



The Vellore Advocate

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

Volume XXIX Number 1

“Not to be Ministered Unto, But to Minister”

Spring 2001

ASHA Grant

The digital radiography system, or “filmless x-ray,” acquired through a grant to the Vellore Board USA from the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA), of \$500,000, is now fully-functional at CMC&H. It has become the cornerstone of plans to digitalize many of the hospital's functions, such as lab reports, and other patient records.

With outpatient x-rays digitalized, results are available for viewing anywhere in the hospital, virtually instantaneously. This is especially convenient for consultations. The waiting caused by the need to transfer x-rays within the hospital has been eliminated. Even old x-rays can be loaded into the system in just minutes. Currently, films are kept on file for five years. With the digital system, films can be kept indefinitely. Costs are being reduced as CMC&H saves on the cost of x-ray film, storage space, and reduced handling.

Dr. Ipeson Korah, Head of the Department of Radiology, says “Inpatient radiology and computerized patient charts, integrated with patient billing and the pharmacies, are the next steps.”



Michael Holt and William Salmond, in the Vellore Board office, working on the transition.

President Resigns— Interim President Chosen

President William Salmond resigned on December 31, 2000 to return to Africa to work on AIDS education in Zimbabwe. The Board voted Treasurer, Michael Holt to fill the post as Interim President and CEO, until a replacement is appointed. Board member, James Leach replaces Michael Holt as Interim Treasurer. We wish Willie Salmond much success in his new endeavor.



Right: Dr. Keith Fraker, a radiologist volunteer from California, training a medical student on the new digital radiography equipment.

With all this new equipment the need for skilled technicians is a concern. Vellore CMC&H plans to offer an Allied Health degree in Medical Information Systems to train people for jobs in the use of this new technology.

Vellore Reaches Out to Earthquake Victims

Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, Director of CMC&H, reports that Vellore is helping the victims through several channels. CMC&H has sent funds to help with the relief effort. Drs. Fredric Vyas, Thilak Jepagnanam and Rajive Marcos worked in a hospital in Deesa, attending to the medical and surgical needs of patients until late each night. Dr. Samuel Chittaranjan went to Ahmedabad and toured parts of Gujarat with officials from the Emanuel Hospital Association. A team will be sent for rehabilitation and counseling.

Vellore's Rural Unit for Health & Social Affairs (RUHSA) plans to send a group of women from their local micro enterprise program, who volunteered to help women in Gujarat set up groups to get loans to start small income generating businesses. This is very encouraging, as it would have been unthinkable even a few years ago, for women from Vellore's surrounding villages to reach out and help others. They have gained such self-confidence from their endeavors that they can now reach out across their country to help others.

The Vellore Board will forward donations for earthquake relief received from friends in the USA to Vellore to aid in the relief work.

Letter From The President

Dear Friends,

The year 2000 ended with completion, celebration, change, and anticipation. We finished the Centenary Campaign, celebrated the opening of the new Scudder Center, changed presidents, and now stand at the crossroads of the centuries anticipating our ministry with excitement and some concern as we realize the paradigms which shaped it in the 20th century are shifting rapidly as we move into the 21st century.

The big event was completing the capital drive to support our \$2 million pledge for the new Ida S. Scudder Center for Women & Children. Giving Dr. Ponnaiya the check was the culmination of a seven year effort by the Board. We will continue to collect the pledges which remain outstanding. Contributions are still welcome to help CMC&H pay down its loan. Named gift opportunities are still available.

On December 9th, Aunt Ida's birthday, friends gathered at the main hospital to celebrate the opening of the new Center. The new building houses all the medical services for the care of women and children.

When Willie Salmond accepted a call to return to Africa, the Executive Committee asked me to take his job on an interim basis. I am honored to do so, and am enjoying serving this ministry. We are now conducting a search for a new President & CEO.

This spring we are holding a Consultation in conjunction with our Board meeting and the 3rd Annual Friends of Vellore Gathering. Together we will look at the issues facing our ministry and that of CMC&H. It will be a time to refocus our vision and to prepare for CMC's Consultation in November. All are welcome to participate. If you can't come in person, participate through our web site, email or the old fashioned way. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Michael Holt, Interim President



Senior Training Fellowship Program

Sponsored by the Vellore Board, through donations from friends, senior staff members at CMC&H participate in a learning experience in their field of expertise here in the USA or in other foreign countries.

Dr. Ebinezer Sundarraj, from the Department of Neurological Sciences, spent October 2000 at Nicolet Biomedici in Madison, WI.

