



Christian Medical College Vellore



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For Private Circulation Only

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. Psalm 23:1

Dr. Geeta Chacko Retires



Christian Medical College Vellore bids farewell to **Dr. Geeta Chacko**; a mentor whose contributions have profoundly shaped the course of Neuropathology in India. Over thirty-three years of dedicated service, she has exemplified the founding vision of this institution: the inseparable unity of patient care, research and education. Dr. Chacko is an alumna of CMC Vellore, having completed her MBBS in 1986 and her MD in Pathology in 1992. Her commitment to advancing the frontier of her subspecialty led her to pursue advanced training at several of the world's leading centres. Between 1997 and 1999, she undertook a research associateship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. Her Senior Training Fellowship in 2005 took her to St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Charité Hospital in Berlin. She was awarded her PhD in 2010, completing a programme of doctoral research. After completing her MD in Pathology at the invitation of Dr. Mathew Chandy, then Head of Neurological Sciences, and Dr. Anand Date, Head of Pathology, Dr. Chacko was entrusted with starting a separate neuropathology lab.

125 Years of CMC Vellore 1900-2025



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

1924: The surgical department which was housed in Schell Hospital moves to Cole Dispensary, making it the first inpatient section in the Town Site.

Neuropathology was earlier being done in General Pathology by Dr. Sushil Chandi who had trained in Montreal Canada. She introduced enzyme histochemistry for muscle in 1993 and immunohistochemistry for muscle and neuro-oncology in 1994. Following her fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, where she trained in Fluorescence In Situ Hybridisation under Dr. Arie Perry, she established the FISH laboratory in 2006. She subsequently introduced molecular diagnostics for neuro-oncology, secured institutional access to DNA methylation profiling through international collaborators. After a 2-year sabbatical in Dhaka, she took over as head of General Pathology in 2019. As Head of the Department of Pathology from 2019 to 2023, she led the department through NABL re-accreditation, oversaw the establishment of its presence at the Ranipet campus and hosted the TAPCON annual conference of the Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Chapter of the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists. In 2023 she inaugurated the Digital Pathology facility—a further landmark in the department's modernisation. Under her stewardship, the annual volume of brain biopsies reported at CMC has grown to approximately 1,800, with all reports conforming to the current WHO Classification of CNS Tumours.

Her research has centred on the pathobiology of tumours of the central nervous system and the pituitary gland, an area in which she has established national authority. She has authored more than 160 peer-reviewed publications and has served on the editorial boards of *Neurology India* and *Human Pathology: Case Reports*. She is also the co-editor of *Essentials of Diagnostic Neuropathology*—a textbook now in its second edition that serves as a standard reference for the specialty across India. It was during her tenure as Principal Investigator for the ICMR DIAMOnDS Hub at CMC Vellore; in 2024, the institution was recognised by the ICMR as the best DIAMOnDS centre in the country. Within CMC Vellore, Dr. Geeta has served the institution as Vice Principal for Postgraduate Medical Education from 2009 to 2012, and as a member of the Administrative Committee from 2007 to 2009. At the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, she served successively as Senate Member, President of the Standing Academic Board for Biomedical Sciences and Member of the Board of Studies. She has served on evaluation and advisory committees for ICMR, DBT, and UGC, and has functioned as an examiner for postgraduate Pathology, DM Neuropathology, and PhD programmes across the country.

Dr. Geeta Chacko is a Founder Member of the Neuropathology Society of India, and has served as its Secretary from 2021 to 2025 and as Executive Committee Member from 2016 to 2021. She has held leadership positions in the Indian Society of Neuro-Oncology and the Neurological Society of India, and has been a regular invited speaker at national and international scientific meetings. She was also involved in starting the post-doctoral fellowship in Neuropathology. Training she has provided to successive generations of pathologists, fellows, and residents represents one of the most enduring dimensions of her legacy. She has guided postgraduate theses and research collaborations spanning Neurosurgery and Neurology and has supervised medical student projects, several of which have yielded publications of distinction. Her approach to teaching has been defined throughout by the same standards that characterise her diagnostic practice: rigour, intellectual precision and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

Dr. Geeta is married to Dr. Ari Chacko, who retired as Head of Neurosurgery at CMC Vellore and currently serves as Director of Neurosurgery at Apollo Proton Cancer Centre. Their daughter, Dr. Shireen, is a CMC alumnus practising as an Endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota; their son, Dr. Arman, is pursuing specialist training in Urology in Newcastle, United Kingdom.

