

Alumni Apress



The Newsletter of the

Association of Medical Alumni

Christian Medical College & Hospital Ludhiana (Punjab) INDIA

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EDITORIAL



Greetings from the Alumni Association! We are glad to bring out another issue of the Alumni Xpress as we gear up to welcome and receive the batches of 1967 and 1986 for their 50th and 25th batch reunions respectively.

In this issue, along with the reminisces in 'Down Memory Lane' from the batch of 1967, we are honoured to have a very

special write up from Dr. Ramesh C Joshi & Dr. Sarjit S. Gill from the Pioneer batch of 1953 about their adventures during Internship in Narangwal.

We are proud to share the news of the conferring of the prestigious Dr. B C Roy award to Dr. Tejinder Singh. We also celebrate the hundredth Bone Marrow (stem cell) Transplant at CMC Ludhiana with an article by Dr. Joseph John.

I especially look forward to meeting the batch of 1986 who were our immediate seniors and of whom I have many fond memories.

Dr. Inderpreet Sohi Vice-President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings from the Association of Medical Alumni, CMC Ludhiana!

It gives me immense pleasure to present another issue of the Alumni Xpress. Our institution is a landmark, century old institute, and our graduates are all over the world who are providing their services to the community. CMC, our

alma mater is recognized all over the world today.

I had the privilege to attend the CMC North American Alumni Association's alumni reunion meet in Denver in August 2016. There were more than 50 alumni who participated and they were thankful to their alma mater. I invited them all to visit CMC. Now, we are going to hold the reunion of the batches of 1967 and 1986 admission on March 24, 2017. A large number of guests are expected, who will be given a warm welcome by our team. Any suggestions regarding improvement in the Alumni Newsletter are welcome.

Happy reading!

Long live CMC alumni.

Dr Subhash Singla President

Dr. B C ROY AWARD FOR CMC PROFESSOR



Dr. Tejinder Singh, Professor of Pediatrics and Medical Education and Vice-Principal of Christian Medical College, has been awarded the prestigious Dr. B C Roy National Award for Eminent Medical Teacher at the hands of the President of India on 1st July 2016.

ONE HUNDRED (100) BONE MARROW (STEM CELL) TRANSPLANTS AT CMC LUDHIANA



DOWN MEMORY LANE



I have so many fond memories and wonderful experiences during four years of medical school that it's hard to put everything down in words, but I will try my best to summarize some of the high-lights which still are fresh in my mind.

I vividly remember the first day of our medical school, standing in front of the cafeteria, very nervous, shy, and tense. Fear of the unknown must have been the reason, surrounded by many seniors who were bombarding us with question after question. Seemed like I was in a different world where I did not know anyone. Soon I was introduced to my would be roommates, Parveen, Jaswinder, and Meera. I heaved a sigh of relief as I found someone with whom I could connect to.

The next two weeks were unforgettable. Those were the ragging days. We were afraid to come out from our rooms, our heartbeat would go up and our body would shake if we saw a senior in the corridor. The high-light of ragging which I still remember clearly was that Parveen was made to wear Harish Anand's ring throughout the ragging period. Lucky her! Since then that ring never came off her finger and now they are happily married.

Over the next four years we had the best time of our lives. We had a good group of friends, with whom we enjoyed going for movies, dinners, very enjoyable picnics and occasional out of town trips. Those days are still fresh in my mind.

I loved Baingan-Aalu ki sabzi made by Pandit ji in the cafeteria and remember going back again and again to get some more when ever he made it. We enjoyed getting together in someone's room late at night to socialize and have



tea and snacks. I do not know how and when it stared but remember very well half of the class calling me "DIDI" The most enjoyable and memorable thing I remember is groups of girls sitting in the lawn across from the cafeteria after the morning classes. We would laugh, joke around, tease



each other, and share our feelings about having a crush on someone. I can't forget the innocent hidden blush on Meenakshi's face when any one talked about Solomon.

In the evenings after dinner,

a walk to a temple almost every day, drinking hot almond milk twice a week, brought by Jaswinder's grandpa, and me Parveen and Anna cooking our meals and eating together in the 4th year of our school are some of the other memories I cherish.

Along with having good times, we did study very hard. I remember being up almost all night before exams and we got good grades. Studies were actually our first priority.



In the 2nd year of school I got

an opportunity to share my room with Asha Chaudhry. She was one of the nicest people I ever met, was very good hearted, very warm and caring. Soon we became best friends. We kept our friendship going even after we left CMC. Four years ago Asha left us forever. Memories of her friendship will always have a special place in my heart. We enjoyed her company at our 25th reunion and will miss her sadly at the 50th...

We were fortunate to have graduated from CMC with faculty dedicated to teaching us and encouraging us to think and explore life's possibilities. I sincerely thank all our teachers for their contribution in our lives.



Dr. Neelam Gupta Batch of 1967

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DOWN MEMORY LANE



It is not possible to put down in a few words our college days of 5 yrs. We spent precious time together with the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of little things and sharing. However I vividly remember my first day when I arrived with my father in CMC, an unknown place, not knowing that I will be spending the best years of my life, will

make best friends and also find my Life Partner here.

My interview was very good although my father was disappointed, but The Rex Sardar ji was absolutely sure, and I was in. I was put in the corner room with Anup, perhaps because both of us were from UP. Then of course the ragging started and both of us spent sleepless nights on the Railway platform lying on the big post bags on platform no 1.

We also used to disappear and watch any bundle movie like Farz, Neend Hamari Khawab Tumhare, and so on. All the time we were worried about our seniors lest we were spotted by them.

I was also made to wash my new Titus watch with soap and water by one of my seniors, an incident that I have not forgotten till date.

Our first year was absolutely a different experience with the stage exams. My friend Anup had a unique habit of watching movies the night before and one of us used to be his victims. God knows how we passed those stages and the girls were always ahead.

In 2ndyear we were a little comfortable with each other and I don't know how and when I fell in love with this lovely girl Meenakshi. Later we got married, thanks to Anup and Sirish for lending me their shoulders.

I don't know how many of you remember the BET with Joshi to jump from my rooftop, of course not to commit suicide!. The fellow did it, and now as an Orthopaedician, I shudder to think of the consequences; fractures, paraplegia and so on. We would have remained guilty throughout our lives!.

