



# MADRAS MEDICAL MISSION

Reaching The Unreached

UPDATES

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DEC 2005

## *The New Year*

**M**any people have welcomed the New Year with great fanfare. Man eternally has lived on hope, and in the beginning of every year the hope is that the coming period will prove to be more prosperous, enjoyable and satisfying. We hardly ever think about the uncertainties in life and are in total ignorance about what is in store for us in the next twelve months. Let us hope that the coming year will give the best of everything to all, according to their hopes and needs.

A New Year is also an occasion for all of us to think of what is happening in this world around us, or at least in our own neighbourhoods. What percentage of our time do we spend thinking of those around us? Let us spare some time to analyze in what way we can pass on to others, in this year, the kindness and blessings which we have abundantly received in the past year and which we continue to receive this year. How do we show our gratitude to God for all that He has done for us?

The highest expression of our gratitude is in sharing our blessings with those who need them urgently. People talk of New Year resolutions, but these are mostly confined to personal matters, which have an intimate bearing on our personal or family situations. Can we, this year, widen the 'family' by including the ones who are in constant need and suffering?

How many of us realise that in India, the literacy rate is only 65 per cent? Though the Government is making every effort to expand the educational facilities, 50 per cent of those children who are already in school drop out by the time they reach eight years. Do we know that we have schools without toilets and girls attending such schools have to wait till they return home to use the toilet? While state governments will not allow the local language medium of instruction to be changed to English in

their schools, because they consider it unpatriotic and against the interest of the common man, there is a proliferation of more and more high-end schools to which, those who can afford, send their children for English medium education. And when ordinary people clamour to enroll their children in English medium schools, it is difficult to locate affordable schools.

Education, which is the most precious wealth that we can give to a child, could today help him / her to move into any part of world. In a recent speech, the Vice Chancellor of Anna University, Tamil Nadu said "Subject knowledge alone is not enough. Engineering students should be able to speak fluently in English. All the colleges should take serious interest and work to improve communications skills". When we talk of global economy and integrating the same to benefit all people, should we not have a policy which will help the "lower level of our society" to prepare itself to that global situation?

The most brilliant among us both inside the country and all over the world have been beneficiaries of the best education offered in this country at the cheapest cost. Will they or at least some of them resolve in the New Year, that they will share part of their benefits with the people of this county for providing better education for the unlucky ones? While acknowledging the effort some of them have made in this direction, I believe they still form only a microscopic minority. Will the others spare time in 2006 to think as to how best they can help the people in their villages or in the slums of their cities in India, to get a better education?

The greatest unrefined resource that our country possesses is the human resource. Our efforts should be prioritized in upgrading that according to the global needs. How many of us will spend time this year to help at least one student in need to reach

the goals in his life? This could be through help in coaching, training, fees, uniforms, books, infrastructure in the schools etc. Let us keep this priority as a New Year resolution on which we should regularly spend our resources.

Besides, how many know that in the coming years, the greatest killer disease in our country is going to be cardiac diseases? We do have the facilities for treatment of even complicated cardiac problems, but there are also many patients who lack the resources to go for treatment. Every year, 1 per cent of our children are born with congenital cardiac problems. In a period of five years, we will add to our population at least 7 lakh cardiac patients. How long will they survive without proper medical care? Will those who had the benefit of medical education in this country and occupy eminent positions in other parts of the world do something to help? All those who can afford to support causes of this nature, should participate in the effort to provide help for such patients. Let the New Year's resolution also include this as an important medical need.

To some of us, these thoughts may be an 'unnecessary' burden. So they think 'This is not going to help us or our children and our resources are not going to bring back anything in return to us'. It is true that greed is said to be a greater evil than terrorism. And a greedy mind will only think and plan to achieve more for self - more money, more possessions, more power and more of things whether we need them or not. Should the New Year make us think only about ourselves or should it help us in bearing a part of a burden that may benefit some one else? This point is best illustrated in a story (believed to be true), which I received recently by post.

*"Brenda was almost halfway to the top of the tremendous granite cliff. She was standing on a ledge where she was taking a breather during this, her first rock climb. As she rested there, the safety rope snapped against her eye and knocked out her contact lens. "Great", she thought, "Here I am on a rock ledge, hundreds of feet from the bottom and hundreds of feet to the top of this cliff, and now my sight is blurry".*

*She looked and looked, hoping that somehow it had landed on the ledge. But it just wasn't there. She felt the panic rising in her, so she began to pray. She prayed for calm, and she prayed that she might find her contact lens.*

*When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but it was not to be found. Although she was calm, now that she was at the top, she was saddened because she could not clearly see across the range of mountains. She remembered the verse in the Bible "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth".*

*She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and you know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me". Later, when they hiked down the trail to the bottom of the cliff they met another party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?".*

*Well, that itself was startling enough, but do you know how the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across a twig on the face of the rock, carrying it!*

*The story doesn't end there. Brenda's father, a cartoonist, drew a cartoon of an ant lugging that contact lens after she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens. He captioned it, "Lord, I don't know why you want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what you want me to do, I'll carry it for you".*

I think it would do all of us a lot of good to say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will".

With best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Chennai  
January 2006

**VERGHESE EAPEN**  
Vice-President



**MMM HEART FUND FOR CHILDREN**  
**MMM ADULT HEART ASSISTANCE FUND**

*An opportunity to reach the  
underprivileged in India*

*Individuals, Institutions, Trusts, Corporates, etc can  
participate in these Funds. The money received will  
be used only for the treatment of the deprived classes  
of people, who need expensive cardiac treatment.*

*All donations to Madras Medical Mission are  
exempted under Section 80G of the Indian  
Income Tax Act.*

## Joins MMM...

Dr.J.Ezhilan as Sr.Consultant, Department of Cardiology & Medical Superintendent from 12<sup>th</sup> October. He was earlier with the Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences as Prof. of Cardiology and as Asst. Prof. of Cardiology at Madras Medical College, Chennai.

Dr.Prashant Shah on completion of DNB training, as Staff Surgeon, Cardiac surgery from 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Dr.Rajesh S., as Junior Consultant, in the Department of Cardiac Surgery, from 28<sup>th</sup> December. He has earlier been working in various hospitals at Kerala, the Medical College Hospital, Ananthapuri Hospital and Research Institute, etc

Dr.D.Karthikeyan, part time Veterinary Surgeon from 5<sup>th</sup> December, soon after his completion of Masters in Veterinary Science and Radiology.