Christian Medical College Vellore records its deep gratitude to Dr. Geeta Chacko for thirty-three years of service marked by scholarship, leadership and integrity. She leaves behind a subspecialty established where none existed and a generation of pathologists formed by her example. We wish her and her family all God's choicest blessings in the new phase of her life.

Report on the 3rd Christian Medical College Vellore Neuroanaesthesia Update: 'CODE BRAIN' – Anaesthesia for Neurological Emergencies



We are grateful to God Almighty for enabling the Department of Neuroanaesthesia to conduct the 3rd CMC Vellore Neuroanaesthesia Update: 'CODE BRAIN'- Anaesthesia for Neurological Emergencies on 6th June 2026, at CMC Vellore Ranipet Campus. This full-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme brought together faculty from across South India to address one of the most clinically demanding areas in anaesthesia practice, neurological emergencies. Over 120 delegates comprising DM/MD residents, postgraduate trainees, faculty, and visiting clinicians participated in eight scientific sessions and three hands-on workshops.

The day commenced with evidence-based resuscitation and management pathways in Traumatic Brain Injury, followed by a comprehensive discussion on anaesthesia for the polytrauma patient, balancing brain and body under simultaneous physiological threat. Airway assessment and management in acute spinal cord injury were addressed next, followed by anaesthesia for emergency spine stabilisation. The post-tea break session opened with anaesthesia for endovascular intervention in subarachnoid haemorrhage, followed by anaesthesia for CSF diversion techniques. The next two sessions focused on stroke, from recognition and rapid response to anaesthesia for endovascular therapy and concluded with the initial management and anaesthetic considerations for decompressive craniectomy in posterior fossa bleeds.

Three distinguished guest faculty graced the programme. Dr. Adethen G from Vinayaka Missions Superspeciality Hospital, Puducherry, delivered the session on anaesthesia for emergency spine stabilisation. Dr. Soumya Madhusudan from NIMHANS, Bengaluru, presented on stroke recognition, rapid response, and anaesthesia for endovascular therapy. Dr. Ponniah V from Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, addressed initial management and considerations for decompressive craniectomy in posterior fossa bleeds.

The afternoon comprised three concurrent hands-on workshops. Workshop 1 focused on neuroradiology: a systematic approach to interpretation of CT scans in neuroemergencies. Workshop 2 covered precision anaesthesia: processed EEG monitoring and depth-of-anaesthesia-guided TIVA and TCI. Workshop 3 was dedicated to point-of-care ultrasound, encompassing optic nerve sheath diameter measurement, extended focused assessment with sonography in trauma, and transthoracic echocardiography.

The Tamil Nadu Medical Council accredited the programme, and each delegate was awarded 10 TNMC credit points upon completion of the CME. Additionally, the ‘Code Brain Champion Hunt’, an interactive quiz conducted after each scientific session throughout the day added an engaging academic dimension to the programme, with the winners being felicitated with prizes at the end of the day. Dr. Subhavarshini, a final-year MD anaesthesia resident from Christian Medical College Vellore, secured first place.

Dr. Anoop Ooman, a second-year MD anaesthesia resident from our institution, took second place, while third place was awarded to Dr. Meena C from Polur Government Hospital.

The programme also witnessed the release of the ‘Code Brain’ CME Book, formally unveiled by Dr. Tony Thomson Chandy, which serves as a comprehensive academic reference encompassing the topics presented during the day’s scientific sessions.

