

“The health concerns of the poorest people in Vellore remain much the same as they did 30 years ago...today many are still unable to travel to the main hospital or even to the LCECU.

—Dr. Rob Fish



## New Year, New Matching Gift Challenge to Support CMC's LCECU Program in Vellore!

The Foundation is proud to launch a new matching gift campaign with the goal of raising \$100,000 by April 15, 2019 for use by CMC's Low-Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU). This initiative is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Rob Fish, a member of the Scudder family, who has pledged to match dollar for dollar the first \$50,000 donated in support of the LCECU.

All proceeds from this campaign will be designated to support LCECU's 2019 "Care in the Community" vision

which incorporates (1) opening new outreach medical clinics in impoverished areas of Vellore, (2) enhancing educational and training opportunities, (3) strengthening economic development, and (4) improving sanitation – all through increased dialogue and empowerment within each community.

We look forward to collaborating with Dr. Fish and with the medical staff at CMC Vellore on their efforts to bring greater attention and a continued resolution to improving access to quality healthcare for the poor.



Dr. "Ida B." Scudder

Dr. Rob Fish's aunt, Dr. Ida B. Scudder, pioneered radiology and radiotherapy at CMC, bringing its benefits to tens of thousands of cancer sufferers in southern India. She dedicated her life to serving the people of India and taking up unfamiliar responsibilities for the sake of this greater mission. Ida B., as she was so fondly remembered by most, was known for her kindness and compassion towards the patients she served. This exciting new campaign is appropriately launched in her memory.



*"To honor the legacy of my aunt, Dr. Ida B. Scudder, I am pledging \$50,000 toward the LCECU Matching Gift Campaign."* —Dr. Rob Fish

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### VELLORE CMC FOUNDATION ANNUAL MEETING

June 26, 2019  
New York

#### GOTC ALUMNI REUNION

June 27, 2019  
Washington, DC

#### INAUGURAL CMC COLLEGE OF NURSING SCIENTIFIC SESSION

Friday June 28, 2019  
Washington, DC



**2018 WAS A YEAR OF TRANSITION** and one that resulted in the start of a new chapter for the Foundation! On September 1st, I received the privilege of becoming the newest member of the Vellore CMC Foundation staff as Executive Director. I could not be more excited or more grateful to the Foundation's Board of Directors for this unique and challenging opportunity.

Building on the momentum created by the Foundation's Centennial Celebration Gala, 2019 is a year that begins with great expectations. Thanks to the initiative of one of the Foundation's most generous donors, Dr. Robert Fish, a dollar-for-dollar matching gift campaign is already under way to support CMC Vellore's Low-Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU) "Care in the Community" vision. Please check out the cover story to learn more about this impressive new undertaking.

With the lessons learned from organizing a gala here in New York City, the Foundation plans to host multiple fundraising events – and this year, we will be seeking to find one or more appropriate venues in cities other than New York. We will be sharing more about these special events throughout the course of the year.

As the opening of the new Trauma Center in Kannigapuram nears, the Foundation will be exploring new and better ways to help CMC raise the funds needed to transition this dream into a reality. We will be seeking out new U.S. and international partners from both the grant making and medical academic communities to create groundbreaking "patient treatment" and "scientific research" opportunities that not only improve the quality of care delivered to trauma patients, but also seek to learn more about the causes and effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI).

We will be looking to strengthen our relationships with two of CMC's key U.S.-based organizations: the Scudder Association Foundation and the Reformed Church in America. The missions and activities of each of these institutions has been interrelated with medical missionary work for two hundred years – an accomplishment that is perhaps worth celebrating! Finally, the Foundation will strengthen its collaboration with members of CMC's North American Alumni Association in order to create the most effective and meaningful CMC support programs possible; whether it be scholarships, fellowships, student exchange opportunities, academic or research programs.

Once again, I want to express my genuine thanks to each member of the global Christian Medical College community for your warm welcome. It is with great excitement that I look forward to working with, and alongside, each of you throughout the coming year!

I hope you enjoy reading our first Voices of Vellore Newsletter of 2019!

With my warmest regards,

John Riehl  
Executive Director

“  
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”

## CMC and Tufts Continue Collaborations on Education and Medical Research



*Left to Right: Dr. Anthony Monaco, Dr. Deborah Kochevar, Dr. J.V. Peter, Dr. Harris Berman, and Dr. Anna Pulimood*

On January 14, 2019, CMC Vellore and Tufts University, Boston, renewed a longstanding collaboration on medical research and education at a Presidential Roundtable on International Cooperation in Higher Education held at the Maurya hotel in New

Dehli. Both institutions, represented by CMC Director Dr. J.V. Peter, Principal Anna Pulimood and Tufts Provost ad interim Deborah Kochevar, and Medical School Dean Harris Berman, signed an Agreement of Affiliation to continue the 30-year old partnership.