### TRAINEES

Dr.J.Ashok, FRCS, as a fellow in the Dept. of Cardiology at ICVD on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

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## WHAT OTHERS SAID ...

### About ICVD...

The principle on which the foundation of your efforts is based 'service to the people shall remain forever my beacon'. Your work in medical care for the masses at accessible and affordable levels will be most envisaged and emulated in a programme of collaboration between us. Everything is the best. Keep it up.

*November 11, 2005 Radhakrishna Padayachie (Roy)  
Deputy Minister of Communication  
South African Govt.  
Republic of South Africa*

A sense of professionalism is witnessed everywhere. What a wonderful hospital ! The doctors and staff are amazingly kind and concerned. Thanks for the achievement for humanity. God bless you all.

September 16, 2005 *Lt Gen Kayumba  
Ambassador of Rwanda in India  
Nyamwasa, Rwanda.*

A 'BIG THANK YOU' does not have enough words to express my sincere appreciation of the warmth and kind hospitality with which we were received at this wonderful institution, that is doing such fantastic work. This hospital and staff truly give meaning to the expression: "It is in giving that we receive" May God bless you all and thanks for your good will to the people of Africa.

*November 23, 2005 S.Francis Moloji  
High Commissioner of South Africa to India  
New Delhi*

What an impressive establishment! I was so pleased to meet Fr.Ninan Chacko and the theological people. I am an orthodox Christian and am proud to see what you are doing here. Congratulations and best wishes.

*October 18, 2005 Dr.Dimitriza Oreopoulos  
Canadian doctor & Nephrologist  
Greek Orthodox Church, Canada.*

The visit to MMM gave me a great feeling and a memorable experience. There is so much of professionalism and dedication. Service , administration, hospitality and everything is impressive.

*October 6, 2005 Dr.D Jayalakshmi  
Prof & Head Dept. of Sociology  
University of Madras, Chennai.*

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## FACILITIES ADDED...

### Pharmacy

A 24 hour Pharmacy with a Drive-in facility for the people of the locality has been introduced at the MMM complex for the benefit of patients and neighbourhood. This pharmacy inaugurated by Mr.K.V.George, Hon. Secretary of MMM on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2005. The Pharmacy stocks only branded items and ensures qualitative products at round the clock service.



## Internet Cafe

In deference to the requirement of several of our patients and family members, an Internet Café has been initiated. Located in the lobby of Madras Medical Mission premises, this Internet Café was



inaugurated on 17<sup>th</sup> December by Mr. Verghese Eapen, the Vice President of MMM.

## EVENTS / VISITS

- Mr. Radhakrishnaya Padayachi, Hon'ble Minister for communication, Republic of South Africa



The Hon'ble Minister for Communication with Hon'y Treasurer Mr. E.J. Thomas and CEO Mr. John Punnoose

visited the Madras Medical Mission on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He had detailed discussions with the Management and doctors of MMM and



The very first group of Fiji Islanders (4 Adults and 4 Paediatrics) all smiles, ready for 'take off' after their treatment at ICVD with the MMM Staff

envisaged keen interest in exploring opportunities of collaboration in the field of healthcare. During this visit, he also met patients and clinical trainees of the African continent at the MMM.

- Shri Regupathy, Minister of State Home Affairs, Pudukottai (Tamil Nadu) visited MMM on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2005.

## Children's Day

The MMM Academy of Medical Science celebrated Children's Day on 14<sup>th</sup> November in MMM. On this occasion an inter school "Health Related Quiz Contest" was conducted. Seven schools (Anna Adarsh, CSI Jesse Mosses, Jai Gopal Garodia, Chinmaya Vidhyalaya, Spartan, SBOA, Leo Matric) in and around Mogappair participated in the contest. SBOA

Matriculation School won the contest followed by Anna Adarsh which was placed in the second position.

Tattooing and movie, magic show and the drawing

competition won the appreciation of all the school children and children of the MMM family. A talent show was also conducted for the children of staff and the paediatric patients of MMM. Prizes sponsored by Funskool India and BI Publications were distributed. On this occasion, as part of its kind gesture towards the little loved ones, Free Cardiac Screening was also performed for 70 children below 18 years.



The Tanzanian Paediatric Patient welcoming the participants of the Health Quiz contest with a rose bud.

## Christmas 2005



St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, Broadway

Christmas at MMM has always been a beautiful expression of love, care and concern for both the health care providers and its beneficiaries. The Carol singing preparation of the

choir of MMM heralded the season of Christmas 2005, even as early as October. A simple and holy function in commemoration of the 2000 year old event- birth of Christ-held on 17<sup>th</sup> December was graced by the chief guest Mr. Fulgence Kazaura, (Special Economic Advisor to the President, United



Mr. Fulgence Kazaura, sharing his Christmas thoughts with the MMM family.

Republic of Tanzania and the chancellor of the Dar-es-Salaam University, Chairman of the Tanzanian Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and the Tanzanian Invest Bank). Mr.V.J.Philip's,



Chariots-The African Choir

(Principal and HOD of Chemistry, Madras Christian College) Xmas message of sharing the love of Christ with the lesser fortunate in society and understanding our own purpose of existence in life, was thought provoking.



St. Thomas Jacobite Syrian Church, Anna Nagar

The Xmas celebration this year was made special by the participation of the choirs of St.Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, Broadway, Chennai, the St.Thomas Jacobite Syrian Church, Anna Nagar, Chennai and Chariots-the all African Choir from Pune. Their melodious rendition was a spiritual healing to all our patients from over the 10 countries across continents and across the various states of India, who were undergoing treatment here. The function concluded with the excitement of paediatric patients and children of staff over the legendary Santa and the all familiar 'Jingle bells'.

## LANDMARKS...

- Chennai Transplant Centre completed its 275<sup>th</sup> Renal transplant in the month of October 2005 and till date have completed 287 renal transplants.

### 25,000<sup>th</sup> Cardiac Surgery



Veneranda Guyuze celebrating her new lease of life by cutting the cake with H.E. Mr. Francis Molio, his cardiologists and CEO

The team at Madras Medical Mission's ICVD has achieved the distinction of operating on the 25,000<sup>th</sup> cardiac patient for a new lease of life. MMM is among the select few hospitals in the world to achieve this landmark. Ms. Veneranda Arusha Guyuze, a eleven year old child from Tanzania and Mr.Chandrasekran, a porter hailing from Tanjore were the 25,000<sup>th</sup> cardiac patients. ICVD was honored on this occasion with the visit of His Excellency Mr.Francis Molio, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, to meet little Veneranda Guyuze.