Mr. Yovan Simpson, Senior Special Teacher, and Dr. Russell Sudhakar, Psychiatrist, in the Department of Psychiatry, studied in England and at the University of Pittsburgh.

Vellore Board USA Corporate Meeting

At the Annual Corporate Meeting on October 13, 2000, elections to the Corporate body and the Board of Directors, were held. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Susan Mathew, presented the slate. Paul Hilton was elected as a corporate member. Dr. John Fowler, Dr. Sarla Chand and Dr. Elise Youth were elected as Directors. We welcome the new Corporate and Board members, as they share their gifts and interests in supporting and working on behalf of Vellore CMC Board (USA) and CMC&H.

One highlight of the meeting was the presentation of the Board's final payment on its \$2 million Centenary pledge. Dr. Mani M. Mani, Chair of the Board, presented a check for \$546,894.38 to Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, Director, CMC&H. She accepted the gift with heartfelt thanks and appreciation, noting that the Board's pledge was by far the largest contribution to the project. It was also a milestone for the Vellore Board USA, as it was the longest and largest campaign the Board has ever conducted.



Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, left, accepting our check as final payment on the Board's pledge from Dr. Mani Mani.



Commemorative Stamp Album and Card Sets Available

The Government of India has released a Dr. Ida S. Scudder Commemorative Stamp, a First Day Cover and a Special Cancellation Cachet to celebrate Vellore's Centenary. The bound, leather album is available through the Vellore Board USA for \$10, which includes shipping.

Sets of note cards, a Centenary project, with scenes of CMC&H are available for \$5 each (minimum order \$20). You can see them on our web site: www.vellorecmc.org.

Michael Holt presenting the baby quilts to Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya at a gathering of visitors and friends during festivities after the Council meetings.



Baby Quilts Arrive from the USA

Interim President, Michael Holt presented Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, Director of CMC&H, with a bundle of beautiful handmade baby quilts from the **Women's Association of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church**, in New York City. These quilts, made by members of the group, will be used for babies in the pediatric section of the new Center. The Women have supported CMC&H through the years, including a gift of \$6250 to the Ida S. Scudder Centenary Center for Women and Children for a breast-feeding room. Thank you for your support!

Vellore Board Retreat and Consultation Planned, May 5-6

On May 5, 2001, the Board of Directors will gather at The Interchurch Center, in New York for a three-part series of activities. A Board meeting is scheduled for the morning session. The afternoon retreat session will address some of the issues facing the Board and CMC&H. A wide range of topics will be explored within the context of the changing paradigms in the USA and India. Competition, mission hospitals, relationships, compensation, insurance, ministry, contributions and other subjects will be discussed. This material will be used as background information for CMC&H's Consultation, in India this November. The group will then travel to Stony Point, New York, to continue the retreat. Saturday morning the Consultation will be open to interested friends, supporters, alumni and staff.

VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE BOARD (USA), INC.

475 Riverside Drive, Rm. 243, New York, NY 10115
212/870-2640 Fax 212/870-2173

e-mail:usaboard@vellorecmc.org • Web site:<http://www.vellorecmc.org>
Michael Holt, Interim President • Lena Boggiano, Editor
A Not-for-profit 501(C)(3) Organization—Combined Federal Campaign#1020

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.

Friends of Vellore (FOV) Event

On Saturday, May 6, from 5-9 p.m., the Friends of Vellore will hold its 3rd Annual Gathering. All who are interested in the ministry of the Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore, and the mission of the Vellore Board USA, are invited. It will be an evening of Indian entertainment and food, a picture presentation on CMC&H, and the new Scudder Center. Co-hosted by Susan Mathew, CMC Nursing Alumna, and Michael Holt, Interim President of the Vellore Board, the event will take place at Stony Point, NY. Mark your calendars, come for fun and fellowship and to hear the good news about Vellore and the work ahead. Contact the Vellore Board office for information or visit our web site.



While studying in NY, Dr. Vivi Srivastava took time to attend the annual Corporate meeting at The Interchurch Center.

Dr. Vivi Srivastava Receives Grant

The International Union Against Cancer granted Dr. Srivastava a three-month fellowship at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY. Dr. Srivastava, of CMC&H's Department of Pathology applied for the project **Karyotyping and FISH in Hematological Malignancies**. Her objective was to learn cytogenetics in reference to the karyotyping of bone marrow in patients with hematological malignancies and to perform and interpret Fluorescence in Situ Hybridisation (FISH) in patients with the malignancies.

