



My Work is for a King

# Alumni Xpress

The Newsletter of the

*Association of Medical Alumni*

Christian Medical College & Hospital

Ludhiana (Punjab) INDIA



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## Editorial

It is humbling and exhilarating to write the editorial for this special month. The year long quasiquicentennial celebrations have begun. As the CMC diaspora celebrate the legacy of 125 years, we salute the pioneers who fought against the prejudices and social injustice to establish this thriving macrocosm called CMC. Impacting millions of lives in every country and continent, cutting through layers of superstition, pioneering the advancement of medical science and the practice of medicine, and yet be grounded in humility and grace of the pioneers is what makes the CMCite stand out in the crowd.

We invite you to soak in the atmosphere of gratitude, let the waves of nostalgia spur you to higher reaches as you reconnect with your classmates, teachers and your alma mater.

We share the journey of the reunion batches 1988 and 1969, the alumni awards 2018, the musicals and also welcome our latest alumni, the Batch of 2014.

This edition is both a print and soft copy and we look forward to your comments, submissions and recommendations.

**Clarence J. Samuel '93**  
Editor in Chief

## Letter from the President

Greetings from the Christian Medical College Alumni Association to you all and your families. As we see God's faithfulness towards CMC over the last so many years, and celebrate 125 years of starting Christian Medical College and



Hospital at Ludhiana, I thank you for your prayers and wishes all these years. Wishing you all Happy Quasiquicentennial anniversary! Happy Reading!

**Ajay Kumar '95**  
President  
CMC Alumni Association

## Letter from Vice President

Dear friends

Greetings from your alma mater !

The rich and proud history of CMC is being celebrated this year as we reach our 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The past 125 years reflect on the impact this institution and its people have had on the local community and the world at large.

Much has changed in 125 years, but we remain constant in our dedication to our ministry of healing, education and research, never losing sight of the deeply humane objectives that were laid down by our founder, Dame Edith Mary Brown. With an emphasis on providing high value health care in order to deliver highest quality at the lowest cost, CMC continues to set the standard of excellence in patient care, education and research. As we embark into a new year, let us maximise the mission and vision of our founder.

With quasiquicentennial celebrations being organised through out the year, on behalf of the CMC alumni association I would like to welcome you all to be a part of the events and activities.

We look forward to meeting the reunion batches of 1969 and 1988 this year.

**Dr Kavita Mandrelle Bhatti**  
Vice President  
CMC Alumni Association



## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### **Reflections from the class of 1969**

Research on memory finds that when older people are asked to recall their most significant memories most of them happen before the age of 25. This certainly holds true for 50 of us who joined CMC as the class of 1969.

This was a defining moment in our lives. Each of us came from diverse backgrounds with our unique experiences and idiosyncrasies. When blended together our lives were transformed. CMC was unusual in that it admitted only 50 students each year with an equal ratio of boys and girls. Many of our teachers were missionaries dedicated to serving the school and its students. These factors helped us develop in an



atmosphere of care and attention (too much at times) and also enabled us to feel close to our classmates. We learned important values such as trust, affection, friendship, humor, generosity and tolerance from each other. Of course, there were intense disagreements and fights as these were stressful times. Looking back now one realizes how silly our fights were. We shared so much together.

I remember after we first arrived at CMC, 12 of us girls shared an area divided into 3 cubicles each. These were hard times but also a lot of fun as we participated in each other's lives. There was no time to be lonely! Often while we were there we suffered from sudden water shortages. When the water would go off in the middle of a bath we always had someone to shout out for help to get a bucket of water to complete our bath.

Paradoxically the tradition of ragging when we entered CMC introduced us to seniors with whom we built lifelong friendships. Often the ragging was quite creative and many of us went through being ragged with much humor. These friendships remained years later because when some of us relocated to other countries we counted on our CMC friends to help us in any way

possible and they helped with much enthusiasm. For example, when we came to the States we met James Daniels from an earlier class. He was already at a University in Chicago and was so excited to have Chicago as a hub for CMC graduates, that he helped 12 of us from CMC get residencies in the area.

