

## **Therapy Elective Periods at Christian Medical College Ludhiana**

*'I spent time in orthopaedics, medicine, neurology, neurosurgery, paediatrics, intensive care and outpatients. Although the principles behind treatment are identical, I found that often the cases I was presented with are not even written about in textbooks. For example, whilst assessing a young man who had two fingers amputated I discovered that it was as a result of a sword fight. Also, due to limited precautions taken whilst travelling, either in a car or on a scooter/motorbike, the consequences of road traffic accidents are often far more serious with many becoming severely brain damaged. Although becoming accustomed to the different cases took time, a bigger challenge for me was the functional approach taken by the physiotherapy and medical staff. After three years of being taught to be idealistic and a perfectionist in rehabilitating patients, I found it hard to change my treatment even with the knowledge that people only wanted to be able to manage daily living as opposed to doing it all perfectly. On a more personal level, I was challenged to see how Christians at the hospital and medical college have a great desire to serve God through serving their patients and their striving for excellence.'*

The College of Physiotherapy is the latest edition to the CMC family of colleges, started in 2006, and admits 20 students each year to a BPT course. The hospital has had a physiotherapy department for around 50 years and it is well equipped with modern facilities and essential equipment and provides physiotherapy services in all fields of specialisation – including medical, surgical, paediatric, neurological, orthopaedic and burns. Training given is of four and a half years' duration with compulsory rotational internship, and CMC also offers a clinical internship programme for physiotherapy students of other colleges in and around Punjab. The first batch of BPT students have completed their internship and their Convocation was due to take place in March 2012. There are proposed plans for a new MPT course.

The Department of Radiodiagnosis (Radiology and Medical Imaging) offers both conventional and specialised investigative procedures. Alongside general X-rays, interventional radiology, ultrasound, MRI and CT scan services are available to patients. The department undertakes a training programme at undergraduate and postgraduate level and trains radiographers. As well as a dedicated department within the hospital, X-ray equipment is also found in the Trauma Centre (A&E Department) and trained radiologists and radiographers can therefore be found throughout the hospital.

Accommodation is provided on campus. The Indian culture is such that students always reside in separate hostels although share together in studies and recreational activities. A new students' centre recently opened offers air conditioned facilities and costs Rs.1,200 (around £17) per day including breakfast.

You will be required to write and submit a report of your elective placement to the Principal or Head of Department before leaving Ludhiana with a copy of this to the Friends of Ludhiana office, and you need to be aware that the Principal/Head of Department will send us a report of your visit from his/her perspective.