

“ At this time, it is important for us to bridge our differences and come together in love for a common purpose to reach out to the many who seek help from us. In doing so, the love of God would flow through us to bring health and healing to the patients that we care for. ”

- Dr. J.V. PETER



Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future

One hundred and twenty years ago, CMC founder Dr. Ida S. Scudder responded to a calling to care for the underserved. Driven by her vision to provide compassionate, quality care for women despite their religion or social standing, Dr. Ida inculcated an ethos that continues to be practiced until this day.

As this edition of *Voices of Vellore* is going to print, our global community is living through an unprecedented crisis. While the situation continues to evolve daily, we know that in the south of India CMC has been called upon to provide the necessary treatment to the many people who will inevitably be infected and affected by COVID-19. We also know that every single doctor, nurse and allied health professional will respond to this call with the same rigor, kindness and empathy of all

those health professionals who came before them and have made CMC into the extraordinary institution it is today.

As CMC celebrates 120 years of service, the Foundation is now honoring and celebrating CMC's efforts to deliver transformative healthcare to the people of Vellore and beyond, while looking to the future to determine how best to keep Dr. Ida's legacy of compassionate care, excellence in education and dedication to scientific research alive. From major capital campaigns to compassionate quality care for the underserved, we are working closely with our donors and partners to invest in projects that allow CMC to be at the cutting-edge of education, research and service without regard to one's religion or social standing.

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The Vellore CMC Foundation Stands with CMC in its fight against COVID-19

The Christian Medical College, Vellore has taken aggressive action to prepare for the pandemic and ensure that care is available for anyone seeking help.

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The Vellore CMC Foundation wishes to express genuine appreciation and gratitude to its many supporters and friends. This edition of *Voices of Vellore* is dedicated to:

- The members of the CMC Alumni Association of North America
- The Vellore CMC Foundation Board of Directors
- The members of the Scudder Association Foundation
- The leadership and staff of the USAID American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program
- The US faith-based community
- The many US medical institutions that partner with CMC
- Our business partners and collaborators
- The many friends of the Foundation and CMC from around the world

Without your extraordinary compassion, generosity and steadfast support, we would not exist or thrive.

Thank You!



VelloreCMCFoundation



@VCMCFoundation

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of CMC Vellore and the Foundation,

I must start with a brief comment about the novel coronavirus – its unprecedented impact will be remembered as one of the most significant events in each of our lives, and one that, while distancing us from each other, has also brought us even closer together. Your generous support of CMC's COVID-19 response, by example, serves as a demonstration of your genuine love and concern for our neighbors in South India, while also reemphasizing the tremendous loyalty we all possess for CMC, especially during times of greatest need. Although the pandemic's end is not yet in sight, our ability to rise above it certainly is and stands as a true testament to the strength of God's grace and the durability of the human spirit.

*This one's for you! This edition of *Voices of Vellore* is dedicated to you, our donors, in appreciation for all that you have done to support CMC and the Vellore CMC Foundation for more than 70 years. Through your generous support, the Foundation has now (1) contributed over \$18 million to CMC's charitable care activities, (2) provided in excess of \$10 million to capital improvement projects through the US Government's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) program and our own capital campaign activities, (3) donated over \$500,000 to support training fellowships for eighty (80) CMC doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals at leading medical institutions around the world, and (4) given an equal amount to support scholarships for medical, nursing and allied health school students. Within the past ten years, our donors have also provided CMC with \$250,000 for scientific research, while serving as the key sponsor for the Dr. Ida Scudder Oration, which will take place in December 2020 for the ninth consecutive year.*

Paying tribute to the late Dr. Sunil Agarwal (Batch of '78), who unexpectedly and tragically passed away very recently, we have taken excerpts from an obituary authored by Dr. George Kurian whose expression of respect and admiration for Dr. Agarwal are of great noteworthiness.