Amongst our classmates we knew each other's characteristics well. Some were always obliging like Rajesh Sachdeo, our "man Friday" who was a gifted problem solver. He was nicknamed Hoteli by mischievous Purnima Wany (there were rumors he owned hotels in his hometown) and there was no problem he could not solve from bringing spark plugs for Deepak Stokes's famous motorbike to donating his share of Ross hostel's special quarter chicken for the girls because he did not eat meat on Tuesdays! Then there was diligent Pradip Sethi whom I married, who volunteered to be the mess manager for Ross Hostel but said it was a thankless job as almost everyday someone was unhappy with the menu. Sethi was also close to catching his prime suspect when the flour and sugar was always disappearing faster than he thought it should but sadly it was a futile mission as he could never catch the thief who was always one step ahead.

At almost every CMC meeting, we exchange these remarkable experiences of our times at CMC and we feel rejuvenated and blessed to have deep connections and loving friendships that have stood the test of time. The rich intellectual and social life created opportunities for us. CMC taught us how to think about our relationships to the patients and each other by virtue of the close-knit community it created for us. The wide variety of teachers who came as missionaries from many countries exposed us to new ideas increasing our ability to examine many unique perspectives. These teachers were passionate about their work and not as dependent on financial rewards so we students were the beneficiaries of their intellectual generosity. Some of us who showed an interest in their work learned a lot by receiving individual attention from them. There were many other classmates who inherited this care, ArunHanda and Dr Eggleston were hand in glove for a while about surgery. Then I recall Anil Chabbra with Dr Breakey from Ireland who taught him psychiatry as few of us felt ready to address this field. Many years later I realized how foolish I was to have ignored learning from him since I went on to study psychiatry. Of course, most of us recall the charismatic Dr Rao who always had time



for all of us. Dr L. N Rao was a visionary who said “CMC makes not just doctors but compassionate human beings”.

During our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion we remember fondly our classmates who will not be there but who enriched our lives when we studied together. We remember Purnima Wany for her fun and gifted social skills, Ashok Dhanwani for his elegance and kindness, Trilochan Singh for his maturity and leadership and Mangani for being ubiquitous and always a favorite topic of conversation

Unfortunately Pradip Sethi and I will have to miss this reunion but we will be present in spirit. We are proud to be a part of this 125<sup>th</sup> year celebration honoring Dr Brown our foresighted founder.

**Dr Kiran Frey Sethi  
Batch of 1969**

### **Walking down memory lane with the batch of 1988**

Memory is an unreliable affair, as Marcel Proust reminds us. Glimmer of a distant sight and snatches of scenes which cannot be precisely pinned to a day or an hour a quarter century in the past may set off cascades of remembrance. This stab into the past is part fact, part imagination. Yet, it refers to something that really happened in our lives. Points of entry into CMC and final exit from it may seem distant but definite bookends, but on closer reflection, there is no finality about them. Each one of us entered the course at the tail end of our teens, with rays from as yet unassembled nuggets of light projecting into the future, all akimbo, with little idea of the future worlds their arcs would intersect, how and when they would braid into a unified experience, the force of the final stream into which these vigorous and moody tributaries would fall, and which part of the globe they would illuminate, a circle of light and darkness that would become a unique stage for each

one of us. Except those of us connected to each other by electronic semaphores and meetings chance and planned, reunions are times when we

emerge from the flow of life to recall, celebrate, perhaps rue a little, that time when we were all together. It is a time to celebrate our successes and failures, to marvel at



our abilities to have raised families, built expertise, evolved into sophisticates starting from a shared period where most of us couldn't have raised a money plant in the hostel room, remembered the life cycle of a humble helminth, spoken uninflected globish, or been able to tell sushi from sashimi. When we started out, we could not have predicted Loyolla, Rajinder, and Sanjay would not be among us. Their absence is a spell that haunts us yet warms us, and has implanted in us all humility that should be natural to survivors. We could not have wagered the number and directions into which our progeny would head. There were, even then, signs of the intellectually exotic ways in which we'd blossom. Even so, the delight of connecting again to discover it in person is easier to feel than to speak about. I am not sure our time in CMC receives just credit for making us who we are.