I can also not forget playing carrom with Alfred, Rolston and



George Oommen. The bets, moves and planning, spending the whole night, with coffee and tea. I believe Alfred has taught his son carrom.

Another bet if you all

remember with Farrell, after we had come back from a movie was to eat as many eggs as possible. The fellow who could not eat more than 10, had to pay for them.

Our batch was unique and the rowdiest. The amount of noise we made during Football and Basketball matches with the girls going mad, was worth a sight. Anup, myself, Roy and George used to run the relays and always won.



The excitement of winning used to disappear in our medicine class or clinics, where I used to be picked upon. Vinita knew all the answers, and I none.

The Gynae experience was absolutely exciting. The first delivery; pull and push, I thought the baby or the mother will die, but fortunately both survived. It was also very exciting because of Mrs. Dhar, our Lecturer, an absolutely charming lady with a tremendous fan following. Poor Joshi, I pity him...

I came back to CMC again together with Virk and Sirish to be prepared to work in a 'Jungle Hospital' in Madhya Pradesh.

I can go on and on but I think I will stop here. I am thankful to all my teachers and colleagues who were responsible for shaping my future. I will finish with my favorite song that Manjit Sandhu used to sing...Waqt ne Kiya, Kya Hasin Sitam...Tum Rahena Tum, Hum Rahena Hum.



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CONVOCATION





The Annual Convocation of Christian Medical College, Christian Dental College, College of Nursing and College of Physiotherapy, Ludhiana was held on 23rd March 2016 with traditional grandeur in the College Campus. Dr. Ved Prakash Mishra, Chancellor, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (Deemed University), Karadand, Chairman, Academic Committee, Medical Council of India, New Delhi, was the Chief Guest for this year's convocation.

The Association of Medical Alumni awarded the Life Time Service award to Dr. M. Z. Mani & Dr. Anna Mani. Dr. V. K. Satija memorial Award for best Clinical Teacher was presented to Dr. Aparajita D'Souza while the batch of 1976 Excellence in Teaching Award was awarded to Dr. Nitin Batra. Dr. Eileen B Snow–CMC Alumni award for best allround graduate was awarded to Dr. Rohan Kapoor and Dr. Anu Singh.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Alumni Lifetime Service Award 2016 presented to Dr. Mohan Z. Mani & Dr. (Mrs) Anna Mani



Dr. V. K. Satija Memorial Award - 2016 for Best Clinical Teacher presented to Dr. Aparajita D'Souza Professor, Deptt. of Ob-Gynae



Batch of 1976 Award-2016 for Excellence in Teaching presented to Dr. Nitin Batra Professor, Deptt. of Ophthalmology



Eileen B. Snow CMC Alumni Award for Best All Round Graduate- 2016 Shared by



Dr. Anu Singh (Batch of 2011) &



Dr. Rohan Kapoor (Batch of 2011)

FOUNDER'S DAY 2016

The Annual Founder's Day celebrations of CMC were held on March 24, 2016.

This day is celebrated in the loving memory of CMC's founder, Dame Edith Brown, who realized the need for training doctors and nurses to serve the community. Her initiative over 120 years ago now stands as one of the premier medical institutions in India. Nearly 50 alumni from the batches of 1966 and 1985, visited their alma mater for their 50 years and 25 years reunion respectively from all over the world.

Dr. Subhash Singla, President, Association of Medical Alumni, CMC welcomed the visiting alumni. Dr. Abraham G. Thomas, Director, CMC & Hospital and Dr. Bobby John, Principal, addressed the gathering. There was a Continuing Medical Education programme in which Dr. Paramjit T Joshi (U.S.A.) from the Batch of 1966, delivered a talk on "Children's Mental Health- Global Challenges & Opportunities". Dr. AlokMazumdarfrom the Batch of 1985, delivered a talk on "Minimal Invasive Surgery- Present and Future".

Attended by the following alumni of 1966 Batch:

Dr. Baljinder Kaur, Dr. Mohan Z. Mani, Dr. Raghu Raj Chathley, Dr. Malkit Kaur Dhillon, Dr. M. John Koshy, Dr. Yoteen Marfatia Cameron, Dr. Raminder Sehgal, Dr. Deepchand Bajpai, Dr. Kanwaljit Bajpai, Dr. T. Koshy Cherian, Dr. Grace Cherian, Dr. Paramjeet Joshi, Dr. Jyotsana Wig, Dr. Devraj Singh, Dr. Bharti Sachdev & Dr. Pamella Tiwari.



Attended by the following alumni of 1985 Batch:

Dr. Anurag Goyal, Dr. Chander Mohini, Dr. Dootika Liddle, Dr. Kavita Bhatti nee Mandrelle, Dr. Namrata Jasjit Singh Sidhu, Dr. Rina James Zachariah, Dr. Ruth Lal (D'Cruz), Dr. Sapna Peter Pachoree, Dr. Shalini Mahajan, Dr. Sybil E. Salins, Dr. Jaya K. George, Dr. Poonam Sidana, Dr. Sheena Susan, (Mathew) George, Dr. Neera Lambert nee Verma, Dr. Alok Mazumdar, Dr. Amrit Kumar Nahar, Dr. Deepak John Bhatti, Dr. Gaurav Malhotra, Dr. Gundeep Singh Dhillon, Dr. Manjit S. Grewal, Dr. Joydeep Singh, Dr. Parampreet S. Kharbanda, Dr. Pawan Kumar, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Dr.

Sanjay N. Lambert, Dr. Tarun Satija, Dr. Vikas Loomba & Dr. Navdeep Loomba.



MY LIFE IN ROSS



My life in CMC began with a smile. "Welcome to the CMC family!" was what followed, and it almost seemed to echo off the walls of the ancient Assembly Hall where it didn't take me long to acquire the strange, but majestic sense of more than 100 years of pain and sweat, of music and drama, of miracles and kings... I almost felt as if the photographs of the former

Directors and Principals displayed on the walls gave me approving, and reassuring looks; as my eyes wandered to and fro, really not knowing what to expect.

And so it started: with a tussle between preparing to display whatever talent we thought we had in Freshers' night and trying to understand the majesty of the human body, and the grossly unfamiliar language you had to use to describe it. I remember the first time we saw a cadaver, some fainted, some fell in love, and some were just inquisitive. For me, after a day of wondering whether I should feel guilty, I decided to try dissecting. A few months after that, I knew I was in the right profession and made a preliminary aim to become a surgeon.