With each visit to Vellore and each campaign that is launched to support the growth and longevity of CMC, we deepen our relationship with CMC's leadership as well as with those individuals who play a pivotal role in advancing the fundraising efforts of the Friends of Vellore organizations throughout the world. Dr. Philip "Teeps" Ninan shares his perspective on this very topic in the aftermath of his recent visit to the Council meetings in Vellore this past January.

*Dearest friends, I hope you find reading this edition of *Voices of Vellore* both informative and enjoyable!*

With much appreciation and my fondest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Riehl". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John A. Riehl

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EXPANDING SERVICES AND COMPASSIONATE CARE

CMC's growth is driven by a sense of responsibility to meet its surrounding communities' challenges and needs.

With the new Level I Trauma Center opening soon, the Foundation has been proud to support this urgently needed facility through the generosity of alumni matching gift campaigns and estate gifts (see back cover).

There are 1,200 road accidents every day in India, and the Foundation looks forward to supporting CMC's efforts to reduce the number of fatalities and disabilities resulting from such accidents.

PARTNERSHIPS DRIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

In addition to finding and nurturing

new opportunities for advanced education in medicine, nursing and allied health services, we are helping to provide scholarships for CMC students in need. Through a partnership with United Methodist Women, 11 College of Nursing students have received full scholarships for their three- or four-year educational programs. We are also counting on an additional commitment from UMW to support medical and allied health students during 2020 and beyond.

Our network of alumni, friends, and supporters also continue to connect CMC medical professionals with institutions in the US for advanced education and training. Dr. Susan Taylor, from the Department of Pediatric Anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, was pivotal in arranging a

fellowship for the first recipient of the Dr. Honorine Ward Senior Training Fellowship, Arockiaseli Mabel. Dr. Taylor is a member of the extended Scudder family and serves on the Foundation's Research Committee.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE THROUGH RESEARCH

Through a \$50,000 annual grant program to CMC, the Foundation supports junior doctors and students to take up research projects and publish their outcomes. Our Research Committee helps identify how best to support CMC in this endeavor.

CMC's contribution to research throughout the years has been notable, and to celebrate CMC's 120 years we are honoring these achievements at the Foundation's gala later this year.

ASHA Partners Meeting-February 2020

This year's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Partners Meeting was held on February 18 – 19, 2020. The annual meeting, held in Washington DC, was dedicated to the theme "Financing Self- Reliance." There were two key objectives to the gathering: USAID resources for finance strategies and organizational transformation enabling new opportunities for partnership. The attendees were introduced to three initiatives within the USAID framework: the Development Credit Authority, Global Development Alliance and Center for Faith & Opportunity Initiatives. As a 2018 grant recipient, it was inspiring to meet the individuals of the ASHA team; they are tireless in their efforts to provide the support needed for the many missions it funds. The most rewarding moments of the two day meeting were comprised of idea sharing with fellow recipients and being reminded of how USAID is making a difference in countries all around the globe.

Our USAID ASHA grant application for FY2019 was submitted on March 2, 2020. Our 2019 application,

"Advanced Simulation Center for Excellence in Nursing and Multidisciplinary Emergency Team Training", seeks funding for an advanced simulation training center for nursing students and multi-disciplinary emergency teams in anesthesia, obstetrics and pediatrics to improve outcomes for high risk mothers and infants.

The Partners Meeting was truly a hopeful reminder of how USAID disbursed funds to convey the American people's desire to support institutions that will provide prosperity and improve the quality of life for everyone.



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Together Against COVID-19

Around the world, people are coming together to stand with CMC in the global battle against the spread of the novel coronavirus, including CMC's own doctors, nurses and other health professionals who are rallying to provide food and other necessities to those most in need.

On Thursday, March 26th, CMC was given permission to start testing for the coronavirus and became one of three hospitals in the region designated for both the testing and treatment of COVID-19.

As CMC was called upon to lead from the frontlines, CMC Director, Dr. J.V. Peter, reached out to the Foundation and Friends of Vellore around the world with a plea of support to help mobilize the resources needed to establish a 12-bed emergency ICU surge area. In the United States, we have raised just over \$90,000 toward our goal of raising \$152,000. These funds will support the acquisition of four (4) fully equipped ICU beds.