### Neighbourhood Privilege Card Launched

The Madras Medical Mission completed 10 years of service in the neighbourhood of Mogappair and Anna Nagar on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005. In appreciation of the support and co-operation extended by these communities in making MMM an International healthcare destination, MMM launched a special Neighbourhood Privilege Gold Card for the residents at a special introductory price of Rs.299.00 .

This card enables the residents to avail a 5 per cent discount at the 24 hours Pharmacy, laboratory investigations at MMM and on outpatient diagnostics too. A 10 per cent discount for ambulance services and priority treatment at the hospital were also extended. This card is valid for the registrant, spouse and two children below 18 years.

## VOICE OF OUR PATIENT...

### THUMBS UP !

(Reproduced from The Rediff Special/Claude Arpi)

January 04, 2006

I usually do not write for this section, but circumstances sometimes force upon you a new type of experience. In my case, it was unexpected on October 14, a Friday, I had a heart attack.

Till that fateful morning I had enjoyed good health. In fact, I had not taken any medicine for the past two decades I just had not needed them.

I have the good luck to live in peaceful surroundings, far from polluted and noisy cities and my life is relatively simple. When I visit Delhi I am always disturbed by the eating and sleeping habits of people. I have always liked to sleep early and wake up early. In the capital, most people start to dine after 10 pm, usually after a few drinks. I could never get used to this lifestyle.

It is perhaps a grace that I had these 'natural' habits. I regularly played football on Sunday, though the doctors now tell me that it is not enough to exercise the body just once a week; a daily walk or yoga exercises or any other form of physical activity is highly advisable.

Though I was in good health, for some days before the myocardial infarction, I complained of pain in the stomach. I thought it was probably a sort of amoebiasis, quite common in the rural areas in the South. The night before the attack, the pain shifted to the higher abdomen. I did not bother much about it, though I could not sleep.

The next morning I did not wake up feeling great, but I worked at home as usual for one- and- a- half hours on my computer, completing a chapter of my next book. Later, I climbed on my motorbike and went to the office, a 10- minute drive.

A few minutes after reaching the office, I had an acute pain in the chest accompanied by cold sweat and nausea. It lasted several minutes. By that time, my wife had the time to contact a doctor who advised her to take me immediately to the local health centre 5 km away. Having no other vehicle than a motorbike at our immediate disposal, I sat behind my wife who drove to the dispensary.

The drive was quite unpleasant. It seemed to last forever.

At the health centre, a doctor was waiting for me. My blood pressure was taken, It was abnormally high. The doctor decided I must go immediately to a specialised establishment in Pondicherry to get an electro-cardiogram taken. All this time, I still

thought the amoebae were playing havoc.

Half an hour later, I walked into the Pondicherry clinic, where an ECG was done. I still thought that it was only a routine check.

I waited a few moments in the director's office and when he entered the room, we started discussing our favourite topic, the history of Pondicherry. However, when he looked at the ECG, his face changed.

'You are a very lucky person to have reached here', he told me. 'You just had myocardial infarction. I must admit you immediately in the Intensive Care Unit'.

He did not even want me to walk to the ICU. I was immediately put under a drip and administered drugs to thin the blood and even given oxygen. I was still not convinced that it was not simply my amoebae creating all this fuss, but at that point in time, there was no choice but to listen to the doctors. Retrospectively, I feel this was grace. I never thought for one second about a heart attack. I would have probably panicked and things could have been much worse.

During the next days, I felt better. I chatted away with all my visitors, trying to convince them that nothing had happened and that the jumps in the ECG were probably due to electricity spikes. Everyone knows how bad the fluctuations are in the supply of current by the electricity board. That was my theory !

Unfortunately, on the third day, I had a second-though milder-attack. I could no longer brag. This time, the doctors admitted the problem had not been controlled with the drugs. It was decided to shift me immediately by ambulance to Chennai to a cardiac hospital- the Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases of the Madras Medical Mission, where an angiogram could be performed and corrective measures- angioplasty or surgery- could be taken.

I reached Chennai at night and the next day the angiogram revealed major, multiple arterial blockages. Two arteries were 90 per cent blocked, one 60 per cent and one 50 per cent. No chance to escape surgery.

The surgeon first thought of waiting a week for my condition to stabilise to operate. However, the next day I had another small unease. The cardiologists and the surgeon decided to go in for an emergency quadruple bypass surgery immediately. It was done on Wednesday, October 19.

The six-and -a- half hour operation was successful and at 10 pm, I was shifted to the post-operation ICU. I woke up the next morning at around 8.30 am. I was no longer an independent human being !

I discovered myself lying on a bed with pipes coming out of my stomach, chest, limbs, neck, mouth and nose. I thought to myself that I must look like a porcupine with all the pipes poking out of my body.

I was constantly monitored by doctors and nurses. In this position, you cannot eat, you cannot really speak. But you can turn your head to the right or the left; and there I discovered two other human beings in a similar position, having gone through the same ordeals.

After this close shave – Lord Yama, the lord of death, decided not to claim me immediately – and a three-day stay in the ICU, I had time to ponder over the concept of brotherhood. Perhaps ‘ponder’ is not quite the exact word, for I lived it through my body.

In all my life, I have never experienced such an overwhelming sense of fraternity. On my one side was a brother from Tanzania, and on the other a Tamil Brahmin. But for bodies lying in these conditions, colour of skin, race, religion or caste do not really exist any more. You are just one human body and there lie your brothers – dismantled of labels.

During my stay, something greatly touched me. It was the good humour, the kindness and enthusiasm of the doctors and nurses. They were always sweet and encouraging. I particularly remember one young intern (I presume that he was an intern, though I did not think of asking him at that time).

His name was Anand. He would often pass in front of my bed and each time make a thumbs-up gesture. It was just after the operation, I was in the special ICU and I was not really comfortable with all my pipes. However, each time Anand would pass in front of my bed, my morale would go higher and after a few times, I started responding with a thumbs-up of my own.

It was as if we were playing in the NBA championship and I had scored a great basket. I realised later that keeping one’s morale high is the secret for a quick recovery. I do not know if the doctors and the staff are trained to keep the spirits of their patients high, but it is the most efficient and caring approach.

