



The Vellore Advocate

NEWSLETTER OF THE VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE BOARD (U.S.A.), INC.

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“Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister”

Fall 2001



Dr. Bhattacharji, center, pauses for a photo with two of her patients.

On Tour With Dr. Sara Bhattacharji

Dr. Sara Bhattacharji is in charge of the LCEC Unit. Each morning she goes to the Ida Scudder Ward to check on those who have been admitted as inpatients. After rounds, she drives to the outpatients' clinic located in town next to the bus station. When she arrives with Dr. Prakash and the nurses, there is a crowd of people in front of the building. Outside, nurses weigh babies and take information, while upstairs one nurse registers people who are in another line out the doorway. In the waiting room, junior nurses conduct informal lessons on nutrition and health care. The two doctors have their own 6 x 6 foot examining rooms separated from the waiting area by a curtain. A nurse dispenses medicine in a third room. Dr. Sara has a way of making her patients feel comfortable, and spends time listening to them. She incorporates the social, emotional and psychological elements of a patient's life into her diagnosis.

The Red Cross building is functional, but Dr. Bhattacharji would like to create an urban medical center for the poor that is more convenient, effective and comfortable for her patients. An outpatient building attached to the Ida Scudder Ward, with doctors and nurses in one place could help more patients and provide more health services. “I know my great great-aunt, Ida Scudder would be proud of Dr. Bhattacharji's commitment to help and educate women and the poor.”

Cited from a report by Volunteer To Vellore, Stephanie Fish, on her visit with Dr. Bhattacharji,

Low Cost Effective Care (LCEC) Program Expands

Presbyterian Women have kicked off the campaign to expand the Ida Scudder Ward at the Schell Hospital Campus with a grant of \$18,000 through their “*Thank Offering*.” In addition to the much needed space for inpatients at the LCEC program, the expansion will allow the outpatient clinic to move to the same site. The outpatient clinic is now located in the Red Cross building in Vellore town, 1 km. away.

With the grant from Presbyterian Women and pledges from individuals, \$68,000 has been raised toward the \$90,000 needed for the expansion. For more information, call 212-870-2998.

Approximately 2300 outpatients and 74 inpatients are treated each month. At the Ida Scudder Ward, secondary care of all types of illnesses, surgical procedures, laboratory tests and all basic investigations are handled by the same staff at minimal cost. Immunizations and baby care are priorities. The majority of patients served are poor people from town and the surrounding area. Clinicians from the main hospital provide consultations for patients when needed. No bills are presented to the patients, but they are encouraged to contribute what they can, which nearly all of them do.



Ladies lined up outside the clinic.

Letter From The President

Dear Friends,

From its inception, partnerships have been an integral part of the growth and success of CMC&H. Aunt Ida's founding concept of empowering the people of India is one involving partnering. It was through her ability to forge relationships with others that the hospital was first established and over the past century expanded into what it is today. Her successors use those same principals. In this issue of The Vellore Advocate we highlight some of the ways in which the Vellore Board and CMC&H partner in this ministry to the people of India.

The most visible of these is the new Ida S. Scudder Centenary Center for Women and Children. I had the privilege of touring the new facility in June. It is now fully operational. Babies are being born, children and women are being healed—the building is alive with people.

In addition to the many generous financial gifts and donations of equipment and supplies, some people are able to give their time and talents to CMC&H through one of the volunteer programs the Board sponsors. People volunteer here in the USA as well to tell the story of this amazing woman and the incredible ministry she established. The Board also sponsors the Senior Training Fellowship Program along with two FOV partners, U.K. and Australia, which allows ten senior faculty and staff members to study overseas each year.

We mourn the passing of Dr. Bernadine deValois. She had a very special partnership with the Board and CMC&H. Through her legacy, the ministry she started will continue.

Congratulations to everyone at Vellore for receiving a 5-star rating from the peer review team!