The Foundation will continue to follow developments and lend its support when possible as CMC faces this unprecedented crisis. For up to date information and news, you may visit our website (www.vellorecmc.org) or follow us on Facebook (@VelloreCMCFoundation) or Twitter (@VCMCFoundation).

Small Drawing, Big Dreams

By Dr. Nalini Vadivelu (Batch of '70)



My story is a humble one – I'm the daughter of two fiercely honest and unbelievably diligent people with outstanding qualities which I imbibed. Growing up, I was fortunate to never lack anything. My father, a medical doctor and Major General in India's army from Chittoor, knew of CMC's reputation and encouraged me to apply. It was at CMC that I experienced for the first time the real needs of patients and people who could not afford to pay their bills but were nonetheless met with the same kindness and care as everyone else.

After graduating from CMC, I served on as faculty until my parents arranged my marriage to a financial expert working in the US. I pursued my medical career in the States with the incredible support of my kind husband, Thangamuthu (Mike) Kodumudi and now our awesome two sons Gopal Kodumudi MD, and Vijay Kodumudi, a medical student.

Following my residency in anesthesiology at USC in Los Angeles and Pain Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, I joined the Department of Anesthesiology at Yale University. Rising through the ranks, I was promoted to Full professor and was given an honorary Master of Arts from Yale University as well for which I am truly grateful.

My niche and academic focus has been in perioperative ambulatory pain medicine. While at Yale, I invented the laryngeal mask with inbuilt suction in the dorsal portion of the cuff to enable easy suction of the hypopharynx to remove any secretions from the nose and mouth. The university allowed me to pursue development of patents and activities related to the patents, resulting in 18 patents and patent applications for multiple devices that are distributed by three companies in which I am a major shareholder in USA, India, and Australia.

The Indian company Gnana Medical Private Ltd (named after my mother), has sold the first-generation laryngeal mask, Gnana Laryngeal Airway (GLA) to hospitals across India. The small company has been doing well with the motto of honesty and diligence. Motivated by the need of people in Vellore, which I remembered seeing as a medical stu-

It is a joy to know that many people who cannot afford to pay for care can now be helped by my invention.

dent. Coupled with the good work that CMC always does, we decided to make an in-kind contribution of 1,000 GLA masks as well as a cash donation to the new Chittoor campus. It is a joy to know that many people who cannot afford to pay for care can now be helped by my invention.

The second-generation laryngeal mask, the GLA4, is now on US soil. It obtained FDA clearance and state license and is currently housed in a

Connecticut facility, and the GLA4 can now be sold in the USA. We are also currently working to bring other sizes of GLA into the USA.

With nothing but a small drawing, big dreams, and wonderful and overwhelming support that cannot be shaken, it happened. Throughout this journey, CMC and CMC graduates have been an integral part of my life. Thank you for your blessings and support.



Dr. Nihal Thomas, Dr. Abraham Joseph, Anesthesiologists, and Dr. Samuel Solomon personally accepted the donation of 1,000 GLA masks.



Dedication of the College of Nursing Facility, Chittoor Campus was held in February 2020



First batch of Chittoor's BSc Nursing Degree Program.

A NEW CMC MILESTONE: Chittoor Campus Granted Provisional Affiliation for the College of Nursing

On November 21, 2019, CMC was granted a provisional affiliation for the College of Nursing located on the Chittoor campus to start a Bachelor of Science degree program during the 2019-2020 academic year with an in take of 50 students.

The program, affiliated with NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, includes a four-year course as well as a one-year training program as junior staff nurse.

The BSc Nursing Program is designed to enable students to get a wider understanding of nursing, based on scientific principles and clinical experience. The course includes basic sciences and a foundation in nursing, inclusive of bioethics, psychology, English and computer applications during the first year of study. The second year focuses mainly on general medical surgical nursing and an orientation to community health nursing. Subjects like sociology, genetics, pharmacology, pathology, communication and education technology are also covered in this year.