The ‘Code Brain’ CME was well received by the participants, and we hope that the training and the manual will help in providing optimal anaesthetic care for patients presenting with neurological emergencies.

Clinical Epidemiology Unit Organises Institutional Epidemiology Workshop (E3 - Thesis Completion Workshop) for MD / MS / MPT Post Graduate Registrars



Epidemiology Workshop (E3 - Thesis Completion Workshop) for the final year MD/MS postgraduates at the New Examination Hall between 22nd & 23rd June 2026 (Batch 2) on behalf of the Principal’s Office.

The workshop was attended by 112 MD/MS postgraduate registrars from all specialties and 3 MPT final-year students. The workshop started with a word of prayer by Chaplain Rev. Joseph and a welcome address by Dr. Vignesh Kumar, Professor and Coordinator, CEU. The topics covered were the Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR University guidelines, formatting the dissertation, saving data and final report, thesis writing – parts and annexures, and making tables and figures. A refresher on Zotero reference management software, data entry software, and data analysis using SPSS software were also conducted.

The remaining time was ‘hands-on’, where the registrars had protected time to complete their own thesis activities with the help of resource faculty from the Clinical Epidemiology Unit and the Department of Biostatistics. The faculty consisted of Dr. JP Muliylil, Dr. Thambu David, Dr. Sathish Kumar, Dr. Prasanna Samuel, Dr. Grace Rebekah, Dr. Reka, Ms. Jansi Rani, Mr. Pandiyan, Ms. Muratoli Sunuh, Ms. Sivasankari, Mr. Madhankumar, Dr. Vignesh Kumar, and students from the Department of Biostatistics. The workshop was well received by the participants.

Special Prayers: July 05 - 11, 2026

Gastrointestinal Sciences : Dr. Joseph A.J. and staff
Mrs. Sumathy and Staff

Medical Gastroenterology : Dr. Sudipta Dar Chowdhury and staff
Dr. Ebby George Simon and staff
Dr. Reuben Thomas Kurien and staff
Mrs. Sumathy and Staff

Hepatology : Dr. Ashish Goel and Staff
Mrs. Sumathy and Staff

Wellcome Trust Research Laboratory : Dr. Sitara Swarna Rao A. and Staff

Clinical Genetics : Dr. Sumita Danda and Staff

Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Members : Rt. Rev. Ananta Kumar Nag and Dr. Sunil Chander Jiwanmall

Hospital : Christian Hospital, Nabarangpur and Bissamcuttack.

Church Mission Society

Council Members : Mr. Stephen Edison



Welcome

Dr. Donae Elizabeth George, Professor, Psychiatry Unit-II, on return from sabbatical leave.

Memoranda

- **Dr. Vinod Joseph Abraham**, Professor, is appointed as Principal with effect from 1st February 2027 and will serve in this capacity till 15th July 2031.
- **Dr. Ravish Sanghi Raju**, Professor, is appointed as Associate Director (Ranipet Campus) with effect from 23rd September 2026 for a four-year term.
- **Dr. Reginald George Alex T**, Professor, Chittoor Campus will be continuing as Dy. Medical Superintendent for OP & IP Services in CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus till 7th July, 2028.
- **Dr. Dorothy Lall**, Assistant Professor, Chittoor Campus will be continuing as Acting Dy. Medical Superintendent for Diagnostic Services & Statutory Requirements in CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus until further notice.
- **Dr. Leah Thomas**, Associate Professor, Chittoor Campus will be continuing as Acting Dy. Medical Superintendent for Surgical Services in CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus until further notice.

Laurels & Recognitions

- **Professor Shandrila Gnanatheebam**, Dean, College of Nursing, has completed her Ph.D, in Nursing and has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru in collaboration with the National Consortium for Ph.D. in Nursing of Indian Nursing Council, New Delhi.

- The following candidates were successful in the Postgraduate MD / MS Examinations held in May 2026 (University results published on 23.06.2026).