For the first five days, Anand would remove a pipe a day from my body. He would come in the morning, ask me to take a deep breath, pull out the pipe and then flash the thumbs-up. I would thumbs-up in response. Apart from the first pipe removal – which was very painful because some mucus had to be pumped out from the lungs – the remaining removals were pure ananda. I was slowly becoming an independent entity again.

I must say the doctors and particularly my surgeon were daily pushing me to progress.’ Don’t stay in bed, go for a walk; you should have a normal life as soon as possible’ was their motto. Though I was prescribed three months rest (without any tension or stress), I was asked to exercise every day without fail.

Another strong experience of my 12-day stay in the ICVD is what I call the ‘Survivor’s Club’ . Three or four days after the operation, each patient is invited to join the physiotherapy session on the second floor of the eight-story building, at 10 am and 3 pm.

I named it the ‘Survivor’s Club’ because all human beings attending the exercises have had very narrow escapes. Each one could easily have been on the other side – without a lot of luck, the knowledge of the cardiologists, the skills of the surgeons and the ultra modern equipment of the ICVD.

Every morning and afternoon, some 30 ‘Survivors’ assemble for 30 minutes of exercise. Here again, the feeling of solidarity and brotherhood is spontaneous. Amongst the ‘survivors’ were people from different backgrounds and nationalities.

There were several Africans along with North and South Indians and even a white-skinned French man. Ladies and gents both participated in the rehabilitation programme. But the most touching perhaps were the children who; had been operated on for genetic cardiac malformations or other cardio-vascular infant diseases.

They were generally accompanied by their mothers who tried to show them the exercises: the toddler very sweetly trying to imitate their mother or neighbour. Once again I realised that all man-made differentiation are totally superficial.

Unfortunately, it needs such an experience to realise the profound unity of mankind in its diversity. This was indeed an interesting experience. I learned a few lessons.

**First**, what my Tibetan friends call ‘the Precious Human Body’ is really precious and one should take care of it.

**Second**, when it is not really necessary, one should not be stressed.

I always like to quote Shantideva: If it can be remedied, there is no need to be unhappy. If it can’t be remedied, what is the use of being unhappy?

Now, the time has come to practice it.

By Claude Arpi

## STAFF DIARY...

### Beyond the National Boundary...

Dr.S.Rajan , HOD & Sr.Consultant Cardio Thoracic Surgery participated in the EACTS Annual Meeting in Barcelona, Spain from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September. He also attended the Japan Association of Thoracic Surgery in Okayama, Japan from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October and made a presentation on “Ross Procedure – Our experience” .

Of the few hospitals that participated from India, Madras Medical Mission was the only one from Chennai to be invited to present papers at the International Conference – 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Congress of the Association of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons of Asia (ATCSA) held at Manila, Philippines from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Dr.Suresh Keshavamurthy, Dr.Roy Varghese, Dr.Rajan Modi, Consultant Cardiac Surgeons, and Dr.Kanagarajan Consultant Anesthetist participated from the ICVD. In the entire congress, only ICVD presented 10 papers, ie the maximum number of papers, encompassing both adult and paediatric cardio thoracic surgery and cardiac anaesthesia.

While Dr.Keshavamurthy presented here the papers “Left Atrial reduction and Pulmonary Vein isolation for Atrial Fibrillation in patients with mitral valve disease”, “Ross Procedure (early research)”, “Ross in Rheumatics”, “Coronary revascularization in non-dialysis dependent renal failure” and “Comparison of prosthetic valve in mitral position”, Dr. Varghese presented the two papers “Multiple VSD’s : Primary closure Vs Staged repair” and “Valve repair in Active Rheumatic Heart Disease in Children”. Dr.Rajan Modi presented two papers “RSOV Trans aortic repair - MMM experience” and “Apical ventriculotomy – An approach for management of multiple VSDs in complex congenital heart disease.” Dr.Kanagarajan also presented on “Peritoneal Dialysis after Paediatric open Heart Surgery- Analysis of 105 patients”.

### National Participation...

#### At ICVD...

Dr.S.Rajan attended the Eastern Chapter of IACTS at Calcutta on 13<sup>th</sup> November, and gave a guest lecture on “Methodology and Organization of Homograft Valve Bank”. He also attended and chaired a session at the GENM Meeting.

Dr. V.M. Kurian, Sr.Consultant-Cardiac Surgeon participated in the Vascular Society of India Annual Conference (VSICON -2005) at Trivandrum from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Dr.Mullasari Ajith, Dr.Ulhas M.Pandurangi, Sr. Consultant Cardiologists and Dr.Bhagyavathy, Cardiologist took part in the CSI Tamil Nadu Chapter Annual Conference at Kanyakumari on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October. While Dr.Mullasari Ajith gave a guest lecture on “Current status of stem cell therapy in cardiac disorders”, Dr.Pandurangi and Dr.Bhagyavathy delivered faculty lectures on “Device therapy for Arrhythmia and Heart Failure – Is it applicable for us” and “How to take care of an adult with congenital heart disease “ respectively.

On 13<sup>th</sup> November Dr.Pandurangi was a faculty at the Cardiac Electro Physiology Course organized by Department of Cardiology, Govt. Medical College, Madurai and on 23<sup>rd</sup> November he delivered a lecture on “Heart Failure – an electrophysiologist’s view” at the Department of Cardiology, Govt. Hospital Chennai. He was also a faculty for the Annual pre-examination course for cardiologists and physicians on 27<sup>th</sup> November at the Southern Railway Hospital under the auspicious of API Chennai Chapter.

Dr.Ajith Mullasari, Dr.Pandurangi, Dr.Viswanathan and Dr. J.Ezhilan cardiologists from ICVD attended the Annual Cardiology Society of India Conference held at Mumbai from 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> December. Dr.Ajith Mullasari delivered a faculty lecture on “PCI for Left Main disease” and Dr.Pandurangi on “Ventricular Tachycardia – ECG identification and localization”. Dr.Pandurangi was also a panelist during the session on “AICD guide lines – Need for introspection” by Dr.Arthur Moss. Dr.Ezhilan also attended the monthly Cardiological Society of India - Chennai Chapter meet held at Chennai on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

Dr.R.Suresh Kumar delivered a lecture on “Clinical Assessment and Management in TGA and other Cyanotic CHD” in the Prof. K.S.Shadaksharappa Memorial III National Symposium on Cardiology in Bangalore on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

While Dr.Benjamin, Sr.Consultant and Dr.Sujatha Jr.Consultant from the department of Cardiac Anesthesia attended the Update in Cardiac Anesthesia on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November in Chennai, Dr.Viswanathan gave a lecture on “Risk factors in CAD” at I.I.T.,Chennai on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Dr.V.V.Pankajalakshmi, HOD Microbiology, at the Preconference Workshop in Mycology, “Diagnostic Methods in Mycology both Conventional and Molecular Techniques”, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October at Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, gave a lecture and practical demonstration

on “Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Techniques” She also attended the National Conference of the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, “Microcon 2005” from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October and chaired the mycology session at the same venue.