The third-year deals with specialties in medical surgical nursing, child health nursing, mental health/psychiatric nursing and nursing research. The first half of fourth year is spent in obstetrics and gynecology nursing, community health nursing and management of nursing services & education. The second half of the fourth year is a rotating internship in all the areas of nursing.

This achievement represents yet another very exciting milestone in CMC's extraordinary history.

A Few Days at CMC

By Dr. Philip "Teeps" Ninan (Batch of '69)

During the last week of January, Dr. Philip Ninan, Board Chair, represented the Vellore CMC Foundation at CMC's Council Meeting in Vellore. This afforded him an opportunity to meet with administration, visit CMC's different campuses and departments and converse with other Friends of Vellore organization representatives, all with the aim of improving the ways in which the Foundation can support CMC's ongoing work and success. Below are excerpts from his trip report:

MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION

In extensive discussions with Dr. Anna Pulimood ('87), Principal, we spoke about how the Foundation could enhance the value and support we provide CMC for education and research. Collaborations with US based health care institutions are becoming an increasing priority for student and fellow exchange programs, specialty training and medical research. CMC has recently won a prestigious institutional research award in India (India Research Excellence – Citation Awards by Clarivate Analytics), and we discussed how to build on the enormous successes at CMC. CMC is building an internal



Hugh and Debbie Skeil were also gracious enough to have us over to their home for a sumptuous evening together.

app that would permit faculty to have their own page with critical information about their activities, interests and research. The app showcases student opportunities to become involved in research projects early in their educational experience. A key person who is helping with this initiative is Dr. Pippa Deodhar, a very competent and impressive person whose contributions have already had a major impact.

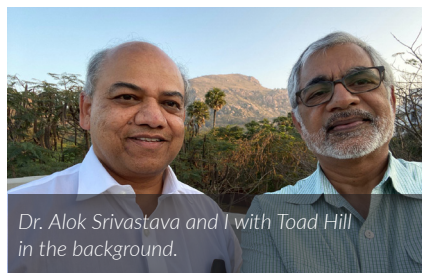
FRIENDS OF VELLORE (FOV) ORGANIZATIONS

There are several FOV organizations globally that support CMC and her mission. Hugh Skeil, from the Development Office at CMC organized a meeting of representatives from the UK, Australia, Germany, Sweden, and the US (our Foundation). Updates on the various FOV activities and opportunities to support initiatives at CMC were discussed. We agreed to continue coordination and collaborations on projects that fit each FOV mission and priorities. Hugh and Debbie Skeil were also gracious enough to have us over to their home for a sumptuous evening together.

UPDATE ON JAWADHI HILLS

The creation of a maternity unit at Jawadhi Hills will permit expansion of

the current health services to include continuous labor and delivery services like emergency care and an operating theater. Additionally, accommodation facilities for staff will be constructed. Dr. Anu Rose and two staff members, Mr. Dhinakaran and Mr. John Paul, visited and presented an update of the amazing work they are doing, including the developments of CMC's model villages program.



Dr. Alok Srivastava and I with Toad Hill in the background.

CENTER FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

An opportunity arose to visit with Dr. Alok Srivastava, head of the Center for Stem Cell Research. The center was established 15 years ago by the Department of Biotechnology of the Government of India. Its mandate is to bring stem cell science to the management of human diseases with unmet needs. The center has been a leader in scientific advances on musculoskeletal regeneration, gene-based therapies for hemophilia and hemoglobin disorders, and cellular reprogramming for bone marrow failure syndromes. This is basic and translational research at the cutting edge of global advances.



With Dr. Anu Rose, Mr. John Paul and Mr. Dhinakaran

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“Tribute to A Man I Hardly Knew”

By Dr. George Kurian, PG Alumnus

[Dr. Agarwal] was a colleague, but quite unconnected to Gastroenterology, and so I hardly had anything to do with him professionally. If I passed him in the corridor or on the street, I gave him a perfunctory smile. Yet, instinctively I knew that he was approachable and a decent human being. I even went to his office once recently for advice on a patient of mine, but he was not there. I was told by others about his visits to Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital – a dying mission hospital in Kotagiri that was revived by a group of young doctors – to give them free services. Tragically, he died in an automobile accident when he and his team were on their way to Kotagiri again.