As we share ideas on a recently created forum, broad themes emerge that convince me of commonalities radiating out from those times. It was a remarkably equal place at a difficult time for the state. For many of us, friendship, academic rigor, and freewheeling discussions took on new meaning. For many of us, those five years were emotionally transformative as well. We supplied and received care and understanding, smoothening and respecting each other's edges. Every brick chapel and steeple, every gurney and ward we met later in life paints out from those early templates. The melodious among us sweeten the air from afar even now. Something of the interpersonal relations we developed then- equal parts awkwardness and bravado- has been redistributed into flourishing social and personal networks. We made magic, and feel Merlin was among us when we sang and partied, magic that now resides within us.

Forgetting is an equally important part of remembering. We have forgotten our skirmishes and our petty rivalries. We have moved past the horror of seeing unexpectedly devious questions in exams, past teachers and fellow students we mimicked and mocked, past gridlocked medieval traffic that surrounded the college like a tenacious hairy ball, past lost socks and abysmal food, past our fevered electioneering. What remains behind are spaces full of light and sound, gifts for which we should be grateful. We are grateful for having Neeta among us. Like every time, we resolve to meet more often. As we enter our maturest years, this might just work, as we realise that Batch of 1988 has little meaning



beyond us. We are its custodians and curators, its guardians and story-tellers.

**Dr Amandeep Singh Rana  
Batch of 1988**

## CONVOCATION 2018



The Annual Convocation of Christian Medical College, Christian Dental College, College of Nursing and College of Physiotherapy, Ludhiana was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with traditional grandeur in the College Campus.

## ALUMNI AWARDS 2018

On Convocation day the Association of Medical Alumni awarded the Life Time Service award to Dr. Neena Doreen Lyall, Batch of 1967. Dr. V.K. Satija memorial Award for best Clinical Teacher was presented to Dr. Nitin Batra PG '94, while the batch of 1976 Excellence in Teaching Award was awarded to Dr. Navjot Singh. Dr. Eileen B. Snow-CMC Alumni award for best all-round graduate was given to Vineet Alexander Joseph (MBBS Batch of 2013).

### **Alumni Lifetime Service Award 2018**

#### **Dr. NEENA DOREEN LYALL**

#### **Citation**

Dr. Neena Lyall has been selected after due consideration to receive the Annual Alumni Lifetime Service Award of the Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, for her outstanding service to the community.



Dr. Neena Lyall graduated from Christian Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana in 1971 and from 1974 till date has been working in various mission hospitals along with her husband Dr Hamilton Lyall.

She worked in Creighton Freeman Christian Hospital, Vrindaban in Uttar Pradesh from 1974 to 1977. In mid 1977 they shifted to MacRobert Hospital, Dhariwal, Punjab, where in addition to managing obstretical and trauma patients, she was instrumental in developing the community health department. Once the hospital became sustainable, she and her husband moved to Christian Hospital, Kasganj in Western Uttar Pradesh in 1986 where they are serving till date. Here also as

before, in addition to working in Obstetrics /Gynaecology and Pediatrics, she developed the community health department and outreach programs. The hospital adopted 10 villages along with semi urban and urban areas for service through active community participation, school health programs, eye camps, and leprosy mission work. Apart from developing the hospital and facilities provided by it, they have also opened a school of nursing which trains 300 students in both GNM and ANM courses.

In 2002 she did her Masters in Public Health from the prestigious John Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA where she had the good fortune of being mentored by Prof Carl Taylor who was instrumental in establishing the Narangwal Community centre in CMC Ludhiana. After her Masters, despite offers to work in various International Organizations, she chose to come back to work in Kasganj. In 2006, she worked as the Director and revived the St. Catherine's Hospital, Kanpur.

Despite working in Mission hospitals, she has been a keen researcher and part of various projects in community work, Obstetrical care, child health and leprosy in collaboration with various organizations abroad as well as the Government of India.

We recognize Dr. Neena Lyall's commitment in providing medical services to the poor and marginalized with compassion, conviction, integrity and perseverance. In giving you this award, Dr. Lyall, we take pride, for you have demonstrated to us how "To serve one another in Love."