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on October 12, at The Inter-church Center. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,



Michael Holt, Interim President



Volunteers To Vellore Program

The Vellore Board distributes information to friends and supporters who are interested in sharing their skills with the staff and patients at CMC&H. Physical therapist, Janet Kelsey spent six weeks volunteering in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit. As part of her instructional program to the staff and students, Janet demonstrated the use of special balls and rolls that she had shipped from the USA as a new concept in therapeutics. For more information on this and other Vellore Board programs, please visit our web site: <http://www.vellorecmc.org>.



Patient using special balls as family and staff look on.

Dr. N. M. Samuel Addresses U.N. Members

Dr. Samuel, a CMC alumnus (batch of '64), President of the AIDS Society of India, and Governing Council Member of the International AIDS Society addressed the U.N. Special Session on HIV/AIDS held in June 2001. He spoke of the needs of the infected people and that resources are needed both at the national and the international level. "There is a responsibility to provide treatment and an urgent need to explore alternate strategies appropriate for developing countries," he said. Dr. Samuel asked that everyone make the commitment to "translate knowledge into action."

Free Insulin Supply for Diabetic Children

The Pediatric Endocrinology service at CMC&H is treating 200 children with type 1 diabetes mellitus who need insulin injections two or more times daily throughout their lives. In the last 15 years, this department has treated the children by providing free or concessional medical care during outpatient visits or hospital admissions. This includes supplying insulin free or at lower rates, according to family income. A manufacturer of insulin, Novo Nordisk Pharma, India, has instituted a program which provides poor children with totally free insulin injections until 16 years of age. At present 19 children treated at Vellore have qualified for this program. —*CMCH Weekly News*

Children's Diabetes Camp Happening

A 3-day Children's Diabetes Camp was organized at Vellore in February 2001 by Dr. P. Raghupathy, Professor of Child Health, Vellore and the Childhood Diabetes Association of India (CHIDIA India), an association of parents of children with diabetes, and the Rotary Club of Vellore.

Fifty-three children attended the camp and those below the age of five were accompanied by a parent. Camp activities included diabetes education on all aspects of home management, group discussions, physical checkups, investigations, sports activities, painting competitions and entertainment. —*CMC Pulse*

Community Health and Development Program (CHAD)

Vellore's Community Health Department runs a comprehensive health and development program covering the Kaniyambadi Block, a rural area with a population of 100,000 living in 68 villages. About 40% of the people live below the official poverty line and are illiterate. CHAD is concerned with the well being of both the individual and the community. It carries out activities and programs in the areas of health care, education, social and economic development.

A health team consisting of doctors, nurses, health aides and part time community health workers serve the health program.

Social development programs are aimed at bringing positive social changes among the people. These social changes are being implemented through Mothers' Groups, Youth Clubs and training programs. Traditional and non-traditional activities for women such as welding, masonry, tailoring, embroidery and weaving have been introduced. Air conditioning, TV repair, four and two wheel vehicles repair classes are available for men.

Apart from training courses conducted for the CMC&H students, CHAD also conducts training programs and workshops for health professionals in both government and non-government organizations around the world. The department has been recognized by the World Health Organization as a Center of Excellence for Community Based Education.



Women in the villages learning how to embroider.

ASHA Grant Keeps CMC&H at Cutting Edge of Technology for Teaching

American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) recently awarded a grant, of \$310,000 for 2001 to the Vellore Board for CMC&H to equip student computer labs, provide broadband internet access, and to upgrade audio-visual teaching aids.

The grant will cover five major areas needing improvement: audio-visual technology for teaching and scientific presentations; technology for clinical teaching; computerizing library services; providing computer laboratories for students, and duplicating facilities in college offices.

Although, projection facilities are available in most of the large lecture halls, the smaller rooms where groups of 10 to 20 students are taught lack these facilities. Computerizing library services will allow CMC&H to track inventory more efficiently, and will make periodicals available online. Student demand for computer services and internet access has increased dramatically.