M.D. Anaesthesiology	: Dr. Andrea Cris S. and Dr. Prerna Nayan
M.D. Community Medicine	: Dr. Ancy Pamelin Paul, Dr. Immanuel Henry Moses, Dr. Josline Moni Prithika K. and Dr. Vinita Angeline R.
M.D. Emergency Medicine	: Dr. Sherin Beatrice R.
M.D. Geriatrics	: Dr. Priya Jeniffer S.
M.D. Paediatrics	: Dr. Merlin Joy N. and Dr. Reshma S.
M.D. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	: Dr. Mathews V. Kurian
M.D. Psychiatry	: Dr. Achala Regi
M.S. General Surgery	: Dr. Manpreet Horo
M.S. Obstetrics and Gynaecology	: Dr. Bonthu Spandana
M.S. Ophthalmology	: Dr. Anshika Massey, Dr. Dhivya A., Dr. Radhi Angel S. and Dr. Suganthi Christella
M.S. Orthopaedics	: Dr. Blessing Samuel V.R., Dr. Jonathan Melchizedek R. and Dr. Paul Vijith P.

Retirements

Mrs. Victoria Kumar, Sr. Gr. Nursing Auxiliary, retired on 15th April 2026 after completing 39 years of dedicated service at our institution. She completed her Hospital Auxiliary Course in 1986 at CMC Vellore and began her career in December 1986 as a Hospital Auxiliary.



She served in N2, I, H, and K Wards before being transferred to OPD in March 2014, where she continued her service until retirement.

She was an active and hardworking staff member who maintained good rapport with her team members. She checked vital signs accurately, assisted with general examinations, maintained cleanliness of the unit, and was skillful in assisting with surgery scopes and ENT OPD procedures. She accepted duty changes willingly and carried out her responsibilities with dedication. She resides with her mother, Mrs. Gnana Deepam, and her daughter, Miss Blessina Evangeline. The institution gratefully acknowledges her long and dedicated service and wishes her a peaceful and fulfilling retired life.



Mrs. Selvi Raja, Sr. Gr. Staff Nurse, retired on 1st June, 2026 after completing 33 years of service at our institution. She completed General Nursing and Midwifery at Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet, in May 1990 and joined the institution in April 1993 after completing her bond service. She served in the Neurology wards until May 2002 and was later transferred to the X-Ray Department, where she continued to work until her retirement. She assisted radiological procedures skilfully, managed the department in the absence of the Ward Sister, coordinated well with team members, accepted responsibilities willingly, and maintained cleanliness and order in the unit.

She also showed interest in patient care and in maintaining the specialised catheters used for angiogram procedures. Her elder son, Mr. Premkumar R., completed B.Sc. Radiology at CMC and is working as a Radiographer, is married to Ms. Priyanka Edwin, a CMC nursing graduate, and they are settled in Manchester, UK. Her younger son, Mr. Dhinakaran R., completed B.Sc. Nuclear Medicine at CMC and is working as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist, is married to Ms. Amitha, B.Sc. Radiographer and they are settled in Leeds, UK. The institution gratefully acknowledges her long and dedicated service and wishes her a peaceful and fulfilling retired life.

Mr. Lawrence Kennedy retires after more than 32 years of dedicated service to CMC. He joined the institution on 4th December 1993 as a Medical Record Officer and became a confirmed member of the staff in December 1994. He began his career at the Town Campus and was later posted to the Department of Mental Health in 2012, where he served until his retirement.



Throughout his career, Mr. Kennedy has been known for his calm and composed demeanour. Even in challenging situations involving anxious patients or distressed relatives, he remained unruffled, handling every interaction with patience, empathy, and professionalism.

He is admired for his kindness, willingness to help others, and ability to multitask effectively. His approachable nature and strong interpersonal skills have enabled him to build meaningful relationships with colleagues and patients alike. Many patients have benefited from his gentle guidance and sincere concern, making him a trusted and reassuring presence in the department.