**Dr. V. K. Satija Memorial Award- 2018  
for Best Clinical Teacher presented to  
Dr. NITIN BATRA  
(Professor, Dept. of Ophthalmology)**



**Batch of 1976 Award  
For Excellence in Teaching presented in 2018 to  
Dr. NAVJOT SINGH  
(Professor, Dept. of Medicine)**



**Eileen B. Snow CMC Alumni Award  
for  
Best All Round Graduate- 2018 presented to  
VINEET ALEXANDER JOSEPH  
(Batch of 2013)**



### **FOUNDER'S DAY 2018**

The Annual Founder's Day celebrations of CMC were held on March 24, 2018.

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 125 years ago now stands as one of the premier medical institutions in India. Nearly 50 alumni from the batches of 1968 and 1987 visited their alma mater for their 50th years and 25th years reunion respectively from all over the world. Some of them visited after decades, having left the portals of Christian Medical College! Many other alumni over the years also attended the celebrations.

Attended by the following alumni of 1968 Batch:  
Dr Abraham G. Thomas, Dr. Rabinder Singh Bhogal, Dr. Deepak Arora, Dr. Deepak Kumar Setia, Dr. Rita, Dr. Rekha Roy, Dr. Ajay Kumar Mahendra, Dr. Jagdeep,

Dr. Dinesh Gulati, Dr. Sudha Jain, Dr. Harsharan Rihal, Dr. Saramma, Dr. George Oommen, Dr. Philips Abraham, Dr. Shobha Rachel Alex, Dr. Archamma Abraham, Dr. Ravinder Jerath, Dr. Gурpal Singh Bhuller, Dr. Mariam Chacko, Dr. Om Prakash Tucker, Dr. Shamsher, Dr. Madhu, Dr. Priadarsh Kaur, Dr. Molly Mathews, Dr. Jasbir Singh Chugh, Dr. Neena Singh, Dr. Cherry Mathews, Dr. Ashok Chaudhary



Attended by the following alumni of 1987 Batch: Dr. Amitabh Dwyer, Dr. Shalini Lal, Dr. Reena Singh, Dr. Vinay Mohan, Dr. Sumita Sahdev, Dr. Viney Anand, Dr. Madhu Kaushal, Dr. Pardeep Bhatia, Dr. Rajni, Dr. Dharminder Singh, Dr. Jessica Joseph, Dr. Gurinder Singh, Dr. Moyna Chatterjee, Dr. Sanjay Kalra, Dr. Ramani Thomas, Dr. Joe Fenn, Dr. Sunita Eric, Dr. Viraj, Dr. Seema Kakkar, Dr. Devinder Singh, Dr. Shivika Malhotra, Dr. Sukhpal Inder Singh, Dr. Inderpreet Sohi, Dr. Naveen Kakkar, Dr. Vandana Midha, Dr. Vineet Gulati.



## MY LIFE IN SNOW

Snow hostel is not just a building complex for us, but rather, each room, each corridor, each wall, each stair has a story to tell. Every nook and corner has a memory, that we will forever cherish and cling on to, that we will fondly remember and tell the next generation.

If the walls of Snow hostel had ears, they would probably have developed some degree of deafness by now, due to the amount of noise we snowies make, whenever we gather together, in comparison to the stark silence that welcomes us, each time we return from a vacation back home.

For in fact, it is only these friends, girls from junior and senior batches that make Snow hostel, the home that we have all grown to consider it.

From day one of hostel, since the time we said our teary goodbyes to our parents, and started adjusting to this new world of anatomy d-halls, physio lectures and biochem labs, we found friends in our next door neighbours and batchmates, who helped to overcome the homesickness we were facing. From racing to occupy the washrooms, to helping each other out with the right colour dupatta we were all required to wear, to keeping food in the mess, to running to class, completing drawings and studying together. From getting scolded at by the council together, to eating around one table, participating in systole and making mementos for various events together. From all huddling up in one room together, to chat, sing, have fun, to getting into trouble with seniors afterwards for the laughter and noise that would inevitably ensue.

From adjusting to the extreme climates of Ludhiana, to adjusting to mess food, from secretly going to Mallu canteen in first year, to have that one meal of South Indian food, to learning to love Aman chicken and Bittu Lassi. And many a times developing diarrhoea!



Add to that, shopping escapades and movie outings all over Field Ganj, Chowra bazaar, Pavilion Mall and Sarabha Nagar...to cycling in PAU and walks in Rakh baag, it's no wonder a snowie is an excellent haggler and navigator.



