



The Vellore Advocate

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

WEB SITE: www.vellorecmc.org

Volume XXXI Number 2

“Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister”

Fall 2007

A New Director for CMC

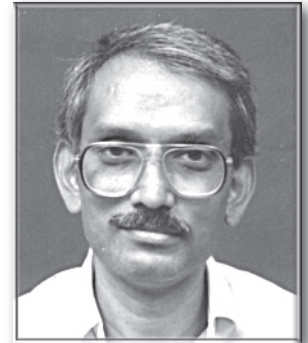
As of September 23, Dr. Suranjan Bhattacharji will assume the role of Director of the Christian Medical College and its clinics and hospitals. Dr. Bhattacharji has served for twenty years as head of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at CMC. In recent years he has overseen a major expansion of the Rehabilitation Institute, allowing it to work with victims of both spinal and brain injuries. Among the projects dearest to his heart is an effort to utilize stem cells found in the human nose to regenerate nerve tissues in the spine. He has also been closely involved in the birth and early development of CMC's Bioengineering Department.

Born and raised in eastern India, Dr. Bhattacharji graduated from Loyola High School in Jamshedpur, Bihar before entering CMC. He received his basic medical degree in 1975 and continued to study orthopedics at CMC with additional training at the Royal College of Physicians in London. His residency took place with the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, and he also served for a year and a half at St. Luke's Hospital in Hiranpur, Bihar.

Dr. Bhattacharji is a familiar figure for visitors to CMC, especially those who are fortunate enough to receive his guided tour of the Rehab Institute. He also is known through his work in the Directorate, serving as Council Secretary for many years and Associate Director since 2001. He and his wife, Dr. Sara Bhattacharji, have hosted many international visitors in their home, providing a memorable evening of serenity and good fellowship.

Dr. Bhattacharji's devotion to the humble and forgotten people of Indian villages and slums marks him as a prototype of the CMC physician. One of his most interesting projects of recent years has been the development of the Bombay-Vellore hand, an electronic prosthetic that is available at a price within the reach of the average person.

In the crush of the daily work load, Dr. Bhattacharji believes that spiritual refreshment is essential to those struggling with severe disabilities and the staff who work with them. He has guided the design and construction of the new chapel at the Rehab Institute. He has purposely made it an open, welcoming building, easily accessible even to those with no use of their limbs, encouraging meditation and prayer by people of all faiths.



U.S. Government Grants Provide Critical Infrastructure



Patient treated by Brachytherapy machine

The past few months have seen the installation of two important pieces of infrastructure at CMC, funded by the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program of the United States government. After a long period of planning and construction, a pneumatic delivery system for clinical samples has been installed and is working smoothly. The system, which consists of capsules propelled through tubes driven by air pressure, allows a blood sample to be sent from clinic to lab in a few seconds. Previously, such samples had to be hand-delivered by orderlies threading their way through the crowds of patients and staff. Given the fact that over 4,000 people are seeking medical attention each day at the main hospital, the amount of time saved is a great efficiency.

Also recently installed is a new High Dose Rate remote afterloading Brachytherapy machine. This equipment targets life-saving radiation on specific malignant tissues, allowing for higher and more effective doses to be delivered. An important secondary benefit is greater safety for employees who were more likely to be exposed to harmful radiation using older methods. Dr. Subashini John, head of Radiotherapy, remarks, “Brachytherapy units are not new to India, but now that we have one at CMC, many low income people can benefit for whom it was previously unaffordable.” 35% of CMC cancer patients receive free treatment.

Now would be a good time to write your Congressional representative, thanking him or her for the ASHA program and the benefits CMC and many other institutions have received over the years.

A Message from the President *Thanks for the Leadership*



This autumn is a season of transition for CMC and for the Board. We are saying thank you and congratulations to two of our leaders, one in Vellore and one in the U.S.

Dr. George M. Chandy will be stepping down from the role of Director at CMC after five years of excellent service. A gastroenterologist

by training, George tackled the administrative and executive responsibilities of the job with enthusiasm and extraordinary dedication. George made it clear from the outset that he regarded the Board and CMC alumni in North America as part of his extended constituency. His visits to our meetings helped immensely to keep us in touch with the dynamic changes that characterize CMC in this decade. Early on he shared with us his vision of an expanded CMC, complete with a new College of Nursing, new faculty housing and many other improvements.