The agreement ensures the continuation of ongoing programs of exchange and collaboration in areas of interest and benefit to both institutions.

At this event, Dr. Anna Pulimood also participated in a panel discussion on higher education. The following day at Tufts Brookings, India, Dr. Harris Berman and Dr. Honorine Ward, Professor of Medicine at Tufts and Vellore CMC Foundation Board Chair, participated in a panel discussion entitled "Opportunities for India Beyond 2019: The Future of Health and Geopolitics".

## Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program

Diabetes mellitus is still a major public health problem in India. CMC's Department of Ophthalmology is playing an integral role in combating the effects of this disease by setting up ongoing screening, counseling and treatment protocols to manage diabetic retinopathy and its complications. To support CMC and its efforts, FOV Australia, FOV UK and the Vellore CMC Foundation are jointly contributing \$115,000 for the launch of a mobile Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Program to be headed up by the medical staff at Schell Eye Hospital. The program, presented by the Department of Ophthalmology, will provide preventative care for patients who would otherwise suffer from a life of visual disability.





## Celebrating 100 Years of Excellence and Women's Empowerment at CMC!



Chelsea Clinton received 100 Years of Christian Medical College, Vellore - Healing for the Nations as a gift from CMC Vellore (Left to Right: Dr. Honorine Ward, Chelsea Clinton, Dr. Anna Pulimood)

The Centennial Celebration Gala was held on December 13, 2018 in New York City and raised over \$25,000 to benefit the Mary Verghese Institute of Rehabilitation at the Christian Medical College (CMC) in Vellore, India.

The Gala, sponsored by the Reformed Church in America and the Scudder Association Foundation, brought together members of the CMC alumni association, the Scudder family, the faith-based community, Weill Cornell College of Medicine, and representatives from our various partner organizations to celebrate a century of accomplishments at CMC and to pay tribute to its founder, Ida S. Scudder.

The evening was a celebration of all the remarkable women and men who came through the academic experience created by Ida's visionary mission to provide compassionate, high-quality care for all. Dr. Anna Pulimood was honored for her role as the fifth woman to serve as principal of CMC and for her ongoing efforts to ensure that CMC continues to be one of the best medical education institutions in India. Ms. Chelsea Clinton received the Ida S. Scudder Centennial Woman's Empowerment Award for her commitment to women's causes around the world and for her recognition of Dr. Mary Verghese as one of the most prominent female figures in history, which she did in her children's





*"Dr. Ida always said, 'It's not a medical college we're building but the kingdom of God,' And staying true to her vision, we're not content with our rich heritage, but continue to seek better ways to serve, to care, to teach." – Dr. Anna Pulimood*



After a special performance on *Good Morning America* earlier in the day, the New York University Choir uplifted the mood of the evening with their joyful voices, setting the tone for an evening of celebration and profound appreciation.



Chelsea Clinton discusses her role as an author, advocate, mother, and philanthropist, and what it means to be the recipient of the Ida S. Scudder Centennial Woman's Empowerment Award.

book, *She Persisted Around the World*.

A beautiful invocation by Reverend JP Sundararajan, Director of Global Missions for the Reformed Church in America, opened the evening and was followed by a moving performance by the New York University Choir, directed by Paul Speiser. The evening was then hosted by Miss Nina Davuluri, an acclaimed public speaker, advocate and entrepreneur, and the first woman of Indian and South Asian descent to be named Miss America.

To view additional photos from the evening, please visit: <https://www.vellorecmc.org/centennial-celebration-gala/>



Dr. Anna Pulimood



Rev. JP Sundararajan



## Team Eclectic Goes to Work in the Jawadhi Hills on the Outskirts of Vellore, India



"Excerpts from the first hand account of Board Member Niranjana Bose's experiences during a volunteer mission spent working on the "Model Villages" project located in the Jawadhi Hills.



had to be torn down before any construction could begin. The boys toilet side had been cleaned up prior to our arrival, but Mark went to work on the other side with a sledge hammer....and took down the interior single-handedly. I tried my hand at bricklaying – to build single column walls to serve as the separations for the stalls. Nearly 3 hours later, with a lot of help from the professionals and the crew of volunteers, the first set of interior walls were up and we were ready for lunch!

I learned about the Jawadhi Hills "model villages" project about two years ago, and reached out to the CMC team to explore whether Team Eclectic could play a role in one of its construction projects. Dr. Anu Rose, the CMC/CHAD "Model Villages" project leader, welcomed the offer and was our main point-of-contact throughout. The people of Jawadhi Hills are primarily tribal folk.

Mark, John and I were the members of Team Eclectic to travel to the Jawadhi Hills, but everyone from the team contributed raising nearly \$13,000 towards the program. We reached Vellore on the eve-

ning of December 12th and spent the next three days in the Jawadhi Hills, with Dr. Anu Rose by our side.