From Punjabi girls learning to say, " Uncle, oru glass chaaya!" (uncle, one glass of tea), to Mallu girls learning, 'tenu, mennu, kidda and vadiya' (you, me, how are you and great), to all of us shouting together at the top of our lungs " Warden ma'am! motor on kar dijiye!" each time the water ran out.

From making friends with lizards, mice and cats, to shifting rooms multiple times. From celebrating Snow day to celebrating Holi, Diwali, Christmas and Lohri in the lawns. From celebrating birthdays at midnight in the dorm, to taking groupies of our cake smeared selves. From playing Kabaddi, throwball and badminton, to impromptu dance sessions in the rain, it was fun whenever we all gathered together.



Be it practicing for systole events in the tv room, making props and costumes for musicals in the dorm, or rehearsing songs for the choirs in the washrooms... there would be seasons of hustle, bustle as everyone worked

hard to get it just right. Many a snowie has amazed everyone with her hard work and talent and many others have shone through with their managerial and leadership skills.

Come Profs, and the entire atmosphere would become serious. Now even the slightest creak of a door, and any conversation above a whisper, would be met with an immediate, "Hush! Don't you know we have prof?". Every snowie had her nose buried into her books, and not a moment was to be spared, as the entire hostel became our study room. Snowie in the lawns, snowie in the dorm, snowie on the stairs and snowies walking up and down the corridors. The mess didis had a tough time keeping the maggis and egg bhurjis rolling, the mess tables were piled high with books, and girls tried to fight back their sleep as they plodded through their portions. But in the storm of prof, study groups emerged and juniors and seniors encouraged and prayed for us. We realised how much we needed God and each other. And even in the results we could rejoice, as well as uplift one another.



We have had differences, we have had tears, we have had ups and downs, we have had sickness and good health, we have fallen and we have risen. but we have had each other to lean on to.



There have been times, when we have been all by ourselves, but even in those times we have experienced the hand of our heavenly father who said, "Hey, you are not alone, I'm there!" and the many prayer meetings we had the privilege of having, helped us to draw closer to Him and experience His love for us, that he displayed through his son Jesus when he sent him to die for us on the cross.



And as we prepare to leave CMC and Snow hostel, holding these memories dear, we pray that we would be the hands and feet of God, to this our nation and beyond!



**Susan John  
MBBS 2014**

### MY LIFE IN ROSS

"Home away from home"! As much of a cliché as that is, it still holds true to all of us who reside in this ancient red-bricked fortress. From the day I first set foot in



CMC, nearly 5 years ago, this place has moulded me into the person I am today.



It was not surprising that one of the first memories any Rossian would recall would be their first "interaction" with the seniors of

Ross. These seniors would go on to teach you all there is to know about life, whether it's on how to pass your profs or how not to make a fool of yourself in front of others, by first making a fool of yourself in front of them. The immediate seniors are always the most eager to meet the freshers, being their first experience with juniors and having received enough embarrassing tasks the entire year. They would end up being some of the closest friends that we've ever had.



The Ross night life was packed with all sorts of festivities, be it late night football on the weekdays or BBQ parties on the weekend. The incessant hollering that starts around midnight usually marks the beginning of a birthday, which ultimately ends in an all out egg fight or birthday bumps / thrashings.



I remember how everyone would eagerly wait for the world cup season, where all of us would gather up on the



open area above the mess , and project matches over a white bedsheet(our makeshift screen), while eating delicious

burgers and fried chicken made by the pride and jewel of the hostel , that is , the The Ross Mess. Those were the good old days.

No matter how strong the bond between batchmates was, the ever present sense of brotherhood among seniors and juniors alike always held true, and without a doubt I can say, these were the best days of my life. Several years from now, if my journey leads me back to CMC, that feeling of reminiscence would perhaps overwhelm me on the day I set foot once again into this home, Where boys become men.