George feels intensely the dilemmas faced by India's poor – for example, the family of laborers who earn a dollar a day whose child has leukemia and can only be saved by \$20,000 worth of treatment. His Christian conscience, nurtured by prayer and worship, responds strongly to such challenges. George recognizes that these families can only be helped if CMC can continue to offer quality medicine that attracts the affluent as well as the poor. The well-off subsidize those who are penniless. That reality lay at the heart of George's memorable term of service.

Mrs. Edwina Scudder-Youth will complete four years this fall as chair of the Vellore CMC Board. A nurse and administrator of nurses by training and experience, Edwina brought to the chairmanship a steady hand and a special interest in the College of Nursing and its community health programs. She is devoted, as few others, to the Board as an instrument of support and outreach for CMC. As a part of the Scudder family, she cherishes the legacy of her relatives, Drs. Ida S. and Ida B. Scudder who are at the heart of the Vellore story. Her leadership in the Capital Campaign for the new College of Nursing has helped many of us to gain a new appreciation of the profession of nursing and the extraordinary importance of the CMC College of Nursing.

I have deeply appreciated the chance to count George and Edwina among my close friends. I have learned much from both of them. Thankfully, both George and Edwina will remain a part of the CMC-Board story. George will continue to practice medicine at CMC and will oversee a degree program in health care management. Edwina will continue on the Board and Executive Committee.

A Medical Student's Journal

This year Caitlin Hoffman was awarded a Scudder Scholarship, given to a Weil Cornell student by the Scudder Association. The scholarship allows a student to do their fourth year elective at CMC. Ms. Hoffman kept a detailed, engrossing and sharply observed record of her experiences. Here are some excerpts:

This month has served as an incredible glimpse into a fascinating culture and the accomplishments of an astounding woman



Caitlin Hoffman in front of display at Weil Cornell detailing her CMC trip

(Dr. Ida Scudder) and her family. Although I had visited India before, the view through the delivery of healthcare here has given me entirely new insights into the foundations and future possibilities of caring for the people of this country

There is a significant difference in the general tone of the interaction between physicians and patients here. Today in outpatient clinic, we saw a 9 year old boy who had presented with ... the classic presentation for SSPE, a fatal, rare complication of measles infection. Relaying this news to the parents meant communicating the fact that their child would neurologically deteriorate to death within a couple of years without any possible treatment. On hearing this, the parents did not dissolve, did not attack the physician, did not scream over their misfortune or demand a fourth opinion. ... There is no question of "Why our son" or "Why didn't you do something sooner?" The reason and answer to both of those questions is that this is the way their life was intended to be, and there is therefore only grateful thanks to the physician for doing his/her part in helping to care for their child's fated condition. . . .

It is difficult, seeing such an incredible volume of patients with progressive disease not to feel that this effort is futile. Watching these pediatricians work, however, I am beginning to understand what fuels their incredible generosity and unquestioning work ethic. The sincere gratitude of the patients and the overwhelming need of these children that can be alleviated by simple treatment measures creates an incredibly rewarding and motivating practice. They all admit that it is exhausting, but they return every morning to the staggering throng of patients with smiles, energy, and patience.

A TASTE OF TWO CULTURES

Travel in exotic Bhutan will follow a visit to South India as part of the 2008 Tour to the Christian Medical College, sponsored by the Vellore Board USA. Participants will experience South Indian culture, history, and architecture in Chennai (Madras), Kanchipuram, and Vellore. At CMC they'll have opportunities to meet with faculty and staff and to see work in the villages as well as the high-tech emphases on the hospital campus in Vellore. Then they'll travel to Bhutan, where they'll see ancient historical and religious sites, visit remote Buddhist monasteries and nunneries, hike and bird-watch, view examples of traditional arts and crafts, learn a little about traditional medicine--with the magnificent Himalayas often in view. Dorothy R. Williams, member of the Board of Directors, is the tour organizer and will accompany the group. Extensions to permit a visit to the Taj Mahal are available for an additional fee. For further information contact Dorothy Williams at dorcasvick@juno.com or the Vellore Board at usaboard@vellorecmc.



Dancer at Festival

Remembering A Life of Service and Generosity

CMC and the Board lost a good friend and loyal supporter two years ago when Dr. Sarah Patrylow died at the age of 86. Sarah had been a nurse and nursing instructor in India in the 1950's and '60's under the auspices of the Lutheran Church. Her later career was spent as a professor of nursing at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Sarah never forgot the people of India or the institutions with which she had served. She gave generously to CMC through the Board and was always present and accounted for when Vellore was calling for assistance. In recent years, Board member Dr. Albert Johnson was able to give a ride to Sarah so she could attend the annual meetings in New York. Shortly before her death, she asked Board staff to help her donate her car.