### DAY ONE - IN JAWADHI HILLS IN THE TOWN KOILOOR

We got to work and the one thing that never escapes us during these types of projects, "moving the materials", was the first task at hand. Thankfully, we had a masonry crew helping us out as well. The plan was to construct two sets of toilets – one for the boys and one for the girls. The waste would be routed to a pit.

The housing structure for the toilets was already in place, but the interior

### DAY TWO - VISIT TO VALLITHATHANKOTTAI (MODEL VILLAGE #2)

The houses here were not clustered together and almost every house was located close to where their farmlands were situated. One household lacked a toilet, so there we go! This time, we moved concrete blocks around and most of the time was spent moving the dirt out of the pits as they were dug. We spent 15-20 minutes speaking to the village folk about their perspective on how the "model villages" project was helping them. They were thankful for the toilets,



for the livelihood help provided by Don Bosco, and for the support they were getting for their farming needs. Don Bosco has provided some of the families with cows, chicken and pigs as part of the livelihoods project. They have also helped convert some of their dry ponds into rainwater harvesting facilities, which double up as fish ponds (for consumption).

### DAY THREE - A VISIT TO PEENJAMANDHAI VILLAGE, JAWADHI HILLS

We visited Peenjamandhai village on day three, which was a 1.5 hour ride on dirt roads that could hardly be called roads. While there isn't a model village effort being undertaken here, the CMC team is working to develop a community health worker model. High school or college educated-women are assigned two or three villages

each and their task is to enumerate the households (and residents), as well as to keep track of pregnancies, births and deaths in their villages. With this baseline information, the CMC/CHAD team can target interventions and deliver the appropriate care and educational messaging to these communities. The CMC/CHAD team has a mobile clinic that visits these villages on a scheduled rotational basis – having the baseline information helps optimize the schedule that is followed.

A huge thanks to Dr. Anu Rose and the CHAD team, as well as Fr. Vinodh and the Don Bosco team for giving us this unforgettable opportunity.

To read the full unedited version of Naranjan Bose's trip summary, please visit: <https://www.vellorecmc.org/team-eclectic-goes-to-work-in-the-jawadhi-hills/>

## ANNOUNCING THE PRAKASH KHANDURI SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

The CMC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA in collaboration with the VELLORE CMC FOUNDATION announces the 2019 launch of a multi-year fundraising campaign to create a Scholarship Endowment Fund in the name and honor of Dr. Prakash Khanduri. The Fund will be used to support an annual "innovation in medicine" scholarship program.

Dr. Khanduri (Batch '56) completed his MBBS and post-graduate medical studies at the Christian Medical College, Vellore. As a faculty member, he helped to develop the "Liver Transplant" program and performed the first successful liver transplant procedure in India.



Prakash Khanduri, MD

The creation of this endowment is to honor Dr. Khanduri for his dedication to medicine and his exceptional contributions to CMC.



Team Eclectic supports the project's efforts to improve sanitation in the community through construction of toilets



## Remembering the Life of Dr. Surjit Hermon Through the Support of Medical Advancements in Radiology at Kannigapuram



Dr. Surjit Hermon

During the final weeks of 2018, the Foundation, in collaboration with Manorama Hermon, MD (Batch '67) and an anonymous second donor, initiated a matching gift campaign in memory of Dr. Surjit Hermon (Batch '67), whose life was taken unexpectedly ten years ago. With the goal of raising funds to support the Department of Radiology (located at the soon-to-open Level One Trauma Center in Kannigapur-

am), the campaign was launched with a two-to-one matching gift incentive, where every \$1 donated was matched with a \$2 contribution by Dr. Mano Hermon, Surjit's wife, and her friend.

In concert with an international appeal orchestrated by Hugh Skeil of the Development Office in Vellore, the Foundation broadened

its reach to the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, India, and other countries. The result was the extraordinary accomplishment of raising more than \$90,000 in just over five weeks. Through the generosity of CMC's alumni and friends of Drs. Manorama and Surjit Hermon from around the world, the campaign was a resounding success!

Dr. Surjit Hermon was the Chief of Radiology at CGH Medical Center in Sterling, Illinois during the latter part of his medical career; Dr. Mano Hermon thought it fitting to honor him and his achievements on the tenth anniversary of his passing by supporting the Radiology Department at CMC. A colleague recently commented: "He was the best radiologist I have ever worked with, and a fine gentleman as well- I really miss not having him around the hospital, in x-ray and in my life." Dr. Hermon's life inspired his family, friends, colleagues, and fellow CMC alumni to give generously in support of Radiology, the Trauma Center and CMC, creating a lasting tribute to his memory.

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