The next few months were spent staggering through a period of shuddering at the sight of seniors, telling everyone who would listen an 'intro' about ourselves (things we had never had to think about till then), enjoying the first treat from our foster brothers, to be truthful- looking around to see who could possibly end up as our life partner in the future, and finally initiating a friendship which we hope would continue many years beyond college.





To be plain: life in Ross hostel was fun! I'd never dreamt of a place that would give me quite so much freedom, and I mean that in a positive way. Our time in Ross is almost a test of character. The dim lit corridors, the shady age- old trees, the ectopic Punjabi beats and outbursts of laughter at 3am; all stand witness to the transition of boys to men. We all reach a point where we realize that it is indeed our own decisions which

affect our life, and from there on nothing stops a Rossian from going forth in life! With a set of guys who will always have your back, you feel as if you can take on the world. I can only imagine what ex residents of Ross feel every time they come back to this sacred dwelling. They would agree that it is as if the sweat and tears we spent there almost continue to linger there as drops of memories that would overwhelm anyone who revisits.

If you were to ask me what I like best about this place, it would simply be- People. There's something about putting people from different backgrounds, faiths and states together in one place and watching them grow into something more than themselves, and changing their perspective as to what life really is about. Everyday on my journey from Ross to the hospital, every 10 seconds I see a familiar face, or a bunch of them. It's not that we don't see them everyday, for some reason there's a renewed freshness everytime we meet; and they ALWAYS greet you with a smile. It is from this gesture that the best of them: our batchmates know when something is wrong and immediately take action. And it's not just the students. The faculty (most of them), the staff, the people at the coffee spots, the guard, lab technicians all willingly provide this altruistic act on that brand new day, which is the perfect recipe to prep all members of our multi- faceted approach to health care and the challenges that await.

Art is a vibrant and firmly sutured part of CMC life. It is expected that the quality of music, dance, drama, and other forms of creative fields are not only maintained but improved through the years. Most of us come to CMC not having ever been on stage or touched a mic; but it is almost ensured that by the end of this tenure we all inculcate not only a passion for a specific skill such as photography, craft, cycling, street soccer, etc; but also a personality trait we only developed through these opportunities given to us. Such as: leadership ability, time management, the ability to brainstorm ideas, or simply being part of a team.



And then comes March when we hold the highly awaited and most extravagant event; an ensemble of talent, stress, fun and exhaustion... The Music and Theater Workshop of CMC Ludhiana presents: "The

Musical!" It's a time where experienced people guide and demonstrate skills they have, and others develop skills they never thought they had. From the legend that was 'Joseph and the Techni color dream coat' to the high flying 'Starlight express', to the more recent 'Prince of Egypt', 'Hunchback of Notre Dame', 'Shrek'... We have succeeded to captivate audiences from all over Ludhiana, and our alumni. Being the music director of two musicals, I can tell you it is a time when not only our talent is tested, but also our limits of physical and mental strength. It is the first official event most of us are made to face in life and we are invited as students to organize the whole thing, which includes finance, production and publicity. I can't describe the feeling you get after successfully finishing a musical, but it runs along the lines of joy, relief and immense satisfaction.



If I were to look back at CMC years from now, I would applaud it for the person it has made me. From being a person who despised interaction, I now crave for it. My batch mates became my family away from home. I've been involved in the EU fellowship which has taught me much about what my higher purpose is. We were granted the beautiful opportunity to visit two Mission Hospitals during our time from which I gained surgical experience and wisdom from top doctors with minimal facilities. I used to only eat food from restaurants or homes, now I practically eat from the dosa/ momo/ egg roll guy/ Aman Chicken Dhabha everyday. My hair went from a Mohawk in first year to a 'good boy' sideparting hairstyle in internship. I have become more hygienic (regardless of what my neighbours have to say about it). From wanting to work in a lab, I now only want to be a clinician. I've gained confidence in myself and my instincts in regard to clinical skills thanks to the expertise and experience of our patient teachers.



Thank you CMC!

Dr. Eric Williams (Batch of 2011)

MY LIFE IN SNOW FIVE AND HALF YEARS AT CMC:



'I may not have ended up where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be.' – Douglas Adams

Each one us has regaling stories of how we came to Ludhiana; To this bustling city in the heart of Punjab, and to this age old institution in the heart of old Ludhiana. Surely it was no coincidence that I found myself here. As I come to the end of my five and a half years, with just a few more months to go, I look back fondly at the shenanigans and memories of the years gone by. I can say today, that my experiences at CMC have shaped me into the person I am. Rest assured, there is never a dull moment here. From the infectious enthusiasm of my Punjabi classmates to being completely immersed in Malayali culture, CMCL is a melting pot of polar opposites and everything in between. A big part of life here, has consisted of the time I spent in Eileen B Snow Hostel. A safe haven in the midst of the commotion, Snow was more than just our humble abode.

The central lawn was where the girls would do everything from unwinding and chit chatting to walking/ jogging / exercising and feverishly brandishing Davidsons for weight training, just ahead of Snow day. We've played Holi in those lawns, burst crackers on Diwali and played Kabaddi in the pouring rain. It would be a fallacy to call the mess a mess, for it is so much more. It was a library during prof times with caffeine charged girls marking their territories (tables) with high lighters and threatening post its.



At other times it would turn into a practice room for Systole or serve as a communing room for animated group discussions. Snow taught us survival of the fittest, as we stole tube lights from bathrooms once ours stopped working or screamed 'Warden Ma'am, Motor chalado!' at the top of our

lungs from the fourth floor. Come midnight, and there would definitely be a birthday party happening. Snow was all inclusive; housing not only girls, but dogs, cats and an army of lizards. Calvin and Hobbes once said, 'We're so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take time to enjoy where we are.' That holds true as it's hard to tell where all this time has gone! Seems as though it was yesterday that we passed around nervous smiles of introduction as we first met each other in the classrooms of HSB. From clinics to class trips, plays, choirs, CMEs, Field trips and Internship, our time here has been packed with learning and fun and these memories will stay with us for a long time to come!



