabeculoplasty software to treat glaucoma, the second most common cause of preventable blindness. In addition to these, the equipment will also support the treatment and management of other retinal diseases.

The CSR grant from KMBL also supported the procurement of an advanced life support (ICU) ambulance to facilitate seamless inter-hospital transfers for the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) of CMC Vellore. CMC's EMS Doctors, paramedics, and nurses cater to around 1,000 critically ill adult and paediatric patients every month. The 24-hour phone helpline available to the public enables a rapid and lifesaving response to emergencies in the local community.

The inauguration and dedication ceremony began with a prayer by Rev. Dr. Finney Alexander, Head of Chaplaincy, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Deepa John (Professor and Head of Pediatric Ophthalmology). The chief guest of the occasion was Dr. Baranidharan, Deputy Director, Health Services, Vellore; he was welcomed by Dr. Lekha Mary Abraham, Professor and Head of Ophthalmology. Dr. Selvamani B, Associate Director (Finance), offered felicitations. Dr. Deepthi Kurian, Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, gave a brief overview of the newly procured equipment.

The plaque was unveiled by Mr. Alex Thomas, Associate Vice President, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and a vote of thanks was rendered by Dr. Deepa John.

The equipment was declared open for use by a symbolic cutting of the ribbon by the chief guest, Dr. Baranidharan.



BLS Training Conducted at Government Place of Safety, Vellore

On 30th June 2025, Project YUVA, Adolescent Medicine, Paediatrics Unit-III, in collaboration with the Paediatric Critical Care Unit, conducted a Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Aid training session at the Government Place of Safety, Vellore, primarily for adolescent boys undergoing rehabilitation there. The session was attended by approximately 65 participants, including adolescent boys residing at the facility as well as the staff members who provide their care.

The training aimed to introduce participants to the core principles of Basic Life Support for adults, Children and infants, such as recognition of an unresponsive victim, performing CPR, managing airway obstructions (choking), and responding to medical emergencies such as snakebites and bleeding. The session combined practical demonstrations, small group practice, and hands-on opportunities for participants to learn and reinforce these vital skills under close supervision. The PICU team led the training with great enthusiasm. Their approachable teaching style and clear demonstrations made the session engaging, interactive, and easy to follow. The boys responded with equal excitement and curiosity, actively participating and showing eagerness to learn.

The team from the Paediatric Critical Care Unit included Dr. Ebor Jacob, Professor & Head; Dr. Jolly Chandran, Professor; Dr. Koshy Alan, Associate Professor; Dr. Sanketh, Assistant Professor; Mr. Dinesh Kumar, Associate Professor, College of Nursing; Mr. D. I. Amul Raj, Senior Critical Care Therapist; Mr. Abraham Benson, Critical Care Therapist; Ms. Sophia R., Critical Care Therapist; Mr. V. Ganesh, Office Facilitator; and Ms. Nitha, Office Facilitator. Project YUVA, which works to educate adolescents on health and empowerment, identified the need for such capacity-building activities among vulnerable youth. This session marks a meaningful step toward equipping adolescents with practical, real-world knowledge that can help save lives. We express our heartfelt thanks to the Paediatric Critical Care Unit for their generous involvement. We also thank the Government Place of Safety for their cooperation and support in facilitating this initiative. Project YUVA looks forward to conducting more such sessions in similar institutions, reinforcing the belief that every young person deserves access to life-saving health education.



Clinical Epidemiology unit organised the Clinical Trials Workshop in Collaboration with McMaster University

The Clinical Epidemiology Unit, in collaboration with McMaster University, Canada, organised a 5-day Clinical Trials workshop on “Design, Analyses, Interpretation and Reporting of Phase III Randomised Clinical Trials: Current State-of-the-Art” between 30th June and 4th July, 2025 at the Stem cell research centre auditorium, Rehab campus, Bagayam. The workshop began with an inauguration ceremony. Dr. Vignesh Kumar, Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Unit and the course co-ordinator, delivered the welcome address. Ms. Saramma Kuruvilla, Chaplain, inaugurated the workshop with a word of prayer. Dr.L.Jeyaseelan, Professor of Biostatistics, Mohammad Bin Rashid University, Dubai, Adjunct Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Unit introduced the extramural faculties Dr. Shrikant Bangdiwala, Director and Professor of Biostatistics, Population Health Research Institute, McMaster University, Canada, Ms. Ananta Bangdiwala, Biostatistician, University of Minnesota and Mr. Kumar Balasubramanian, Statistical Operations Manager, Population Health Research Institute, McMaster University. Dr.Shrikant Bangdiwala introduced the workshop to the participants. The faculty also included Dr. Abraham Peedicayil, Adjunct Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Unit, Dr. Visalakshi Jeyaseelan, WHO, Geneva and Dr. Thambu David, Senior Professor, Clinical Epidemiology Unit.