At the Health Awareness Programme conducted for the employees of Rane Brakes LTD , Chennai on 21<sup>st</sup> October Ms.Achamma Chacko and Mr.Karthikeyan, Physiotherapists from the Department of cardiac rehabilitation gave talks on “Heart Health” and Mr.Varadarajan on “Cardio Pulmonary Rehabilitation” on 17<sup>th</sup> October at Pondicherry for the students of Mother Theresa College of Paramedical Sciences.

Mr.B.Sudhakaran, Clinical Psychologist, participated in the National Seminar on “Psychology in Global Context” and presented a paper on “the relationship of emotional intelligence upon quality of life among internship students of physiotherapy” at the Annamalai University, Chidambaram on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### From the Reproduction & Women’s Health Unit...

Dr.T.R.Varma, Medical Director, IRM conducted a scientific session on “Tribolone, an alternative to HRT” on 18<sup>th</sup> November at Chennai. She was also invited to deliver a lecture on “Selective Tissue Estrogen Activity Regulator as an alternative to HRT” (Medicon 2005) and was the chairperson in the 80<sup>th</sup> All India Conference of Indian Medical Association for the session “On Ethical and Moral issues in Assisted Reproduction,” on 28<sup>th</sup> December at Chennai.



The growing twins is the cup of joy for the IRM Doctors

Dr.Sathya, Dr.Kundavi, Dr.Shanthi and Dr.Betty Elizabeth Thomas from IRM attended a symposium on “Puberty and Related Disorders” conducted by Dr.Usha Sriram at Chennai on 10<sup>th</sup> November. Dr.Kundavi, Dr.Shanthi and Mr.Stephen also

participated in the Asia Pacific Conference on “Egg donation and Third Party Reproduction” from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November at Pondicherry.

### At the Chennai Transplant Centre...

Dr. S. Shanmuga Bhaskar, (Transplant Surgeon), Dr. Nagarajan. P, (Surgical Registrar), Dr. Georgi Abraham, (Nephrologist), Dr. Madan, (Anesthetist), Mr. Jayaseelan, (Dialysis Incharge), Ms. Nusrath (Transplant Coordinator) and Ms. C.Rajalakshmi (Study Coordinator) attended the XVI – Annual Conference organized by Indian Society of Organ Transplant at Jaipur from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Dr.P.Nagarajan presented a paper on “TB in post transplant patients” and Ms.C.Rajalakshmi Physician Assistant on “Urinary infection in post transplant recipients”.

Dr. Georgi Abraham, Dr. Hari and Dr. Arif, (Registrars), Mr. Jayaseelan and Mr. Saravanan, Dialysis Technologist attended the XXXVI – National conference (ISOCOM – 2005) from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> December organised by Indian Society of Nephrology at Cochin. While Mr.Jayaseelan made poster presentations on “Cost, comparison, efficacy and safety of parenteral Iron Sucrose / Sodium Ferri Gluconate Comparing IV infusion Verses IV Push”,



Dr. Georgi Abraham (3rd from Left) with the paper presenters from CTC at MICROCON 2005

Mr.Saravanan gave a presentation on “Parathyroid hormone and biochemical profile in chronic kidney disease patients in India” and a paper presentation “Is correlative study of antihypertensive drugs, EPO use blood pressure, fluid removal in a cohort of Maintenance Hemodialysis patients” respectively.

Mr. Jayaseelan, and Mr. Saravanan participated in the Advanced Course on Peritoneal dialysis organised by Baxter India Ltd. at Chennai on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October. They also took part in the XXIX – National Conference (MICROCON – 2005) organised by Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, at SRMC Porur from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October where Mr.Jayaseelan gave a poster presentation on “Water quality for hemodialysis in a tertiary dialysis unit monitoring microbiological aspect”.

## AWARDS...

**Dr.S.Rajan**  
and  
**Dr.V.M.Kurian**  
have been awarded  
**The Outstanding Personality Award**  
by  
Tamil Nadu state,  
**IMA CON 2005**  
on 27<sup>th</sup> November at Vellore.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Ms.Rachel Zachariah, Deputy Manager- Front Office and Patient Relations attended a highly interactive two-day skill development workshop on Managerial Effectiveness at Chennai on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

One day programme on “Basic Life Support” was conducted for 150 staff nurses in five batches in co-ordination with St.John’s Ambulance from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> December. Theory classes and practical sessions were conducted by Mr.Kumaraguru, faculty – St.John’s Ambulance. On completion of the training, the trainees were evaluated with a written test and viva voce. The qualified candidates will soon be given certificates of completion by St.John’s Ambulance.

Dr.P.H.Rao , Professor – Health Studies Area , Administrative Staff College of India gave a talk on “ Hospital Management” on 21<sup>st</sup> December to all the executives of MMM.

Mr.John V.Paulose, General Manager (Finance and Accounts) attended the Conference on “Leadership in Healthcare” organized by Christian Medical College, Vellore on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## CAMPS CONDUCTED...

**16<sup>th</sup> October :** A blood donation camp was organised by MMM in co-ordination with New



Blood Donation Camp

World Youth Club, in Chennai for Tanzanian patients. About 51 volunteers donated on this day.

**29<sup>th</sup> October:** A free cardiac screening camp was held by the Community Health Centre for the children of Udavum Karangal - a home for the abandoned with 2000 inmates. About 260 children below 15 years of age were screened . Free ECG and echocardiogram were also done and those identified with cardiac ailment are to receive further treatment at MMM. Dr.V.Viswanathan and Dr.P.K.Jena from ICVD participated in this camp. The organization was grateful for our endeavour.



Tiny Tots of Udavum Karangal perusing their own medical records.

**5<sup>th</sup> November:** On the walk way at Padikuppam, the low socio-economic neighbourhood of MMM a free medical camp was conducted by the Community Health Centre for about 58 patients, most of whom were rag-pickers.