In recent months the Board has been the recipient of a substantial gift from Sarah's estate. Sarah is the most recent exemplar of a distinguished band of men and women who donate so much through their careers of service and then arrange for their generosity to be felt long after they themselves are gone.

A New Addition to the Board Staff

The Board welcomes a new employee, Melanie Squillante, who joins us as our new Administrator/Office Manager. Ms. Squillante takes over for Oladiwura (Wura) Okesolo who has left the Board to return to her native Nigeria. Ms. Squillante has actu-



ally been a neighbor of the office since she worked down the hall at the Presbytery of New York City (PNYC) for nearly five years. At the Presbytery, she served as the Journal

Clerk and Assistant to the Stated Clerk. Prior to her joining the Presbytery, she worked as the Assistant to former Ambassador Joseph Garba from Nigeria with his Peacemaking and Peacekeeping in Southern Africa. The Board is certain Ms. Squillante will be a valued addition to the staff and the Board's work.

VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE BOARD (USA), INC.

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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.

Memorial and Honorarium - July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

We thank our friends who gave gifts in memory or in honor of family and friends in recognition of their lives and works. The contributions for support of CMC Vellore are living memorials enabling student education and quality health care to those in need.

In Memoriam

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Mr & Mrs S S Abel
Mrs Kanaga Devaprasad
Tom & Lucy Ansalone
Philip Ansalone
Ann Martha Artopoeus
Otto F Artopoeus
John Aubrey & Pearl
Antonette Bird
Kevin & Judith Bird
Irving T Basil
Jane S Basil
W B Rogers Beasley
Katherine B Eddins
Faye Belman
Donald K Wood
Jo Berens
H J Thomas III
Scot & Jan Veurink
Carol Wedeven
Indira Bhattacharya
Seshadri BGhattacharya
Bea Bixler
Robert & Lucile Carman
Albert Boggiano
Philip Ansalone
Lena Boggiano
Gertrude Goetting
Lillian Gordon
Louis Knowles
Linda Knutson
Betty Letzig
Susan & John Mathew
Oladiwura Okesola
Edwina Scudder-Youth
Vick & Dorothy Williams
Kathryn Bone
John Chatfield
Panagiota Bonorris
Carol & Howard Winet
Paul Brand
Mary Ann Ivica
Dr & Mrs Ronnie Mathews
Peter & Rose Randall
John Brewer
Webster Presbyterian
Church
Edith Ruth Brown
Robert L S Brown
Gerald & Elaine Condon
Donna Dahringer
Donald & Jeanne Dittmar
Carol L Henrikson
Norb & Carole Keller
Verna Koenig
Ruth Lynn
Mary McCartnye
R Meredith Mentzer
Charles J & Grace D Miley
Jean L Mills
Florence M Nauman
Orchard United Methodist
Women
Yvonne Raleigh
Denise Wenck
Alice J Whitcher
Robert & Sharon White

Margery Bunker
Sam Bunker
Ineke Carman
John B. Carman
John Carman
Martha Ann Dooly
John & Ann Carman
Tamara S Lanaghan
John & Naomi Carman
John B Carman
Malcolm & Eleanor
Macfarland
Naomi Carman
Mr & Mrs R B Hull Jr
Paul Carman
Philip Ansalone
A.J. & Sosamma Chacko
Rachel & Kunju
Zachariah
Onnoony & Mariamma
Cherian
Rachel & Kunju
Zachariah
Florence H D'Costa
Petronella Armond
Lovesome David
Indra & Murphy David
Thoms Dickason
Dr & Mrs Norman Thoms
George E Doran
Ruth Doran
Judy Gass Shearer
Eric & Patricia Gass
Kunjamma George
George & Valsa Samuel
Nihar R Ghosh
Swapan Ghosh
O. Allan Gulker
Mr & Mrs Sean Cotter
Christopher & Mandy
Fountain
Walter & Anne Gokavi
Indian Run UMC
Brenda A Macaluso
Gopal Rao Guthikonda
Suryakumari Guthikonda
Caroline M Holt
Marion P Harris
Carol Jameson
Charles B Jameson
Irene Jamieson
W T Dean
Dorothy Jefferson
Nirmala Dharmapal
Jehangir M Jehangir
Veatrice J Jehangir
Lester W Johnson
Leslie A Johnson
R Park & Alice Johnson
Allen & Sarah Johnson
Peter Johnson
Thomas McGuire
George Joseph
Sushila M Mathew
Jack & Lois Ketcham
James B Ketcham
John B Ketcham
Kathryn Ketcham