The topics covered were Introduction to Randomized Controlled Trials, different phases of clinical trials, parallel, cross over, factorial, adaptive and to stage study designs, superiority and non-inferiority hypotheses, cluster randomisation, permuted block and optimised randomisation, Artificial Intelligence in randomized clinical trials sample size calculation, analysis of primary and secondary outcomes, stochastic curtailment, conditional power, early stopping of clinical trials, intention to treat, per protocol analysis, Ethical considerations, Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis, Reading literature, Study Conduct, Internal and external monitoring. The workshop consisted of lectures and group activity. Forty-one participants from CMC and institutions from all over the country attended the workshop. The participants had a diverse background including clinicians, statisticians, allied health and complementary medicine practitioners. The feedback was positive with a suggestion to continue similar and advanced workshops in future. The workshop was coordinated by the CEU faculty Mr. Madhan Kumar and Mr. Fredrick.





How to Succeed in Interviews – A Session for Staff Children

A session for staff children on how to face and succeed in interviews was organised by the Personnel Department on 30th June, 2025. A total of 79 students took part in the session. The sessions were held between 8.30 am to 4.30 pm. The session was conducted given the upcoming interview for the staff children who have completed the 12th standard and have cleared their entrance exam in CMC successfully; now waiting to face their interviews for both nursing and AHS courses.

There were sessions on choosing the course, history of CMC Vellore, dress code, general advice and tips on facing an interview successfully. The resource faculty Col. Dr. Paul Prathap, Hr. Consultant, Chennai gave his inputs. The students found these sessions to be highly informative.





Third Annual Golden Racquet Badminton Tournament - The Badminton Club, CMC Vellore

The Badminton Club, CMC Vellore, is conducting the 3rd annual Golden Racquet ranking tournament exclusively for club members from August 4-9, 2025. Members can register to participate in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles (Google Form link below).

If you are NOT a Club member, please contact one of the organizing team members (below) for a special discount on the membership joining fee. Please note, membership is exclusively for CMC staff and their dependents (as per CMC rules).

All those who would like to participate in the ranking tournament should fill out the registration form below.

Dates: 4th to 9th August 2025

Venue: The Badminton Club, Oval Ground, Bagayam Campus, CMC

For further details, please contact the organizing team members:

1. Mr. Sasi Kumar (99523 68221)
2. Dr. Latif Rajesh Johnson (94884 84161)

3rd Annual Golden Racquet
BADMINTON RANKING TOURNAMENT
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CLUB MEMBERS
Welcome offer for new members.
Exciting prizes to be won.

Men's, Ladies and Children various categories
CONTACT : Dr Latif 9488484161. Mr Sasi 9952368221

REGISTRATION FEE
 STAFF & DEPENDENT : RS 300
 STUDENT : RS 200

AUG 04-09 2025

Badminton Club
Oval Ground
Bagayam

WIN PRIZES!!

Special Prayers : July 13 - 19, 2025

Dermatology : Dr. Leni George and Staff
Dr. Dharshini S. and staff
Mrs. Shalini Chandran and staff

Assemblies of God in North India :

Council Member : Rev. V.C. Georgekutty

Hospital : Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre, Kolkota.



Memoranda

- **Mrs. Jainy John**, Manager, is appointed as Head, Internal Audit Department with effect from 13th June 2025 for a four-year term.
- **Mrs. Shandril Gnanatheebam**, Professor (Nursing) Category I, is appointed as Dean, College of Nursing with effect from 7th July 2025 for a five-year term.
- **Dr. Anika Amritanand**, Professor of Ophthalmology, is appointed as Secretary of The Christian Medical College Vellore Association & Council with effect from 3rd September 2025 for a three-year term.

Laurels & Recognitions

Mr. Arnav Varghese, 2nd Year Medical Student has secured the first place in poster presentation competition conducted during PLEXUS 2025 - A masterclass in Medicine held on 22nd June, 2025 at Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore.

Retirements

• **Mr. Samuvel T.** (Sr. MCTT Grade I), who worked in the OPD Services as a Cash Counter staff from 1997 to 2025 (28 years), retired on 31st May 2025. His wife, Ms. Sheela M., is working as a Staff Nurse in the AK Lab on the Ranipet Campus. They are blessed with two children. Their elder daughter, Ms. Blessy Prassanna Kumari, is pursuing a BOT degree at Meenakshi College, and their son, Master John Godson, is studying in 8th Standard at Ida Scudder School. The CMC community is grateful for his dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes him a blessed retired life.



• **Mrs. Sopna Kumari G**, Counsellor Gr. I retired on 1st June 2025 after completing 16 years of exemplary service in our institution. She joined the CMC family on 1st June 1965.