Dr. Preeti Baweja (Batch of 2011)

RURAL INTERNSHIP-NARANGWAL PIONEER BATCH; MAY-JUNE 1959 Dr. Sarjit S Gill & Dr. Ramesh C Joshi

After graduation, we had to complete an Internship for 6 months before we could receive the important piece of paper certifying that we were now fit to practice 'medicine'. Out of these 6 months there was a requirement to work at a village clinic for 2 months. It was the right decision considering 75% of the Indian population then lived in villages. Practicing medicine in a village whilst living there would acquaint medical graduates to the medical problems which the local population suffered from. It also potentially allowed medical graduates to practice 'Preventive Medicine' such as educating villagers on hygiene and value of vaccination.

We believed that this was the first time that village internship was introduced. It could have been on the suggestion and advice given by Dr. Carl Taylor, Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine at CMC Ludhiana, to the then Health Minister of India, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.





In Fact, Dr. Carl Taylor was responsible, in 1952, for starting the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Christian Medical College Ludhiana, the first such department in the developing world.

Another first for CMC Ludhiana was that the first batch of 50 students (21 boys and 29 girls), appeared for final MBBS examination. Out of the 21 boys in the 'Pioneer Batch' there were only six who had passed the MBBS Final examination and were sent to the village for 2 months of internship. These six from left to right are:

- 1. Joseph Samuel
- 2. Chaman Lal Sarin
- 3. George Simon
- 4. Sarjit Gill
- 5. Ramesh Joshi
- 6. John Mathai



Six Musketeers

Narangwal is a small beautiful village. Being less in numbers, we got good accommodation. There was a well-equipped out-patient clinic that was held every morning except on weekends. It was always well attended. There were, however, no facilities for clinical investigations apart from simple blood tests. We had to diagnose and treat patients entirely on our clinical findings. Patients with a complex disorder requiring special investigations or in-patient management were sent to CMC Hospital Ludhiana.

The inhabitants of Narangwal village were vegetarian. Villagers were kind to give us good quality vegetables daily. We had a chef who cooked food to suit our palate.

After a few days of stay, we did start missing meat in our diet. The nearest place one could purchase meat was 6 miles away. We decided to take the matter into our own hands and improvise. Sarjit managed to get an air rifle which Ramesh could use to shoot doves. There was a village pond where we thought we could catch some fish.

Three teams of two people each, hence were created. Sarjit

and Ramesh went out, after finishing the clinic, to shoot doves and other edible birds. As people from Kerala were known to be good at fishing, George Simon and John Mathai were designated for it. The third team was responsible for overall organisation and supervision.

The improvised fishing rod was constructed by tying a bent pin to a piece of string onto a bamboo stick. The bamboo was borrowed from one of our mosquito net setup. Earthworms were used as bait and put on the curved pin. Each time the bait was put in the pond, a fish was caught within a minute or so. The pond was obviously full of fish, mostly whitebait. The fishing team then decided to put a bed sheet in the pond. To our surprise and delight when the bed sheet was brought up, it was full of wriggling whitebait fish. The improvised fishing rod was hence then replaced by a bed sheet.

Sarjit & Ramesh were successful in bringing back a few doves and pigeons in the evenings. Ramesh initially shot a few owls considering them doves as they were rather small. The fading light of the setting evening sun did not help in distinguishing between the two.

Occasionally, whilst fishing with a bed sheet, tortoises were brought up along with fish. They were promptly returned to the pond apart from a golden-coloured one. Ramesh took fancy to it and decided to keep it as a pet. This hobby, however, did not last long. One day, to Ramesh's anguish the tortoise disappeared.

We as a group persisted in our attempts to obtain some vehicle for traveling around. The establishment eventually relented and we each were given a cycle. We held a meeting to discuss the best use of the cycles provided. The unanimous decision was to test the ruggedness of these cycles on the village roads. This was to be done by making a cycle trip to the Bhakra-Nangal Dam one weekend (one could consider it rather a lame excuse.)

We all were quite poor, surviving on a monthly salary of mere 90 rupees. We thought 15 to 20 rupees should see us through the weekend journey to Bhakra-Nangal Dam. It would include payment for the food and staying at a hotel (the only one) near the dam.

The dam was about 95 miles (153 km) from Narangwal. We left Narangwal in the evening and spent the night at Ross Hostel in Ludhiana. We started very early next morning, while it was still dark, followed Brown Road to Chandigarh Road, went past Jamalpur where we had been coming once a week for the past 5 years; still have fond memories of interacting with families in that village and building smokeless Choolas. Reaching Kohara, we turned left on the Neelon-Ropar Canal road and reached Ropar (Rupnagar). There we got on the road running along Nangal Canal. This was the most scenic part of our journey, riding along a big canal lined with bricks and full of clear green water. Along the way, we could see historic Sikh Gurdwaras.

ROUTE FROM CMC LUDHIANA TO BHAKRA-NANGAL DAM

[Bhakra Dam is one of the world's highest concrete gravity dams on the Sutlej River in Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. It is located at a gorge near the (now submerged) upstream Bhakra village at a height of 226 m. The length of the dam (measured from the road above it) is 518.25 m and the width is 9.1 m. Its reservoir known as "Gobind Sagar" stores up to 9.34 billion cubic metres of water. The 90-km long reservoir created by the Bhakra Dam is spread over an area of 168.35 km². In terms of quantity of water. It is the third largest reservoir in India.]



Nangal Canal: Path running along the canal.

Surprisingly we completed 95 miles within a day and were at the dam the same evening.

Each of us now had only about 15-18 rupees left. From this princely sum, 10 rupees were kept in reserve for enjoying the facilities of the only hotel near the dam. By the time, we reached the dam the sun was going down and as was the temperature; the location was much above the sea level. We, hence decided to book our rooms in the hotel

We do not know what impression we made, wearing only our traveling dress when we entered the hotel. We had not brought any proper clothes, let alone our best ones, with us. It was a matter of people accepting us as we were.

We marched to the reception desk, dreaming of relaxing in the luxury of the hotel accommodation. All of us offered a miserly 60 rupees to the receptionist, towards enjoying the facilities which the hotel could provide for one night. The receptionist kindly declined our offer and gently pointed us towards the lobby door through which we had earlier entered the hotel.