**12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November :** The team from Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Cardiology , Dr.S.Rajan , Dr.Latchumanadhas, Dr.Basha, Dr. Shivakumar, Dr.J.Ezhilan and Dr.P.K.Jena attended the Cardiac Camp held at Mannargudi and screened about 405 patients.

**24<sup>th</sup> November:** A team of doctors, paramedics and students of Medical Sociology proceeded to the tribal areas of Nayaknari hills of Ambur to conduct a free general medical camp. But on account of the heavy rains and bad risky roads the vehicle could not reach its destination. With great disappointment, the trip was cancelled and a general medical camp was immediately arranged at one of the schools of Ambur. Patients with high risk for cardiac illness were referred to MMM.

**26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November:** Dr.Latchumanadhas, Sr.Consultant Cardiologist ,Dr.V.Viswanathan Consultant Cardiologist, Dr.M.Anbarasu, Dr.Shivakumar and Physician Assistants participated

in the Cardiac Camp at Tirupur . Around 443 patients were screened of which 113 have been recommended for surgery.

**26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December :** The Institute of Reproductive Medicine & Women's Health extended a Free Medical Screening Camp exclusively for couples with infertility problems. The camp led by Dr.Thankam R.Varma, gave free consultation, counselling and medical examination. Patients requiring further examinations like Ultrasound, Test Tube procedure etc were offered 25 per cent concession.

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

### Echocardiography Course

The Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, conducted its 17<sup>th</sup> Echo Training Programme from 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November. This basic one week programme introduced the basics of Transthoracic Echocardiography including scanning techniques such as M-mode, 2D and Doppler techniques, exposure to the most commonly encountered cardiac disorders and an introduction to Paediatric and Trans-esophageal Echoes. This 17<sup>th</sup> Course was privileged with the guest lectures by Dr.Shanmuga Sundaram and Dr.Alagesan from



Participants of the Echo training programme with their faculty.

Madras Medical College on Diastolic Dysfunction and contrast Echo, stress Echo, 3-D Echo and other recent advances in Echocardiography respectively. Doctors and Echo technicians from all over India attended the programme.

Dr.T.R.Varma conducted a CME programme on “LHRH – antagonist in ART programme” in sponsorship with Sun Pharma at Chennai on 11<sup>th</sup> December. While she gave a talk on “STEAR”, Dr.Kundavi and Dr.Sathya presented papers on

“Antagonist” and “Role of Antagonist in ART Programme”. They were also the panelists for “Antagonists in Infertility”. Dr.Anuradha, Dr.Shanthi and Dr.Betty Thomas too, from IRM attended this programme.

**IRM :** MD / DGO post graduates and Physician Assistants were provided with a short Observership training .

Dr.Amaranathan V Pathmanathan from Malaysia was also given a short training from 8<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December in clinics and embryology as part of Assisted Reproductive Technique.

**MMM AMS :** Eleven post-graduate students of Medical Social Work from Loyola College were delivered guest lectures on Hospital Administration by the Administrative Executives of the Madras Medical Mission on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November at MMM.

## MMM – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The extending hands of MMM to the poor and needy is reached through its Community Health Centre . About 4000 patients benefited in this quarter.

### Outreach Programs

The northwest monsoons that hit Chennai and its surroundings during October and November created havoc in the lives of the people living in low – lying areas of Chennai. The floods increased the necessity of shelter, food and medical – aid in the affected areas.

- The Ambattur lake breached its banks inundating several nearby villages, one of which was **Ayappakkam** our project area. Residents were unable to get out of their houses even to buy vegetables and basic requirements for their daily needs. The situation became pathetic when the sewerage got mixed with flood waters creating a fear of the spread of various communicable diseases. The Wednesday camps held here by the Community Health department was the only accessible and affordable medical aid to the community. The Panchayat head of Ayappakkam was thankful for the quality of care provided. Nearly 666 people registered and were treated in this quarter at this place.

- **Keevalore** in Thiruvallur district, the project area which is about 25 km away from the city, was also flooded because of the heavy rain and breached banks of Thandalam lake. As many as 160 families were affected. The Friday camps at the St.Thomas Home for orphans at Keevalore is a real boon to this community. It is surprising to see the people here, preferring to bear their sickness till Friday, than travel the long distance to Government hospitals. Each patient has his own story, of how they managed to save Rs.3/- for their medicines. The smile on the faces of the 643 patients treated here are some of the gratifying moments for our physicians.
- **Vinayakapuram** situated on the banks of the Twin lake was the most affected among all our outreach project areas. The roads here, had become merely channels for the flow of the flood water thereby making this area extremely inaccessible . Most of the inhabitants here, were evacuated to community halls, marriage halls etc. But to those who lived in their own residences, our medical aid along with the government relief measures was like ‘manna in the desert.’ About 421 patients have been treated here during this period.

### Mogappair Health Clinic

Despite heavy rains, the Mogappair health clinic had regular O.P.Ds from Monday to Saturday (1766 patients). The overall statistics showed an increase in fever, respiratory tract infection, skin infections and acute diarrhoeal diseases.

### School Health program

M.D.M. School at Vinayakapuram with a strength of 50 students below 5 years of age hailing from the below poverty line social group were given medical aid. Treatment for worm infestation, anaemia, vitamin-A prophylaxis and advice on personal and dental hygiene were provided. Lamar School located in Mogappair has 70 students, from the slum areas of Padikuppam, Mogappair and Paneer Nagar. Thirty nine of them were given free medical check up. Nutritional supplements were also distributed free of cost.

### World Aids Day

On December 1<sup>st</sup> an Aids Awareness Programme was held in the community Health Centre for about

30 women from the neighbourhood of MMM. At the group discussion held here on the occasion, burden of the disease in the community, early symptoms, preventive and control measures, recent advancement in the treatment, were elaborately discussed. All present were highly motivated to spread this awareness in their own community and assured that each one of them will convey it to at least 5 members .

### Tailoring Unit

There are 13 students at present. Since December 2005, embroidery and painting courses have been reintroduced apart from the cutting and sewing being regularly taught.