Mr. Kennedy is an excellent orator and remembered as an excellent teacher and mentor by his students. Students from the Medical Records, Occupational Therapy, and Physiotherapy programmes consistently describe his classes as engaging and informative, reflecting his extensive knowledge and passion for teaching. A lifelong learner, he holds an M.A., an M.Com. from Voorhees College, a Bachelor of Medical Record Science (BMRS) from CMC, and a Bachelor of Christian Studies from Madurai.

Mr. Kennedy is married to Mrs. Nithya Priya Beulah, who serves as a Staff Nurse in the Department of Child Health at CMC. They are blessed with a daughter, Mary Sharadha, who has recently completed her Higher Secondary education.

We express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Lawrence Kennedy for his unwavering commitment, compassionate service, and invaluable contributions to the institution. We wish him God's abundant blessings in the years ahead.

Obituaries

- Demise of **Mrs. Susamma James**, mother of Dr. Sachin George (Assistant Professor, Department of Paediatric Nephrology, Division of Child Health) on 28th June 2026. Let us uphold her daughter Mrs. Sajani George, daughter-in-law Mrs. Sarajoy and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

- Demise of **Mr. Anandan Samuel M.A.**, (Multipurpose Attendant in CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus), father of Mr. Paul Abraham, (Multipurpose Attendant in CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus) on 1st July, 2026. Let us uphold his wife Mrs. Sasi, children Mr. Paul Abraham, Mr. Mathew and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.



Dr. Moses Rasalam passed away on 10th of June, 2026, after severe chest infection at Monash Hospital, in Melbourne, Australia. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Ramola Rasalam [Ramola Roy - batch of 1959-60], his son Dr. Ranjit Roy Rasalam, daughter Sharmila and grandchildren; Joshua, James and Carissa. He was born on 24th April 1937 in Nagercoil, India, the eldest of three sons born to Lt. Colonel Sam Rasalam and Mercy. He finished his schooling in Trivandrum, Kerala and joined Christian Medical College Vellore for his medical degree. He completed his internship and junior house officer post in CMC and left for the U.K in 1962 for further studies.

He undertook psychiatry training in Bexley and Dartford hospitals in Kent. After obtaining D.P.M, as his father suddenly passed away, he returned to India for a short period when he met and married Rami [Ramola] and both left for the U.K. They moved to Portsmouth where he worked in a senior position until he obtained membership in Psychiatry in 1972. His son was born in Portsmouth. The family returned to Bangalore, India as he attained a consultant position at All India Institute of Mental Health. He was also teaching postgraduate students there. As Professor Gault invited him to come to Melbourne the family arrived in Melbourne in 1974. Initially, he was a consultant in Hobson Park Hospital in Victoria and later in Mont Park, Larundel and Panch hospitals in Melbourne. He was also medical superintendent of Mont Park Hospital for 2 years. In 2000 due to health reasons he commenced part-time work in a private clinic in which Rami was working as an ophthalmologist. He trained many psychiatrists and was very caring towards his patients. He used to pray for their healing if they were agreeable.

He was also very active in his Christian walk. He was an elder in the church and the leader in the Bible study group which he and Rami held in their house for many years. Due to health problems, he went into an aged care facility two and a half years ago. He loved and cared for his family very much. He was very interested in cricket, supporting the Indian team always. He loved classical music, and reading about artists, literature including books about man-eating tiger hunters in India in olden days. He loved visiting India and reminisced about his student days, his teachers and peers. He was gentle but firm. He was also very friendly. A 'Celebration of Life' for Dr. Moses Rasalam was held at Transformation Church in Melbourne on 19th June. For those who would like to get in touch with the family, contact details of his wife Dr. Rami Rasalam is given below:

Email: rasasalam@gmail.com

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

- Demise of **Mr. Y. Wilson**, father of Mr. W. Rebirth (Sel. Gr. Lab Tech. Clinical Microbiology), Mrs. Amala Mary Edward (Staff Nurse, O4 East), on 29th June, 2026. Let us uphold his daughter-in-law Mrs. Devakirubai Rebirth (Charge Nurse, Labour Room), Mrs. Sunitha Robinson (Sel. Gr. Lab. Tech., General Pathology) and grand-daughter Ms. Reeba Joy (Occupational Therapist, PMR) and all the bereaved members of the family in our prayers.