The hotel had no competition, being the only one for quite some distance around the dam. We had only the clothes which we were wearing, that is either a T-shirt or a shirt, to cover the upper part of the body. We were in a predicament; stars had appeared twinkling in the sky and the temperature was tumbling down fast,

We had not had anything to eat for some time and hence wondered if an empty stomach was leading to an empty mind. We managed to find a small restaurant and had a meal. Post-prandial discussion in the warmth of the restaurant brought on various suggestions varying from finding a hotel further down the hills to a crazy idea of cycling back to Narangwal that night. At this stage Sarjit came to our rescue like one of the 'Marvel Heroes' without of course, wearing the

costume usually associated with them. Under his direction, we all marched to the only Gurdwara, where the priest very kindly gave each of us a cot and one blanket for wrapping ourselves in.

Cots were placed on the terrace of the Gurdwara and hence we were exposed to the elements. As the night progressed the temperature dropped further. One blanket did not prove to be enough to ward off the cold. We did not wish to put any further strain on the very generous hospitality already provided by the Gurdwara. After some deliberations, we did get a brain wave. It was decided to double up so that we were two in one cot with two blankets to cover against the cold. This proved to be a successful move.

Bhakra Dam

Next morning, we had a good look at the dam and the tunnel that ran under the river. It was very impressive.



After breakfast, we started on our journey back to Narangwal. We decided not to make our way back in one day as we did on our way to the dam. Half way, Sarjit again took the initiative and organised our stay in a Gurdwara which to us was no less than a 5-star hotel. We were offered delicious meals and had a very comfortable place to sleep. Next morning, we gave heart-felt thanks and said good-bye to our hosts in the Gurdwara and started on our last leg of the journey, back to Narangwal. On reaching Narangwal, the mission was declared to be successful.

We, however, did not expect the reception we had on our return to Narangwal. We looked forward to congratulations all round and back thumping, for a successful cycle trip to Bhakra-Nangal Dam, equipped with only meager resources. Instead our seniors at the CMC establishment gave us a tongue-lashing, for disappearing over the weekend, with CMC owned cycles, and without prior approval. The cycles were confiscated from us.

We continued with the village internship, running the outpatient clinic and educating the patients about their illness. After completion of our internship at Narangwal we returned to the CMC Ludhiana

What did we achieve from our sojourn at Narangwal village? The most important benefit was sharpening of our clinical acumen. We learnt to diagnose and treat patients without the

help of radiological, biochemical or microbiological investigations (which were anyway not available at Narangwal but could be arranged if absolutely needed, by sending the patient to the CMC Hospital). We learnt how to improvise and that was evident on each day of our stay in Narangwal. We developed comradery and learnt to help each other to achieve the desired goal. The journey to the dam inspired us as cycling over 95 miles in a day was no mean feat, especially when we were not used to cycling regularly.

We thus learnt to become self-reliant both in clinical medicine and in our personal life. We realised that people were generally friendly and hospitable as was evident during our stay in Narangwal, and journey to the Bhakra-Nangal Dam. Significantly we acquired respect and appreciation for Gurdwaras where food and shelter was offered at any time of the day or night, for those in need, without differentiating amongst the people.

INSIDE CMC CMC LUDHIANA IN COLLEGE RANKING 2016



CMC Ludhiana was ranked as the 16th Best Medical College in India as per the India Today-Nielsen Survey, 2016 and 14th by Outlook magazine.

NEW COURSES

After the inspections in June 2016, we now have the following PG courses: MD – ENT, MD – Dermatology, MD–SPM, DM–Neurology & MCh-Plastic Surgery.

We got MCI recognition after 6 years of hard work. The final inspections were in Dec 2015 & Jan 2016, and now we have 75 seats for MBBS Course.

CARDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

YOU ARE NEVER TOO YOUNG TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK

A 21 year old young man from Jagraon got up from sleep with heaviness in the chest. Considering it to be muscular pain, he took some analgesics and antacids. As the pain persisted he showed to a doctor who luckily got an ECG done which showed Inferior Wall Myocardial Infarction. He was immediately referred to our hospital where a primary PTCA and stenting of right coronary artery was performed by the Cardiology team comprising of Dr Rajneesh Calton, Dr Cinosh Mathew and Dr Ashwin Kooran. He recovered fully and was discharged after 4 days and is doing well on follow up. This patient had no history of smoking or any substance abuse. He was not a diabetic or hypertensive and has no family history of coronary artery disease.





Right Coronary Artery-before And After Stenting

Dr Rajneesh Calton, Professor & Head of Cardiology Department said that over the last couple of years increasing number of patients in the age group of 20-30 years have been admitted with Acute coronary syndrome and have required coronary stenting.

Dr Calton cautioned the youngsters, not to ignore the symptoms of chest pain and to consult a doctor and at least get an ECG done because the 'heartache' can be the real "heart attack" also.

MICROBIOLOGY

With the support of our beloved Director Dr. A.G. Thomas and Administrative team, the following new tests have been started in the Department of Microbiology:

- 1) Liquid culture for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (MGIT)
- 2) Micro Scan for antibiotic sensitivity testing panel (MIC)



MicroScanWalkAway 96 plus machine- fully automated system for bacterial susceptibility testing by determination of Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) by broth microdilution method.



BACTEC Micro MGIT Reader- Liquid culture for Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (7 ml MGIT Tubes, Growth Supplement and antibiotic mixture-PANTA)

BCRIC PhD student awarded 3rd Prize

Ms. Veena Rawat, PhD student, BCRIC, presented an oral paper at the National Conference on Medical & Life Sciences on "Integration of Medical Sciences and Life Sciences for Innovative Medical Research" on



April 11-12, 2016. The conference was organized by the University Centre of Excellence in Research, Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Punjab). Her talk was entitled "Investigating miR-181a in cancer and other related pathways". The other co-author on the paper was Dr. Neeta D Kang (Head and Senior Scientist of BCRIC). Veena's paper was awarded the 3rd Prize. She received a certificate and a medal.

During the same conference, a book was released entitled "Life Sciences in Medicine" (edited by Dr. Parveen Bansal and Dr. Ravider Garg). Dr. Kang contributed a book chapter on "Spectral Imaging in Medicine".



SKOCH Award 2016



The 15th of December 2016 was a special day for CMC Ludhiana and specifically for the Community Medicine Department. At the highest civilian honours for the country given by the Sameer Kocher Group for the last 43 years, CMC Ludhiana's community Medicine department was awarded the Silver Award and the Order- of- Merit for the top 100 innovations in the country for its Comprehensive Health Care Using the Family Folder Methodology.