I learnt about Sunil, not when he was alive. He was nondescript then. I learnt about him at his memorial service in the Vellore Hospital Chapel [which] was crowded and overflowing. Speaker after speaker spoke about him and the nature of the man was then revealed to me. None of what was said had the slightest suggestion of being exaggerated or said out of the verbosity of kindness for the dead. Every word rang true.

Sunil came from a hardworking middle class background, studied at Doon School and got accepted to CMC, Vellore as an open candidate. He did his undergraduate and post graduate studies there and then joined the faculty. His wife Indira, a Pediatric Nephrologist, and he had two sons, who again were sent by their father to Doon School – probably because he felt he had acquired valuable life lessons there. It is quite remarkable that he chose to stay on in CMC, with its low salaries, rather than seek his fortune abroad.

People with far less capabilities – often accepted and trained in the Medical College merely because they were Christians – had fled from all the dirt and poverty of this country for supposedly greener pastures in the West. Sunil who was not a Christian, on the other hand, refused to leave CMC.

One of the startling things I learnt from his colleagues was that he was generous to a fault. One colleague spoke of how he encouraged her to support the

out. His contribution to Kotagiri Medical Fellowship hospital was part of the same behavior of giving of himself. I knew about the latter, but did not know that he had helped tremendously in hospitals as far flung as in Jharkhand. I have worked for forty years in CMC, but never, ever, have I ventured to help out at any mission hospital. It was not a priority with me. Unlike me, Sunil knew that these Mission Hospitals played a very important part in rural health care. I went shamelessly through life believing that my career in CMC was all that mattered, and like many [others] at CMC, I actually believed I lived a sacrificial life by working here.

Christians like me falsely believe that they are living a sacrificial life because of the low salaries. However, the opportunities of working in a good academic environment more than compensates for all of that. It also connects us to good institutions in the West and financially rewarding jobs outside.

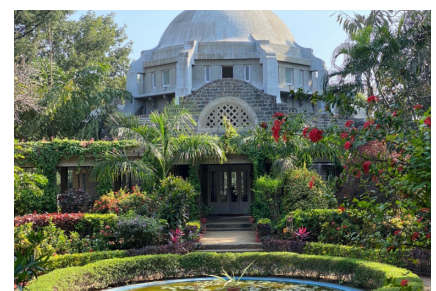
There are many fine things that CMC,

“ *There are many fine things that CMC, Vellore produces but the finest are doctors like Sunil Agarwal.* ”

Dhobi in the ward who needed to educate his children. Others spoke of how he quietly helped colleagues who needed financial help. No one knew about it. One of the speakers described it, using the Biblical injunction, “his left hand did not know what his right hand did.” That was an unknown and unpublicized fact about him.

The other noble act that was reported about Sunil was about how he went to mission hospitals to help them

Vellore produces but the finest are doctors like Sunil Agarwal. It is a shame and a sign of his greatness that I knew about him only after his death.





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CMC's Department of Urology Becomes Key Beneficiary of the Estate of Post-Graduate Alumnus, Dr. I.C. Vernon Netto



1934-2018

Retired urologist and CMC post-graduate alumnus, Dr. Vernon Netto passed away recently in Virginia at the age of 83. He is survived by a loving family and many dear friends. Dr. Netto left a generous bequest to the Vellore CMC Foundation to support CMC's mission of giving witness to the healing ministry of Christ through excellence in education, service and research. To honor Dr. Netto's wishes, CMC has designated his gift to the advancement of medicine and surgery in the area of urology located at the new Level One Trauma and Specialty Care facility scheduled to open in Kannigapuram in the latter part of 2020. A plaque is to be placed at the entrance to the urology ward at Kannigapuram stating that the ward was made possible by a generous gift from Dr. I.C. Vernon Netto, a post-graduate alumnus of CMC. May Dr. Netto rest in peace!

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