Herbert Kleiner Family
Leonard J Schulz
George C Koshy
Lina George
Cliffor LaDew
Mr & Mrs Paul Sherry
Aleyamma Mathew
Sanjay & Reeba Alexander
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Sheila G McClelland
William & Betty
McClelland
Ruth M Myers
Mr & Mrs John L Strube
Florence Nichols
David & Jane Weimer
Vivian O Pace
John C Pace Jr
John Pelton
Alice Gulker
George Pentico
Mildred Pentico
Jean Primrose
Kathryn Ketcham
Malathi Raj
Kamalini Das
Alice & Richard Rajaratnam
Clement R Prabakaran
Line Robillard
Carol & Howard Winet
Ida B Scudder
Nimala Dharmapal
John Padbury
Ida S. Scudder
Mr & Mrs John P Stevens
Frances Scudder-Glison
Robert & Lucille Albee Jr
William B Seeley
Denny Worthington
Faith & Joseph Singh
Anita Amaranath
Rosemary Smith
Curtis W Smith
Harry N Spink
Rev & Mrs George S Spink
Mrs Ann Sukumar
Dawn Selim
Ethel Talcott-Scudder
Dr & Mrs Norman Thoms
Haragopal Thadepalli
Carmen D Thadepalli
E. W. Thomas
Kenneth G Van Tine
Molly Thomas
Nirmala Dharmapal
E W P Thomas
Indra & Murphy David
Dr & Mrs Wells Thoms
Dr & Mrs Norman Thoms
Fred L Tiefenbruck
Helen M Tiefenbruck
Verna M Troyer
Dana O. Troyer
John H Wagner Jr
Dorothy Wagner
Dorothy C Wilson
David & Peggy Swett

In Honor Of

July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007

Amy
David Loewenstein
Rachel
David Loewenstein
Co-Workers at Sojourns
Jeffrey Stinehelfer
June Brady
John M Hyde
Margaret Brand
Indira Radhakrishnan
Peter & Rose Randal
Dorothy M Brewer
Aylo Reif
Bruce & Donna Carman
Edwin & Margaret
Tegenfeldt
Robert Carman
Mr & Mrs R B Hull Jr
Robert & Lucile Carman
Merry Ann Sauls
Edwin & Margaret
Tegenfeldt
John & Ann Carman
Edwin & Margaret
Tegenfeldt
Dorothy J Chamberlin
Winthrop D Chamberlin
Daya Choudharie
Sarla & Daniel
Gnanamuthu
Eleanor & Robert Cunningham
In honor of their 50th
Wedding Anniversary
Mr & Mrs R G Daniel
Sarla & Daniel
Gnanamuthu
G M Daniel
Vasantha C Orocofsky
Mary & J D Doss Devadoss
Beryl J Devadoss
Laura Kaiser
Roslyn Kaiser
Frank H Gardner
Fran and Theo Gardner
Ruth & Paul E Sherry
Valborg E. Tollefsrud
George Hyde
John Hyde
Molly John
N V John
Sam & Adele Junkin
Teresa Junkin
Harvey & Nancy Kandler
Harvey Kandler
P Kutumbiah
Mirmala Dharmapal
Clifford LaDew
Mr & Mrs Paul Sherry
Jean Lloyd & John Hamdin
In honor of their
marriage from Robert &
Eleanor Cunningham
Malcolm & Eleanor
Macfarlane
Edwin & Margaret
Tegenfeldt

Mani M Mani
Georgia Loescher-Junge
Grace Mathai Chandy
Nirmala Dharmapal
Rathna Narayan
Raj & Tina Narayan
Susan Rainsley
Eleanor R Vincent
Annie Samuel
Carl R Leonard
D. William B Seeley
Denny Worthington
Shirin Solomon
Nirmala Dharmapal
Jane P Srinivasan
Nimala Dharmapal
Alex Talainer
Steve & Pat Spencer
The Rainsley Family
Glen Elwyn & Susan
Rainsley
Lisamma Thomas
Batch of 1974 CON
Valborg Tollefsrud
Mr & Mrs Jim Colt
Kathryn A Tuma
Rachel Circle of Trinity UMC
Trinity UMC
E Arun Venkatesan
Richard Ellerbrake
Mary & Larry Wangberg
Mr & Mrs Gary Darnell
Lyman & Debra Drake
Dorothy Williams
Thomas H & Mary Locke
Crofts
Patricia L Geadelmann
Nancy M Ridgway
Vick Williams
Dorothy Williams
Akhtar Yusufji
R Madella
A D Sprague
James M Stearns