Situations Vacant

Click the following link to view the vacancies
<https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx>

Vacancies under the Principal's Office - for queries, contact the mentioned office

1. Senior Resident / Assistant Professor with MS / DNB (E.N.T.) for the Department of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology - V

Candidates with DNB qualification should fulfill the latest NMC criteria for teaching appointment.

Salary : As per institutional rules.

Accommodation : Provided (Partly Furnished, Depending on availability).

Applications to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx>

Note: Only online applications will be accepted; Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on **July 11, 2026.**

2. Junior Research Fellow

Job Code : 1665

The Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR) [a unit of inStem Bengaluru, in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology (Government of India) and the Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore] invites applications for the **Junior Research Fellow** to work on a DBT- Wellcome Trust India Alliance funded project in the area of stem cell and regenerative biology.

Project Title: Functional Assessment of genetic variants associated with fetal hemoglobin levels using base editor mediated saturated mutagenesis for the treatment of beta –hemoglobinopathies.

Qualification : B.Tech. / M.Tech. / M.Sc. in Life Science (NET / GATE Qualified) Centre for Stem Cell Research. Preference will be given to the candidates with CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR Junior Research Fellowships.

External Salary: Consolidated Rs.31,000 + HRA 8% - Rs.2,480 Total: Rs.33,480 /-

(With NET / GATE Qualified)

(or) **External Salary:** Consolidated Rs.25,000 + HRA 8% - Rs.2,000 Total: Rs.27,000 /-

(Without NET / GATE Qualified)

Accommodation : Not Provided. **Mode of Appointment :** Project.

For more details and application forms visit <https://www.cscr.res.in/research-opportunities/>

Please submit duly filled application form with all the certificates, either by soft copy to

cscrcedu@cmcvellore.ac.in or by hard copy to The Principal, Christian Medical College, Bagayam, Vellore – 632 002, Tamil Nadu, India, on or before **July 17, 2026.**

Vacancies under the Dean, College of Nursing - for queries, contact the mentioned office

3(a) Project co-ordinator, M.Sc (N) to work in a project on term appointment basis for a period of one year from the date of appointment. The project will be implemented under **College of Nursing, Chittoor Campus**.

3(b) Project co-ordinator, M.Sc (N) to work in a project on term appointment basis for a period of one year from the date of appointment. The project will be implemented under **College of Nursing, Vellore Campus**.

Qualification : M.Sc. Nursing.

Salary Scale : Consolidated pay, Accommodation not provided.

Experience : 30 years and above.

Applications should be submitted online through the link <https://www.cmch-vellore.edu/News.aspx> on or before **July 11, 2026**. *Only online applications will be accepted. Hard copies will not be accepted.*

Vacancies under the Office of Medical Superintendent - for queries contact the mentioned office

4. Jr. Speech Therapist (Term Appointment) for the **Department of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology**

Qualifications : BASLP., (Bachelors in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology) with RCI registration Certificate.

Consolidated Pay : As per institutional rules.

Age Limit : Below 30 years.

Note: Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence will be not accepted.

Applications to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapplistapplication.aspx>

Note: Only online applications will be accepted; Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on **July 13, 2026**.

5. Staff III Medical Lab Technician in RUHSA

Qualifications : H.Sc., with Diploma in Medical Lab. Technician recognised by the CMAI or CMC DMLT and those who have completed 4 years of experience as Medical Lab Technician (Term Appointment) or equivalent only need to apply.

Salary Scale : As per institutional rules.

Age Limit : 35 years.

Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, Private or correspondence will be not accepted.

Applications to be done only through the online application system.

Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmcapplistapplication.aspx>

Note: Only online applications will be accepted; Hard copies will not be accepted.

Applications will close on **July 13, 2026**.