Since its establishment in 1951, Christian Medical College Ludhiana's Community Medicine Department has pioneered the Family Folder Methodology for health monitoring. The methodology initiated by Dr. Carl E. Taylor during the Khanna study and further developed during the Narangwal Study and then further refined by Dr. Harbans Kaur Dhillon has been in practice for the past 5 decades. The innovation has resulted in birth rates that are in single digits, very low death rates, very low rates of malnutrition, infant and maternal mortality among the socially and economically disadvantaged communities as compared to non project area statistics of the state and district.

The digitalization of the records in 2001 by Dr. Shavinder Singh has enabled better tracking and earlier intervention. The development of chronic disease database and priority families has improved the quality of life among the community. The department teaches the interns the Family Folder methodology by making them an integral part of the health team that visits the family and allowing them to analyze and present their data.

The project was able to impress upon the jury that this was a low-cost yet highly efficient model to improve the health care of the community significantly.

This model that has been successfully replicated in our mission hospitals and new outreach centers had not got the attention it deserves. The jury and audience expressed a desire to see this methodology disseminated and implemented in all medical colleges and districts.

Dr. Shavinder Singh, Professor & Head of the Department along with Dr. Verghese A Thomas made the final presentations at Skoch Summit at the Constitution Club of India and received the prizes on behalf of CMC.

This was a long overdue recognition for the department and the stalwarts from Dr. Carl E. Taylor to Dr. Shavinder Singh.

OPHTHALMOLOGY EYE BANK SERVICES IN CMC, LUDHIANA

A state of the art Eye Bank has been set up in the Department of Ophthalmology, CMCL. The eye bank is fully functional now after completion of all the required procedures. The setting up of this service here was possible only because of the generous support of Dr. G.S Bhuller and Dr Neena G Bhuller, CMC alumnus of MBBS Batch of 1968. Our worthy director Dr. A G Thomas was instrumental in making Dr. Bhuller, his MBBS classmate, aware of the urgent need of an eye bank in CMC.



THE ANNUAL OPHTHAL QUIZ-2016



The Department of Ophthalmology, Christian Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana organized its 12th Annual Ophthalmic Quiz and Awareness talk for Doctors and Medical students on 12th September, 2016. Among the 40 undergraduate MBBS teams, 4 teams had qualified for the

quiz following the preliminary round. The finals were won by Alma Koshy & Kripa Varghese (MBBS Batch of 2013). Almas Qayyum and Jaisal Brar, both from the MBBS Batch of 2013, presented interesting talks on "Ophthalmology – Hall of Fame" and "Eye Banking



ONE HUNDRED (100) BONE MARROW (STEM CELL) TRANSPLANTS AT CMC LUDHIANA

Brief history

The pioneering and legendary work on Clinical Hematology was started by Dr. Betty Cowan a Scottish Physician, in the 60s. She established assays for vitamin B12 and folate in the Medical Research laboratory in the days when this was done by a very labor intensive method using the growth of lactobacillus bacteria and her work is internationally recognized which earned her MBE (Member of British Empire). The pioneering Medical Oncology and Hemato-Oncology work was started by DrAlex Zachariah since the 70s. Dr. William Robinson MD, from Denver, Colorado, USA, spent a year in CMC in the 70s to help develop the Medical Oncology Unit. Dr. SewaLegha, MD has been helping CMC in medical oncology and Haem-Onc since 1974 while he was with the National Cancer Institute in USA and ever since he has been giving his time and talent to help CMCL in Medical Oncology.

Dr. Edward B Crowell, MD did excellent Clinical Hematology work during 1976-1990 and treated patients with leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. His wife Dr Susan Crowell, took over the medical research laboratory and established chromatographic assay for haemoglobin, G6PD assay and tests to support multiple myeloma evaluation and treatment. Dr. Anna Mani continued the excellent work in Clinical Haematology and did pioneering work on Haemophilia in Punjab. Dr. Reginald Britt came from UK several times in the 70s and 80s and helped in the Clinical Hematology work and was recognized for his work in Clinical Hematology in the Punjabi Diaspora in UK as well as

Punjab, for which he was awarded the MBE.

This is a brief report on the completion of 100 stem cell transplantations at CMC Ludhiana. Our team would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the departments at CMC Ludhiana who unfailingly supported our unit and contributed to the multi-disciplinary management of patients on a daily basis.

Current work:

Christian Medical College, Ludhiana (CMCL) established a dedicated Clinical Haematology, Haemato-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Punjab in 2007. The Bone Marrow (Stem Cell) Transplant programme was started in October 2008 and subsequently CMCL has done 100 transplants till now. (79 allogeneic and 21 autologous transplants) over the last 7½ years for various haematological conditions like: aplastic anemia, multiple myeloma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia and genetic diseases like thalassaemia and Wiskott Aldrich syndrome (WAS). However, the major area of focus remains thalassaemia transplants.

Time line for transplants

2008: Allogeneic stem cell transplantation(MSD) for a patient with Acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Peripheral blood stem cell.

2009: Autologous stem cell transplantation for a patient with Multiple myeloma.

2009: Allogeneic stem cell transplant (MSD) for patient withthalassaemia.

2009: Haplo-identical transplant for a patient with Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome. Father as donor. BM harvest

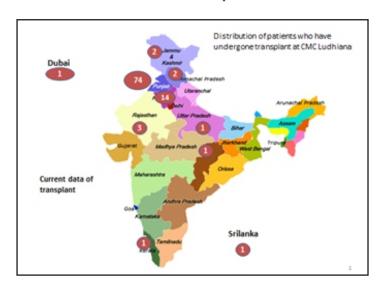
2010: Stem cell cryo-preservation facility started.

2012: Matched unrelated donor (MUD)transplant in AML

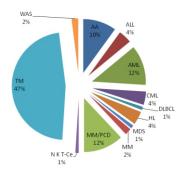
2012: Matched unrelated donor (MUD)transplant for thalassaemia

2014: Cord blood transplantation along with BM stem cells for patient with thalassaemia.

2015: NMDP (USA) approval as a network center for matched unrelated donor transplantation.

