



# The Vellore Advocate

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

WEB SITE: [www.vellorecmc.org](http://www.vellorecmc.org)

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Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister

Fall 2003

## Two Distinguished CMC Leaders To Visit The USA In September



Photo: Allan Gulker

*Dr. Mary Jesudason*



*Dr. Punitha Ezhilarasu*

**D**r. Punitha Ezhilarasu, Dean of the College of Nursing and Dr. Mary Jesudason, Associate Director of CMC and Head of the Microbiology Department will visit the United States this September to present the plans for a new College of Nursing and other critical institutional improvements. This new effort will equip CMC with the means to provide state-of-the-art quality education and health care for the people of India in the twenty first century.

Drs. Ezhilarasu and Jesudason are ideal choices to present and interpret CMC's plans for educational and clinical expansions. Dean Ezhilarasu has led the College of Nursing as it has compiled an unequalled record of accomplishments, culminating with its designation earlier this year as the first WHO Collaborating Center for Nursing and Midwifery in India.

Dr. Jesudason has been a highly productive researcher in the area of tropical infectious diseases. She can illuminate the importance of CMC Vellore as a center for scientific investigations and treatment in the struggle against malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS and other pernicious diseases.

Drs. Ezhilarasu and Jesudason will be with the Vellore CMC Board at the Corporate meeting on Friday, September 19 in New York. They will be visiting several other U.S. and Canadian cities between September 13 and the end of the month. Please stay up to date with their schedule by visiting our web site, [www.vellorecmc.org](http://www.vellorecmc.org) or call toll-free, 800-875-6370.

## Vellore Board Pursues Grant For Pneumatic Delivery System

The Vellore Board is currently negotiating a grant with the Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation/American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC/ASHA) for a Pneumatic Delivery System for Vellore CMC. The system will enable the transportation of patient blood and body fluid samples from various collection points in the hospital to the laboratory for testing. It will decrease the time between collection and testing, and will also increase accuracy rates for samples where delay in testing causes deterioration. Installation of the system will lead to more efficient deployment of personnel.

## TAKE A TRIP TO SCENIC SOUTH INDIA AND VELLORE

The Vellore Board is sponsoring a trip to Vellore and other cities in India, January 31 to February 14, 2004.

Vick and Dorothy Williams, former volunteer staff at CMC, along with Phil Ansalone from the New York office, will accompany the group. The itinerary includes the major cities of Mumbai (Bombay) and Chennai (Madras); the beautiful coastal city of Cochin plus the Backwaters and a wildlife preserve in Kerala; and the colorful temple towns of Tamil Nadu. Three days will be spent at CMC Vellore: visiting clinics, laboratories, village health programs and meeting faculty and students. Projected cost for the trip is \$3370. For more information, call Dorothy at 210-684-4524 (email:[dorcaswill@juno.com](mailto:dorcaswill@juno.com)) or Phil at 800-875-6370 (email:[phil@vellorecmc.org](mailto:phil@vellorecmc.org)).

## Letter from the President

### Dear Friend of Vellore:

Next February a group of Americans will visit Vellore under the sponsorship of this Board. This will be the first delegation we have sent since the year 2000. Americans haven't been traveling much internationally in the intervening years, and it is now time to re-establish ties of communication and friendship with our overseas colleagues. E-mail and telephones are great, but they don't substitute for physical presence. We have enjoyed recent visits from Vellore staff, and now it is time to return the favor.



American churches and associations find it important to "personalize" their support for mission efforts around the world. They like to have at least one person in their church who has visited an institution and can testify to the work that is done there. A visit to the Christian Medical College is an experience that can re-energize you, the visitor, and your church mission committee. A few days of direct experience in Vellore can restore one's faith in the ability of the human race to address the great challenges of our time. You can personally witness the healing that can take place on budgets that would barely pay for janitorial services in American hospitals. You can capture the spirit of people who have dedicated their lives to the healing arts in the name of Christ, and you can bring that spirit back to your own congregation and community.

Please give serious consideration to joining the Board delegation on this trip. If you cannot come yourself, perhaps you can encourage and support someone else who can go in your stead. Call us for more information, 800-875-6370.

**In faith,**  
**Lou Knowles**

## COLLEGE OF NURSING RECEIVES HONOR

CMC Vellore's College of Nursing has been chosen to be the first World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborative Center for nursing and midwifery development in India.

Dr. Diane Jedlicka, Prof. of Nursing at Otterbein College and a Vellore Board Corporate Member noted: "This enables CMC to be part of an international collaborative network established by WHO in support of its programs at the regional, national and international level. As part of a global network, CMC will help to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery, not only in India, but throughout the world."

Dr. Priscilla (Pat) Koester, Adjunct Faculty, Dept. of Nursing, San Jacinto Central Community College, Pasadena, TX, and Corporate Member congratulated the College of Nursing for "this prestigious recognition which will support their grant applications for nursing, research and service in a much-needed area — women's health care."