## PATIENTS STATISTICS

### Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (As on 31st December, 2005)

<b>Total Outpatients*</b>	<b>439930</b>
Outreach (From January 2004)	19423
Camp (From January 2004)	4591
Total free out patients	298677
Total Surgeries	25189
No. of children operated	8492
Free Surgeries	1054
Concession Surgeries	7607
Total invasive and Interventional Procedures	30071
TMR	289
Heart Transplant	7
Batista Procedure	8
Lung Transplant	1
Heart & Lung Transplant	3
EP Studies	643
Ablation	425

\*Excludes outreach patients from January 2004

## Surgeries Performed - ICVD (Indian Patients)

Andaman & Nicobar	28
Andhra Pradesh	1577
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	59
Bihar	222
Chatisgarh	14
Diu & Daman	1
Goa	193
Gujarat	758
Haryana	8
Jammu & Kashmir	6
Jharkand	33
Karnataka	1132
Kerala	3604
Madhya Pradesh	402
Maharashtra	1223
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	6
Nagaland	3
New Delhi	69
Orissa	102
Pondicherry	290
Punjab	19
Rajasthan	74
Tamil Nadu	11463
Tripura	5
Uttar Pradesh	151
West Bengal	570
Sikkim	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>22020</b>

## Chennai Transplant Centre

(September to December 2005)

New Patients	356
In Patients	175
Follow Up	992
Renal Transplant	18
General Surgeries	79
Dialysis done	1109
UGI Scopy	79
Colonoscopy	14
Sigmoidoscopy	04
ERCP	01
Banding/ Stent	06
Peg Tube Insertion	02
N.E. Tube Insertion	01
Sclero Therapy	01
Polypectomy	02
Abdomen Scan	182
Doppler	44
Transplant Kidney	14
Intra Operative scans	0
U/S guided biopsies	03
U/S Guided Tapping	01
Other Scans	09

## Surgeries Performed - ICVD (Foreign Patients)

Afghanistan	4
Australia	7
Bahrain	135
Bangladesh	341
Belgium	1
Brunei	3
Canada	2
Ethiopia	3
Fiji	16
Hong Kong	3
Iraq	19
Italy	1
Indonesia	15
Kenya	350
Kuwait	23
Malaysia	59
Maldives Republic	253
Mauritius	36
Mayanmar	1
Nepal	15
Nigeria	9
Oman	50
Pakistan	55
Qatar	13
Rwanda	11
Saudi Arabia	15
Seychelles	25
Singapore	17
Sri Lanka	955
South Africa	2
Tanzania	460
United Kingdom	3
U.S.A.	3
U.A.E.	176
Uganda	84
Yemen	3
Zambia	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3169</b>

## Institute of Reproductive Medicine & Women's Health

(1st October to December 2005)

NP	200
FOLLOW UP	2202
Grand Total	2402
SCAN	1708
SA	118
IUI	33
IVF + ICSI	41
Embryo Transfer	34
FER	12
SURGERY	64

## LANDMARK...

### “THE FACE OF THINGS TO COME”

(Reproduced from UK Sunday Times Magazine, 11 Dec 2005)

It all began 11 years ago not in France but in a farm yard near Ludhiana in northern India. Harpal Kaur and her nine year old daughter Sandeep were chopping hay for cattle feed when the little girls pigtails caught in the thresher, ripping off the whole of her face. “ I didn’t know where it was” said Harpal. “Everything was peeled out. The remains on the face lay on the ground in two distinct pieces.

With amazing presence of mind , Harpal placed the pieces in a plastic bag. With Sandeep



unconscious in her mother’s lap, her father drove down on the motor bike to the nearest teaching hospital, the Christian Medical College at Ludhiana – 3 ½ hours away.



On duty was Dr.Abraham Thomas, one of the India’s top plastic surgeons. Looking at the facial remnants, he remembers crying out “Oh my God, I can’t do that”. But he set up sewing back the first artery. Dr.Thomas saw one piece of separated facial skin suffuse with colour and took courage. For the next ten hours he painstakingly reconnected nerves and blood vessels. The operation proved to be a success, although she is scared. Sandeep now 20, is well and is studying to be a nurse.

In 1994, Dr.Thomas had achieved the first human face transplant after the recipient’s own face. Other

attempts to graft a separated face back on to a patient, have been less successful.

*(Dr. Abraham G.Thomas is the Director Principal of PIMS- MMM is proud of him.)*

### Replantation at this level (above Elbow) is the first of its kind in our region....

On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005, under the leadership of Dr. Abraham G.Thomas, a team of Plastic and Micro Vascular Surgeons and Orthopaedic surgeons did an amputated (above Elbow) ® arm successfully replanted.



The patient is a 49 years old male of foreign origin who at a Road Traffic Accident had got his ® arm severed. The limb was stabilized by the Orthopaedician Asst.Prof. Dr.P.Kumaresan. The revascularization and other procedures were done by Prof.Dr.Abraham G.Thomas and Associate Professors Sharad Ramdas and Dr.Elvino Barreto. Anesthetist Dr.David did an excellent work for more than 6 hours. This successful surgery on the eve of Diwali was the greatest gift of God to the patient.

## ELECTED

Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh,  
Medical Superintendent and  
Sr. Consultant, Anaesthesia was  
unanimously elected  
as President of the  
Pondicherry Chapter  
of the Indian Society of Anaesthetists

### Staff Diary..

The Pondicherry Chapter of the Indian Society of Anaesthetists conducted two Association Clinical Meetings which was largely attended by members of the Department of anaesthesia, from all the medical institutions of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. At the above two Conferences the following Scientific Papers were presented by the Department of Anaesthesia and Critical Care.

- Post Operative- Negative Pressure Pulmonary- “Oedema”- A Case Report — Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh, Medical Superintendent and Sr.Consultant -Anaesthesia ,Dr.Ashok Kumar M., Dr.T.R.Ramachandran, HOD Dept. of Anaesthesia, Dr.Rani P, DNB Resident.
  - Intra-Operative Cardiac Arrest – Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh, Dr.Lailu Mathews, Associate Professor.
  - Continuous Femoral Nerve Block as Post Operative pain relief in patients undergoing Total Knee Replacement – Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh, Dr.P.Rani, Dr.T.R.Ramachandran.
  - “Anaesthetic Management of patients with Left Main Coronary Artery Disease undergoing CABG” – Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh, Dr.T.R.Ramachandran, Dr.Ravinder Datt Bhanot, DNB Resident.
- Dr.R.K.Kalyan Singh was a faculty at the “The society of Cardiac Anaesthesiologist of Chennai” which conducted an Update in Cardiac Anaesthesia on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> November. He also chaired the update for the following sessions:
- Anaesthetic Management of TGA with intact septum for Arterial Switch Operations.