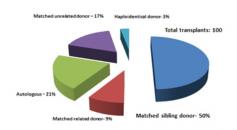


Indications



TM: Thalassaemia Major, AML:
Acute myeloid leukemia, ALL:
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia,
MM- Multiple Myeloma, AA- Aplastic Anemia

Types of HSCT based on stem cell source



2015 ASH abstract

Comparable Results with Treosulfan Based Conditioning Regimen in Matched Related and Matched Unrelated Donor Transplants for Beta Thalassemia Major and the Challenges from India: A Single Center Experience

Poster: At Orlando, US, Dec 2015

M Joseph John, DM , Amrith Mathew, MD and Chepsy C Philip, DM

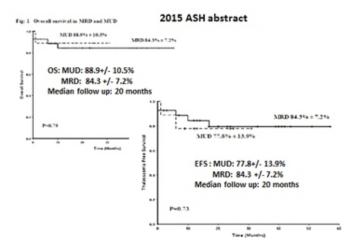
Department of Clinical Haematology, Haemato-Oncology & Bone Marrow (Stem cell) Transplantation, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, India

Method: This is a retrospective analysis to compare the outcomes between MRD and MUD transplants from a single institution. Events were defined as primary graft failure, graft rejection leading to recurrence of transfusion dependence or death.

Results: A total of 123 patients with thalassemia major underwent MUD search in DKMS and DATRI registries.

Fifteen (12%) and 13 (10%) patients found 10/10 HLA identical donors respectively and 4 (3%) of them had matches in both the registries. Very few patients underwent NMDP search due to cost constraints.

John MJ, Mathew A, Philip CC. Comparable Results with Treosulfan Based Conditioning Regimen in Matched Related and Matched Unrelated Donor Transplants for Beta Thalassemia Major and the Challenges from India: A Single Center Experience. Blood. 2015 Dec 3:126(23):4315-. 7





"Coming together is beginning. Keeping together is Progress. working together is success," -- Henry Ford

Dr. B C ROY AWARD



EVENTS INDEPENDENCE DAY 2016











REPUBLIC DAY 2017

The 68th Republic Day was celebrated at Christian Medical College & Hospital (CMC), Ludhiana with Patriotic spirit. The Program started with a thanks giving service for the country at College Chapel, followed by Flag hoisting, March past and cultural events. The Chief Guest, Indian indus-trialist and the Chairman of the Vardhman Group of Companies, Shiri S.P. Oswal was welcomed &



introduced by Dr. Abraham G. Thomas, Director, CMC Ludhiana.



ANNUAL ALUMNI MEETING OF CMCNAAA



A large gathering of CMC alumni, spouses and some children gathered in Denver, Colorado USA for two days of wonderful fellowship. Pictured above are graduates posing for a picture with former professor Bill Robinson standing near the center of the picture.

Dr. Subhash Singla, President, CMC Alumni Association, India attended the meeting. Dr. Satish Garg (1970) organized the meeting very well. On Friday the group took a bus up to the Loveland Pass and enjoyed a walk around the beautiful Keystone Resort Lake. Saturday was a day full of interesting and informative Continuing Medical Education sessions followed by dinner and an evening of entertainment at India's Restaurant, the oldest and best known Indian restaurant in Denver. Election of officers was also held with Dr. Meenakshi Singh taking on the leadership position of the Alumni President.

Next year the reunion will be from July 27-29, 2017 in Orlando, Florida USA. For an entertaining review of the event the CMC Board US has produced a video available on YouTube at https://youtu.be/uDTT46B1Fx0

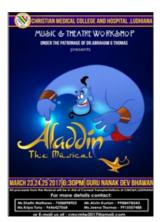
THANK YOU!

Ambulance Donated by Friends of Ludhiana Australia



'ALADDIN: THE MUSICAL'

Under the patronage of Dr. Abraham G. Thomas, the Music and Theatre Workshop of CMC, Ludhiana is presenting an adaptation of 'ALADDIN: The Musical' at Guru Nanak Dev Bhawan, Ludhiana on March 23rd, 24th and 25th 2017.



This Musical is enacted by a team of students from Christian Medical College. Christian Dental College, College of Nursing,

College of Physiotherapy and Institute of Allied Health Sciences. It will be an experience to watch the smashing costumes, the ingenious sets, the scintillating choreography and the songs sung to theatrical perfection.

Under the faculty in-charge Dr Nitin Batra, the Musical is being directed by Jurgen Jacob (MBBS Batch of 2014) and the Music Department is being looked after by Rickson and Niyah (Both also from the MBBS Batch of 2014).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Reunion of the Batches of 1968 and 1987 On Saturday, 24th March, 2018

The Founder's Day celebrations will be held on Saturday, 24th March, 2018 at CMC Ludhiana. The batches of 1968 & 1987 will celebrate their 50 & 25 years reunions respectively. We invite the alumni of both these batches to confirm their participation and to share contact information with us regarding their batch mates. We would like you to make the most of this opportunity to visit your Alma Mater and meet up with old friends. Please send us an email if you have not received our official reunion invitation via email.

Contact us at: cmcl alumni@yahoo.com

OBITUARIES

Dr. Sarita Dua (Batch of 1960)



Dr.(Mrs.) Sarita Chadha nee Dua, passed away peacefully on Feb 21, 2016 at New Delhi, India; after a brief struggle with chronic renal failure and septicemia.

Dr. Chadha was born in undivided India, to Lt. Col. Hans Raj Dua and Mrs. Sushila Dua on October 8th, 1941. She was an intelligent

young lady with a flair for music and reading. She won several prestigious scholarships throughout her education. She attended the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana (batch of 1960) for Bachelors in Medicine and Surgery. Thereafter, she went on to do post-graduation in Dermatology from Bangalore Medical College. Dr. Chadha, served in The Northern Railway Central Hospital, New Delhi for over 30 years before retiring as the Senior Medical Superintendent in 2001. She is survived by her sister Aruna, brothers Vijay, Ajay and Anil, and daughter and son-in-law Meghna & Chaitanya.

Contributed by: Dr Meghna Chadha (Daughter)

Dr. F.C. Eggleston



Dr Forrest C. Eggleston, M.D., age 96, of Mechanicsburg, passed away on Monday, November 7, 2016 at Bethany Village. Born September 28, 1920 in New York, NY, he was the son of the late Cary and May [Parker] Eggleston. Dr Forrest was a 1942 graduate of Princeton University and received his doctorate degree from Cornell

Medical University in 1945. He was a US Navy WWII Veteran. He was a Professor of Surgery at the Christian Medical College in Ludhiana, India for 33 years. He was head of the Department of Surgery for 28 years and later served as the Director of CMCH from 1982-1986. Dr Forrest was responsible for training over one hundred surgeons many of whom are serving all around the world and many in Mission Hospitals in India. During his tenure, he saw the Surgical Training at the Ludhiana Christian Medical College rise to world standards.