"After observing the setting up, harvesting, and banding of specimens, I also had the opportunity to study the karyotypes. I processed cultures myself, setting up slides of bone marrow from patients with acute leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia and lymphoma. I also observed FISH performed and read the slides. I was able to perform FISH on a few samples that I brought with me from Vellore. I have benefitted enormously from my time at Sloan Kettering and am grateful to Dr. R.S.K. Chaganti for making it possible for me to get this exposure and valuable hands on experience. I returned to CMC&H ready to apply what I have learned."

World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) Twins with Vellore CMC&H

The WFH is registered as a non-governmental organization with the World Health Organization, and supports the cause of hemophilia through their many programs. The "twinning" program is a pairing of a hemophilia center in the developed world with one in the developing world for a period of three years, supplying training, encouragement and grants.

Dr. Shaji, a Ph.D. candidate, was establishing a genetic diagnostic laboratory to identify women who were carriers of hemophilia, an inherited disorder. Dr. Carol Kasper, Vice President-Medical, WFH and Professor Emeritus of Medicine, University of Southern, CA encouraged Dr. Shaji to apply for a grant. She was awarded one from WFH, to learn modern genetic diagnostic techniques, in England. Dr. Alok Srivastava also applied and was awarded a grant by the WFH, for the development of genetic diagnostic capa-

bilities at Vellore. Dr. Mammen Chandy, is Head of Vellore's Clinical Hematology Department.

The International Hemophilia Training Centers (IHTC), of which 28 around the world (mostly in developed countries) provide training to professionals in diagnosis and treatment of hemophilia, is a WFH program. Vellore was appointed an IHTC! Vellore has been training people from all over India for years now, and it will continue with IHTC status.

Dr. Carol Kasper initiated an endowment fund with the Vellore Board USA. The interest will be used to help poor patients receive care and medication that are sorely needed. She has also arranged for the donation of medical supplies, which will be shipped through the Vellore Board by Interchurch Medical Assistance, duty free, under the Indo-US Agreement.

Congratulations

The College of Nursing, CMC&H has been declared as one of the **Institutions of Excellence in India** for conducting courses in health training, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

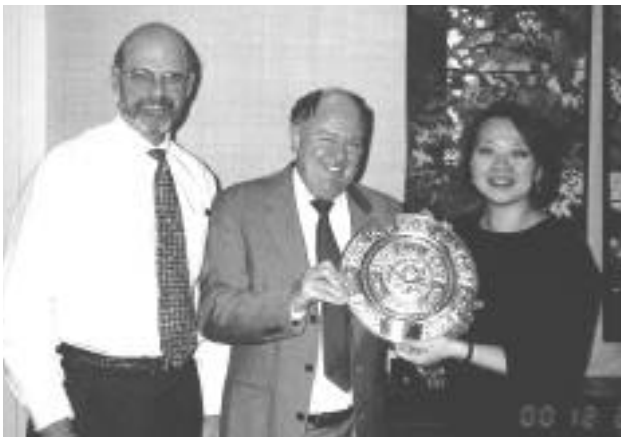
The College conducts three month World Health Organization training programs in **Community Health Nursing and Emergency and Trauma Nursing**.

—CMCH Weekly News



Donate While You Shop

Unbelievable as it sounds, you can actually turn shopping into a philanthropic adventure. All you need to do is start at our site, www.vellorecmc.org, click on the **SHOP BRAND NAME STORES** icon and follow the links. A percentage of what you spend comes to the Vellore Board. You may even get special discounts so you can save more on what you buy. But you must start at our site!



President William Salmond presenting a Thanjavur plate to Hunton & Williams' Managing Partner, B. Cary Tolley III and Associate, Madeleine M.L. Tan, with thanks for their outstanding pro bono legal services in support of the Vellore Board.

Heritage Society Members Make Donation

Betty and James Bolen, have made a \$100,000 gift to the Vellore Board for the purchase of medicine for the poor in India. Members of The Heritage Society, by making a planned gift to the Vellore Board, the Bolens also underwrote the construction of the pharmacies in the **Ida S. Scudder Centenary Center for Women and Children**. Betty served as a pharmacist in Vellore for two years after completing her education. She was sponsored by the Methodist Church.

"We have supported scholarships, the Centenary Center, and now we are also pleased to support cures through medications for those unable to pay for them," said Betty.

CMC&H Director, Dr. Joyce Ponnaiya, notes that there is always an urgent need for medicines for the poor, both in outreach areas and the main hospital.

Thank you, Betty and James, for your thoughtful, generous gift!