Both in terms of research and teaching, this most recent ASHA grant keeps CMC&H on the cutting edge in India. To date, ASHA grants to the Vellore Board for CMC&H, total \$7,438,500.

Training Course in Early Management Trauma

In April 2001, Vellore organized the seventh training course through the Department of Accident and Emergency. The course, based on Advanced Trauma Life support, provides protocols for a systemic approach to a trauma victim and the initiation of early patient management. The course is meant for the first responders to a trauma victim. Faculty members from the departments of General Surgery, Orthopedics, Anesthesia, Pediatric Surgery, Neurosurgery, Radiodiagnosis and Accident & Emergency were the resource persons. Skill stations and hands-on exercises were organized at the Anatomy Department. 34 delegates from across South India attended the course. —*CMCH Weekly News*

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The mission of the Vellore Christian Medical College Board (USA), Inc., in response to the healing ministry of Christ and inspired by the legacy of Dr. Ida S. Scudder, is to provide a focus for excellence and integrity through the support of the wide range of programs of the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, India.

Annual Meeting of the Vellore Board Planned

The annual meeting of the Vellore Board will be held on October 12, 2001 at 475 Riverside Drive, New York. Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, Director of Vellore CMC&H will be the guest speaker. Dr. Ponnaiya will discuss the operation of the new Ida S. Scudder Centenary Center for Women and Children, current activities at CMC&H and future plans in

its ministry to the people of India, particularly the sick and disadvantaged. We will recognize those people who have made special contributions to the Board. There will also be an opportunity to participate in Vellore's future plans through discussions about the Consultation, which will take place at CMC&H in January 2001.

Scholarship Programs for Vellore

The Vellore Board funds scholarship programs both in India and the USA through donations and scholarship endowments from friends and supporters.

Scholarships for qualifying students studying at Vellore CMC&H in the fields of nursing, medicine and allied health are funded through endowments, individual and institutional donations.

The **First Presbyterian Church of Jeffersonville, Indiana** gave \$800 this spring as the first installment on a three year mission pledge to educate nurses. **Pennsylvania Medical Missionary Society** funds scholarships for nursing and allied health students. **International Christian Scholarship Foundation of California** supports nursing scholarships. For many students, these scholarships mean the difference in receiving an education or not being able to afford schooling at all.

The Vellore Board also supports the **Senior Fellowship Training Program** at CMC&H. This program for Vellore senior staff members, enables participants to have a learning experience abroad in their field of expertise. They then return to Vellore, to share and implement what they have learned.

Five Stars for CMC&H

Vellore CMC&H has received a five-star rating from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The Peer Review Team was headed by Professor B. M. Hegde, Vice Chancellor of the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Deemed University. The members of the Team are eminent scientists and teachers, all of whom are highly respected in academic and research fields, both in India and abroad. The preliminary report gave many glowing comments about Vellore, we have included just two of the highlights.

- The Peer Team observed that CMC is one of the few institutions that has 100% full-time resident staff and students.
- The College of Nursing was cited for being the first institution to fully integrate teaching and patient care in nursing education.

After the report is finalized, the full text will be available on the web at www.naac-india.com.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Bernadine deValois, founder and former head of CMC&H's ENT Department, died on June 19, 2001, in Colorado Springs, CO. As an ear, nose and throat surgeon and missionary for the Reformed Church in America, Dr. deValois served the people of India at CMC&H for 25 years. In 1946, she established the ENT Department at Vellore. She also served as a consultant for the Schieffelin Memorial Leprosy Sanatorium, in India.

Dr. Bernadine deValois continued to support CMC&H through the years of her retirement in the USA with regular contributions to the Board. A member of the Board's HERITAGE SOCIETY, she established a charitable gift annuity with the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation. Her legacy continues her mission service to Vellore CMC&H, as the gift builds on her efforts and continues to serve the people of India.

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