## Vellore CMC Board Gift Management Policy

The Vellore CMC Board (USA), Inc. (the "Board") is a not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York. The Board has been granted tax-exempt status as a public charity by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts made to the Board may be deducted by U.S. taxpayers from income when calculating federal, state and local income tax, to the extent allowed by law.

The Board's accounts are audited annually by an independent auditing firm. Financial reports are filed annually with the Internal Revenue Service and New York State. Financial statements are available upon request, in the New York office of the Board.

The purpose of the Board is to support the work of the Christian Medical College (CMC) at Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. The Board pursues its purpose in a variety of ways, performing services for CMC such as purchasing medical supplies, accepting and shipping in-kind donations, hosting visiting Fellows from CMC, recruiting and orienting volunteers and collecting funds. Gifts made to the Board that are not designated by the donor for a specific purpose are used to pay for these services, to support selected projects at CMC and to cover general administrative costs.

Donors to the Board may designate that gifts to the Board be directed to benefit specific projects at CMC. If the designation requested by the donor has not previously been approved by the Board and the Directorate of CMC, the Board will consult with the Directorate concerning the proposed designation. No designation will be assigned or fund created without the approval of the CMC Directorate and the Board. The Board may deduct from gifts designated for specific projects up to 10% of their value to cover administrative expenses.

### VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE BOARD (USA), INC.

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**Louis Knowles**  
President

**Lena Boggiano**  
Editor

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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.

## Paul Brand Remembered

World renown medical missionary and orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Paul Brand died on July 9, 2003. Son of missionary parents serving in India, he was sent to England at age nine for his education. Dr. Brand returned to India in the 1940's, where he taught surgery at Vellore CMC, specializing in orthopedic surgery focusing on hand reconstruction. He became the first surgeon in the world to use reconstructive surgery to correct the deformities of leprosy in the hands and feet. His wife, Dr. Margaret Brand, focused her research on prevention of blindness in people with leprosy.



In 1966, the Brands began their work at the National Leprosarium in Carville, Louisiana, where he became Chief of Rehabilitation. He also conducted over 20 years of research and teaching at the Medical College at Louisiana State University. He was involved with international medical missions and served on numerous panels in England and Africa. Dr. Brand received many awards and honors for his work. He received the Distinguished Service Award and Surgeon General's Medallion from the U.S. Public Health Service.

Dr. Brand's insights and experiences at Vellore CMC were the subject of his books written with Phillip Yancey: *FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE*, *IN HIS IMAGE* and, *THE GIFT OF PAIN*.

Dr. Brand's legacy continues at Vellore CMC as the Rehabilitation Center will soon add the Paul & Margaret Brand floor, which will allow the Center to treat victims of head injuries.

## In Memory of Dorothy Clarke Wilson

Author, philanthropist, friend of Vellore CMC and honorary member of the Vellore Board, Dorothy Clarke Wilson died on March 26, 2003.

Mrs. Wilson wrote several insightful biographies of men and women who served at CMC Vellore. Her account of the life of Dr. Ida S. Scudder, *DR. IDA, PASSING ON THE TORCH OF LIFE* continues to provide inspiration to new generations of readers. Mrs. Wilson also wrote biographies of Dr. Paul Brand, Dr. Mary Verghese, Vellore's paraplegic surgeon, and Dr. Victor Rambo, organizer of thousands of eye camps for CMC.

Her book, *PRINCE OF EGYPT* which was used as a source for the film, "The Ten Commandments", brought her international recognition.

Through the years, Mrs. Wilson was an activist for peace and concerned about the problems of the world. She remembered CMC with a perpetual endowment fund at the United Methodist Foundation of New England.



## Vellore CMC Strives for Universal Access to Quality HIV Care

In December 2002, the one-year training program began with 25 doctors selected from primary and secondary care hospitals from the four southern states of India.

The specific aims of the program are: to improve the knowledge and skills of these doctors, to improve the quality of HIV care provided at their institutions and, to develop a network of doctors involved in HIV care.

The training program is divided into three parts: one month residential courses at Vellore CMC; four months of distance learning; and six months of project work.

Trainees begin by improving their knowledge and skills, after which they develop a project aimed at improving HIV care. The second phase allows the trainees to implement and evaluate their projects. The trainees progress from learning basic clinical, computer and planning skills to hands-on clinical training in small groups as they present their full project plans to the faculty.

The distance learning course, carefully prepared by the faculty, includes feedback and is designed to stimulate learning within the trainees practice settings. The projects are monitored by the faculty and upon completion, the trainees' hospital receives a grant to cover the project expenses. The trainees maintain contact with each other and faculty through an electronic group. Upon completion of the project, an assessment is made of their skills.

The first 25 trainees have completed the first two courses, project work is in progress, grants have been distributed and faculty have made their first visit to the hospitals. Course completion is slated for October 2003, with the second group of trainees to begin in December.

The next phase of the program aims at consolidating the current program and beginning to work towards universal access to HIV care in southern India.

## MEMORIAL & REMEMBRANCE GIFTS - JULY 2002 - JUNE 2003

The gifts donated to the Vellore Board USA recognize the lives and work of family and friends, as they become living memorials in support of the mission service of CMC, Vellore. Thank You!

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