After years of dedicated counselling service in various departments and capacities in CMC Vellore, Mrs. Sopna Kumari joined Medicine III as a clinical counsellor in 2020. She has been a great source of encouragement and has touched the lives of countless patients, especially during the COVID pandemic.

The impact of her work with young pregnant Obstetric Medicine patients and their families has been tremendous. She had taken on the responsibility of following up many of our patients admitted with deliberate self-harm and many other chronic, socially debilitating diseases. She was actively involved with the training and mentoring the sociology interns in Medicine III. Many will remember her training,

in counselling those with complex social and mental health challenges. With kindness, understanding and expertise she has helped countless individuals navigate their mental health journey. We also acknowledge the profound Impact she has had on the lives of her colleagues – both post graduates and faculty in Medicine III. She leaves behind a legacy of compassion, empathy and Christian counselling ethics. Mrs. Sopna Kumari has been a tremendous blessing to many patients at the Family Medicine and Low-Cost Effective Care Unit, serving the community of Vellore Town. Her personal and empathetic counselling during challenging times has helped numerous patients on their healing journeys. Furthermore, her family therapy sessions have aided many couples in reconciling after conflicts. She has trained the counsellor who will succeed her, and the materials she prepared continue to benefit our team in the Low-Cost Effective Care Unit. Her contributions have made a lasting impact on both our patients and the staff of Family Medicine, and she will be dearly missed. We wish her the very best and a fruitful, blessed retired life.

The CMC community is grateful for her dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes her a blessed retired life.

- **Mrs. Sheela Kayalvizhi**, Sr.Sel.Gr. Medical Lab Technician, Department of Immuno Haematology & Blood Transfusion, retired on 18th June, 2025, after 31 years of dedicated service to the institution.



She is married to Mr. Mark Samuel, a Retired Social worker; their daughter, Ms. Priscilla Sam, B.Tech., is a manager in INFOGAIN Bangalore, and her son, Mr. Prince Samuel, is doing his Physiotherapy course (3rd year) at Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai.

The CMC community is very thankful for her 31 years of dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes her God's blessings on her retired life.



Mrs. Tharani R., joined as a student in the Department of Radiation Oncology from 1985-87 and joined as staff in 1988. Her commitment to treatment and patient care led her to CMC Vellore, where she served as a Senior Radiographer from 1988 to 1997. She then gained valuable international experience by working in Kuwait from 1997 to 1999. In 2007, she rejoined CMC, where she has continued to serve faithfully to the present day. She was the acting supervisor from August 2012 through July 2015, covering Mr. John Kennedy's sabbatical leave.

A God-fearing and compassionate individual, Mrs. Tharani is known for her calm and gentle demeanor, which naturally puts patients at ease. Her dedication to thorough, holistic care has earned her deep respect and admiration from both her colleagues and the patients she serves.

In addition to her clinical duties, Mrs. Tharani took on academic responsibilities during the period when the Radiography Degree Programme was introduced, playing a supportive and guiding role in mentoring students and junior staff. She was married to the Late Mr. Chandrasekar, an engineer by profession. Together, they raised a family rooted in the healthcare field: Her son, Mr. Samuel Rajashekar, serves as a Staff Nurse in the Neuro Ward. Her daughter, Ms. Grace Angeline, is a Staff Nurse in the Emergency Department. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Metilda Margret Samuel, is a homemaker.

With decades of committed service, technical expertise, and a legacy of compassion, Mrs. Tharani R. remains a valued and respected member of the CMCH radiotherapy team. The CMC community, is thankful for her dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes her a blessed retired life.

Mrs. Moksharani. G.M., Hospital Housekeeping Attendant Gr. I. KN – Ward, retired on 3rd July, 2025 after 28 years of service to the institution. She worked in the Department of Neuroscience for 22 years, and as relief staff, she worked 2 years in OPD. After which she worked in O3 East/ KN ward. Mrs. Moksha Rani was a very pleasant, punctual, sincere and hardworking staff. Her husband, Late. Santhayya worked as HHKA in H-ward, they are blessed with 2 sons and 1 daughter. Her elder son, Late. Prem Kumar worked as HHKA in O4 East, his wife Mrs. Grace, is working as HHKA in the Paediatric Department.



Her younger son, Late. Paul, worked as HHKA in R- Ward, his wife Mrs. Deenamma, working as HHKA in R- ward, Her Daughter Mrs. Mary, working as HHKA in Paul Brand Building, her son-in-law Mr. Guna worked as HHKA in M- Block. She is blessed with 3 grandsons and 5 granddaughters who is doing schooling and college. The institution and the department are grateful to Mrs. Moksharani. G.M, for her dedicate and committed service and wish her gods abundant grace and blessing in her future endeavours. We wish her happiness and health in her retirement.