- A Patient with previous MI presents with bilateral Iliac Block and posted for aortoiliac bypass, Pre-operative evaluation.

### Department of Community Medicine

During and after the incessant rainfall where many surrounding villages were inundated, the team from Dept. of Community Medicine conducted 23 medical camps in these areas and 4439 patients were provided medication. Twelve of these camps were sponsored by ADRA.

ROME (Reorientation of Medical Education) is a unique opportunity for medical students to get acquainted with the ecological and social dynamics in health and disease in the rural community. The VI Semester MBBS students underwent this



Inauguration of OBG-labour Ward by Dr. Abraham G. Thomas, Director-Principal, PIMS

training and successfully completed four community based studies under the supervision of Dr.P.Panda, Prof. & Head Department of community Medicine, Dr.Anil J.Purty, Dr.Joy Bazroy, Dr.Neelima, and Dr.Sanjay Gupta also from the same department. The studies include:

- Health Status of School Children
- Prevalence of Smoking and Tobacco use
- Screening for Renal diseases in the rural community
- Morbidity profile among adult population in rural Pondicherry

In association with ADRA India, a health training programme was conducted for 29 women health volunteers from 10 tsunami affected villages of

### FORTHCOMING EVENT

SOUTH ZONE REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF ANAESTHESIA AT PONDICHERRY WILL BE HELD DURING THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST 2006.

Cuddalore district. The training programme was for two days and consisted of lectures and demonstrations on communicable disease, maternal & child health, water & sanitation, first aid and communication skills.

### New TB DOTS Centre at PIMS :

The first RNTCP DOTS centre in a Medical College in Pondicherry was inaugurated on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 at the Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences by the Director – Principal, Dr.Abraham G. Thomas. The anti-TB drugs were administered to three registered patients by Dr.Thomas, Dr. R.K.Kalyan Singh, the Medical Superintendent and Professor A.P.Singh, Head of Neurology.

### PONDICHERRY INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (PIMS) (Affiliated to Pondicherry University)



Medical College & Hospital

For further details contact:

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Visit us at : [www.pimsmmm.org](http://www.pimsmmm.org)

[www.mmm.org.in](http://www.mmm.org.in)

The PIMS TB Control Cell includes Professor Anna Mani HOD, General Medicine, Prof.Reba Kanungo HOD, Clinical Microbiology, Dr. King Kisku Associate Professor & Head of TB department & Chest Diseases and Prof.P.Panda HOD, Community Medicine.

Through the support of the State TB Control Officer, Govt. of Pondicherry this facility has been extended to PIMS. All patients attending the general outpatient department with symptoms of cough with sputum for three weeks or more would be tested free of charge. All positive diagnosed patients are counselled regarding treatment and are started on RNTCP DOTS treatment free of cost. Since the patient is the V.I.P. of the programme DOTS has become convenient and acceptable to the public.

Through this new DOTS centre at the main hospital and through the network of 5 peripheral health centres, availability of free anti-TB drugs and follow up of patients would be ensured keeping in mind all the guidelines of the Revised National TB Control Programme.

With the persistent follow up of Rural Health Centre, Chunampet three sputum positive TB patients who were on DOTS have been declared to be cured.

### Events

- Inter-Collegiate Table Tennis Tournament for men and women was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September and the Pondicherry University team selection



for the individual championship was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The individual Championship was sponsored by Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences and the event was inaugurated by Dr.Abraham G.Thomas, Director Prinicpal, PIMS. Pondicherry Institute of Medical Sciences Women's team won the team championship and the Men's team was placed in the third position. Ms.Neelima Vijayan of 2<sup>nd</sup> MBBS won the Runners cup in Individual Championship.

- Christmas Cantata was conducted on 16<sup>th</sup> December and X-mas was celebrated in the campus with the usual fervor-silver tinsel, the symbolic birth of Jesus in the crib and the festive aura of the campus. Dr.Alex Zachariah gave the Christmas message on the occasion. In the true spirit of X-mas this year saw all families in the campus getting together for a campaign and potluck dinner.

## MMM ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

### Physician Assistant Day Celebration

For the first time in India on 6<sup>th</sup> October, Madras Medical Mission joined the world in celebrating 'Physician Assistant Day' to create awareness and to express appreciation of the profession. This day is a special day for the Physician Assistant (PA) professionals, as on this day in 1967, the first Physician Assistant graduated from Duke University, USA. A PA is a qualified graduate of a physician assistant programme. The profession is centered on patient care and may include educational, research



Panel Discussion - Physician Assistants in the clinical settings in India - Today and Tomorrow  
Moderator - Dr. Ulhas M. Pandurangi,  
Sr. Consultant Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist



Ms. Rajeshwari, Physician Assistant making her presentation.

and administrative activities. **In India, the first PA graduated in August 1995 from Madras Medical Mission.** MMM has been the pioneer in producing PAs with its programme in association with Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani. Dr. T.Ravindran, Dean of Stanley Medical College, Chennai was the chief guest at the PA day celebration. The event was attended by Prof. B.R.Natarajan, Dean, Distance Learning Programme, BITS, Pilani, CEO of Madras Medical Mission Mr.John Punnose and consultant doctors

## MMM ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

A Unit of Madras Medical Mission  
Collaborative Centre  
for

(Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani & Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal)  
is shortly moving to its own Campus at  
131 Shakthi Nagar, Nolambur, Ambattur Taluk,  
Thiruvallur District.

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who are part of the PA training. Dr.T.Ravindran urged the PAs to develop analytical management and communication skills and to keep them selves updated, as there is rapid technological growth in the medical field. Speaking on the occasion Dr.B.R.Natrajan, Dean BITS Pilani, delivered the Key Note address, "Need and Significance of Physician Assistants Day in India".

As of date 144 PAs have passed through the portals of Madras Medical Mission and are functioning as researchers and health care providers (including 15 Physician Assistants in USA, 4 in UK, 2 in Australia, 2 in Germany, 1 in Singapore, 1 at Muscat). At the national level our Physician Assistants are in great demand as they work in key areas - OT, Perfusion, ICU, CCU and OPD of leading hospitals such as Apollo Hospital, Hyderabad, Vijaya Hospital, Chennai, Rabindranath Tagore Hospital, Calcutta, Asian Heart Hospital, Mumbai and Narayana Hrudalaya, Bangalore.



MMM Academy of Medical Sciences

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