Dr Forrest Cary Eggleston, popularly and fondly known as BOSS considered his relocation to CMC Ludhiana as a calling of God. He left his career and prospects back home in US and selflessly spent his entire career at CMC Ludhiana. If he had stayed home in USA, he would have had a lucrative and successful career. But he chose to do the greater good. He first worked at a TB Sanatorium at Juber in Himachal for a few years before he moved to Christian Medical College, Ludhiana as the head of surgery department and spent the rest of his 33 years [1953-1986] at Ludhiana. He introduced the American residency system of training young surgeons in India. Dr Eggleston received the Woodrow Wilson award

from Princeton University in 2000. He was the founder president of the Northern Chapter of Association of surgeons of India. He was an astute academician, a surgical craftsman, innovative in surgical technique, a mature decision maker, a disciplinarian and achiever with vision, commitment, dedication and determination.

Dr Eggleston was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara [Blair] Eggleston. He is survived by his son, Robert C Eggleston of Winnie, Texas, USA, and his three grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Contributed by: Dr Kim Mammen

Dr. Rajesh Chakravarti

(Professor, Dept. of Radiodiagnosis)



It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing away of Dr. Rajesh Chakravarti. He did his MBBS from B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 1986 and MD Radiodiagnosis from B J Medical College and Cancer Research Hospital, Ahmedabad, Gujarat in 1989. He was the topper in the University. He joined CMC in 1994 and was

promoted as Professor in 2007. He went to the Almighty on 30th August 2016. He was a humble, quiet calm, God fearing person and a good friend. Dr Rajesh was an excellent teacher and authority in CT scan imaging. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Contributed by: Dr Subhash Singla

Dr. Lajpat Rai Marwah (Batch of 1961)



Dr. Lajpat Rai, 75 y, Ex. Professor and Head, Department of Neurosurgery, CMC Ludhiana, left for his heavenly abode on 1st February, 2017 at Ludhiana. He was born on 01/01/1942 at Lahore. He joined MBBS at CMC, Ludhiana in 1961 and after passing his MBBS, worked in the department of surgery. He passed his Masters degree in

General Surgery in 1971 and pursued his interest in Neurosurgery. In 1976, he left for UK to work as a Registrar at the Royal Infirmary, Western General Hospital, Edinburg and was awarded the certificate of training in Neurosurgery at the University of Edinburgh. Thereafter, he worked as a Consultant Neurosurgeon in the Ministry of Health Group of Hospital, Qazvin, Iran. He returned in 1983, to serve his Alma mater, as consultant, Department of Neurosurgery, CMC, Ludhiana. He was an eminent Neurosurgeon and helped establish the Department of Neurosurgery at CMC with Dr. K L Nambudripad. He superannuated from CMC in 2002. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Archana Rai and daughters, Dr. Bhavana and Ruchi.

Contributed by: Dr. Bhavana Rai (Daughter)

Dr. Prerit Thomas Jacob (31.10.1985 – 29.01.2017) (Batch of 2003)

Dr. Prerit Thomas Jacob was born on 31st October 1985 at Tilda to Dr. Betty Chacko and Rev. Ninan Chacko. He did his MBBS from CMC Ludhiana (batch of 2003) and did his MS surgery from CMC Vellore, 2011 to 2014. After completing his MS Surgery, he moved back to Orissa to work in The Evangelical Hospital, Khariar, Odisa.



In the 31 years of life, that he spent on this earth, he has touched many lives, be it family, friends, juniors, seniors, patients & society at large and has left an indelible mark in our hearts and minds. He was a wonderful person with deep love for his wife Shyla & daughter Naomi, a beloved son and brother, a true and sincere friend, calm, gentle, thoughtful, with an amazing sense of humour. He was an all-rounder, was a class topper, excelled at sports, loved music and would compose his own music and songs.

Above all, he had a passion for Christ, to know Him more, to be more like Him.

Pappu as he is fondly known will be sorely missed, he made this world a better place.

Contributed by: Dr Nelia Mathew (Batch of 2003)

Dr Jatinder Chandra Saha



We regret the demise of Dr J.C. Saha, Former Professor, Dept of Anatomy and Ex Registrar, CMC Ludhiana on 26.01.2017. He was born on 2nd January 1934 in Village Mazidpur, which is presently in Bangladesh. He did his MBBS from Calcutta in 1957, MS (Anatomy) from Punjab University, Chandigarh in 1966 and

FIAMS (Anatomy) from IMA Academy of Medical Specialties, New Delhi in 1982. He was Honorary Research fellow in Medical Genetics at Queen's University, UK during 1986-1987.

He joined CMC as Demonstrator in the Dept. of Anatomy in 1958. He gradually rose to the position of Professor & Head of the Department in 1973 and continued in the same post till 1993. During his tenure in CMC, he held various positions like Registrar of the Medical College, Superintendent of Ross Hostel, Chairman of College Council, member of Governing body, SASAP and various other committees.

He initiated a Medical Genetics Centre at CMC, Ludhiana. He was a wonderful person and an extraordinary teacher who inspired and guided his students and faculty members. He was not only an academician par excellence but also touched the lives of whoever he came across, in a special way.

He is survived by his wife and children.

Contributed by: Dr. Anjali Jain, HOD, Dept of Anatomy

ANNOUNCEMENT

We welcome our alumni if they are visiting hospital for any reason. You can contact any member of the alumni committee or you can contact the Secretary, Alumni office at 0161-2115379 in case you require any help.

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We Thank Dr Sarjit S. Gill, MBBS Batch of 1953 for sponsoring this Newsletter

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Have you recently changed your e-mail/contact no/ address or are moving to a new one in the near future?

Do let us know so that we can maintain you in our mailing list & be in touch.

Contact us at: Association of Medical Alumni, Christian Medical College, Ludhiana -141 008, Punjab, India Phone: +91-161-2115379, Through Hospital +91-161-2115000, Extn: 5379 (8:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs), E-mail: cmcl_alumni@yahoo.com

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