Obituaries

Dr. Sundaram V. Ramanan (MBBS batch of 1954) passed away on 15th February, 2025. Dr. Sundaram Venkata Ramanan (MBBS batch of 1954), known to friends and family as "Ramanan", died peacefully on February 15, at home in West Hartford, Connecticut, with his wife at his side. He was 91.



Dr. Ramanan was born on 21 June 1933 in Calicut, Kerala, India, to Tarakad A. Sundaram and Seethalakshmi Sankara Iyer, and raised in Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was then known) from his infancy after his father was asked to serve there as a medical

officer in the tea estates. After studying at the Royal College and Saint Thomas College (in Mount Lavinia), he was transferred during World War II to Saint Thomas College, Gurutalawa, in the highlands of Ceylon. There, he completed the University of London GCE 'A' Level examination, and returned to India to study medicine at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, following in his father's footsteps. His medical education continued in the British National Health System, where he was mentored by Dr. Israel (Haematology/Oncology) in the Manchester Royal Infirmary, UK. His training culminated in the Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Edinburgh. In 1969, Dr. Ramanan and his wife, Dr. Chitra, emigrated to the United States, joining the faculty of the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He won the prestigious Clinician of the Year Award in his first years on faculty. This was the first of multiple awards recognizing his excellence as a teacher and mentor over his 60+ year career. Since 1976, he served on the faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine, until his retirement at age 90. His work included serving as Chief of Hematology at Mount Sinai Hospital, then serving in the Adult Primary Care Unit of St. Francis Hospital for the final 30 years of his career, educating the "pluripotential" medical student and internal medicine resident.

Dr. Ramanan was never one to turn down a chance for adventure. During medical school, he saw a posting that the Indian Government offered international students a train journey anywhere in the country. Off he went, choosing the longest route available, traveling from Vellore to Kashmir. There, in 1959, he trekked in the snow, halfway to the peak of Mt. Everest, unassisted by a Sherpa or guide. In 1963, after knowing her for just a few days, he married Dr. Chitra. They spent the next 62 years supporting each other through life in London and Manchester, UK, Morgantown, West Virginia, and, for nearly 50 years, in West Hartford. One of his many moments of pride was when he and his wife shook hands with Queen Elizabeth II. Their love was grounded in being each other's best friend, supporting each other unconditionally, and providing the same loving support to their children, Kumar and Radhika, and their beloved grandchildren, Kobe, Jude, Kylie and Nikolai.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother, Murali. Anyone who knew Dr. Ramanan knows him to be an intellect full of curiosity, compassion and laughter. He was a man of integrity, an animated storyteller and an eternal optimist, quick with a joke or silly song. Along with his wife, he travelled to all continents of the world, passing this love of travel to his children and grandchildren. He was a treasure and will be dearly missed. Services were held at the Carmon Funeral Home, Windsor, CT, on Saturday, February 22 at 11 am. Instead of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the 'Ramanan Symposium Fund' at Saint Francis Hospital, online at <https://giving.saintfrancisdonor.com> / or by calling (860) 714-4900. This fund supports a lectureship that celebrates Dr. Ramanan's legacy - The Art of Practising Medicine in Primary Care.

The family request people to send remembrances through the below website of the funeral home as they are making them into a memory book. <https://www.carmonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Sundaram-V-Ramanan-MD-MRCP?obId=37337169>

For those who would like to get in touch with the family, contact details of his wife Dr. Chitra Ramanan is given below: Email: svramanan@comcast.net

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved members of the family at this time.

- **Mr. G. Muniswamy**, father of Mrs. G. Selvarani, Staff Nurse, BMTU (D602 ward), CMC Ranipet Campus and father-in-law of Mr. V. Gopinath, Secretary, Anatomy Department, CMC College Campus passed away on 5th July, 2025. Let us uphold his wife Mrs. M. Kantha and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

- **Mrs. Victoria**, mother of Mr. E. Gajendran, Artisan, Mechanical Engineering Department, passed away on 6th July, 2025.

Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

- **Mr. John Rufus Jayakumar J**, retired Sr. MCTT, passed away on 8th July, 2025. Let us uphold his son Mr. Sujin Edberg, Community Health Nursing, CON, CMC, daughter-in-law Ms. Merlin Sujin, Staff nurse, Nursing Superintendent's office, daughter Mrs. Sally Cynthia J, Nurse manager, Medical Surgical Specialty II Nursing, CMC Ranipet campus, son-in-law Mr. Joshua, MCTT, OPD services, CMC and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

- **Mr. D. Sekar**, father of Mr. Prathap S, Artisan Grade I working in Environmental Engineering Department, CMC, passed on 10th July, 2025. Let us uphold all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

- **Mr. Karthick**, husband of Mrs. Gayathri, Staff Nurse, D503, Ranipet Campus, passed away on 13th July 2025. Let us uphold his wife Mrs. Gayathri and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.