**Jurgen Jacob  
MBBS 2014**

### INSIDE CMC

#### **Dr. Brown Heritage Center**

The Dr Brown Heritage Center was inaugurated by Shri Brahm Mohindra, Health minister of Punjab



on March 1, 2019, commencing the year long Quasiquicentennial celebrations. As part of the 125yrs Quasiquicentennial celebrations of

CMC, the administration had decided to build Dr. Brown Heritage center to pay homage to our dear founder, Dame Edith Mary Brown. The central display houses Dr. Brown's Piano, furniture, Concordance to the Holy Bible used by her (first published in 1737) and her clock. The clock still works when wound!



Other displays include original archival photographs with brief descriptions and small and large equipment used many years back. Some of the interesting items include Dr. Brown's childhood photograph, a photograph of the first four students enrolled in the 1890s, a request letter to Dr. Betty Hobbs, microbiologist about sub-culturing gulab jamun syrup from PGI, Chandigarh, Dr. Eggleston's letter to Dr. Snow from the ship he was travelling in, the light code based on-call system, CMC's first electronic telephone exchange, the mallet with which the ground breaking ceremony of the main building was conducted, an ancient sterilizer and many others. We would encourage all alumni, staff and students to visit the heritage center and soak in the history of CMC on display.

#### **Dr. Naveen Kakkar**



**1<sup>st</sup> March 2019:** CMC Ludhiana begins its 125 years celebrations. Burial of the 'Time Capsule' outside the Lady Willingdon Assembly Hall. A momentous occasion!

### EVENTS MUSICAL 2018 **MOANA-The Musical**

The Music and Theatre Workshop CMCL presented a stage adaptation of MOANA : The Musical in March 2018. Once again, it turned out to be a blockbuster, with amazing special effects, costumes, props , backdrops music & performances. The leaders of the creative team were Ewan Thomas, Sarah Jain, Karen Edith, Nisheet Nanda and others from the MBBS Batches of 2013 & 2015, along with students from CDC , CON , COP & IAHS.



## MUSICAL 2019

### “BADI MISS SAHIB: The legacy of Dr. Brown”.

Dear CMC family..!

This musical season we bring to light the triumphant biography of our founder, through the musical “BADI MISS SAHIB: The legacy of Dr. Brown”. Save the Date..!!!”, Musical Biography of our founder Dame Edith Mary Brown. Badi Miss Sahib is an original musical written by the faculty and students of CMC Ludhiana, and performed by students of CMC as a part of our quasiquicentennial celebration, depicting the life of our founder – Dame Edith Mary Brown.



## ARCHIVES



### THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY REWIND/FAST FORWARD

The earliest records of the Ophthalmology Department of Christian Medical College, Ludhiana, are available from 1945 onwards. During that era, Eye and ENT was a combined subject. The first HOD, in the 1940s, was Dr. Laker, a trained Ophthalmologist, followed by Dr (Miss) Yamuna Uzgare, the first Indian to be appointed as HOD in the 1950s. Professor Franz Fankhauser (known as the father of automated perimetry & the q-switched Nd:YAG laser knife) also worked in the Department from 1958 to 1960.



It was during Dr. Simon Franken's (of Netherlands) tenure (1962-1970) that the Eye Department was recognised as a centre of excellence, especially in posterior segment surgery. The department boasted of

### Quasiquicentennial Celebrations 125 years Logo



Created by Alma Rachel Koshy Batch of 2013



several distinguished pioneering ophthalmologists who served as the Heads of the Department over the next few decades: Dr. Arindranath Chatterjee (Community Ophthalmology), Dr. S.K. Chopra (Cornea & contact lens), Dr. (Mrs) Saramma G. Jaison (Pediatric Ophthalmology), Dr. S.M. Bhatti (anterior as well as posterior segment), Dr. (Mrs) Harpreet Kapoor (Ophthalmic innovation and technology) and Dr. Satish



Thomas (Pediatric Ophthalmology).

Dr. Victor C. Rambo, Professor Emeritus, started the Mobile Eye Services (MES) in 1958 with the motto, "To reach the curable blind in the rural areas of Punjab and its adjoining states". Dr. Rambo, an American

Missionary Eye Surgeon, had earlier worked in CMC, Vellore. He believed in the concept of delivery of quality Eye care at the patient's doorstep. Thanks to Dr. Rambo's untiring efforts and dedication 'Eye Camps' became very popular as well as regular in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. The MES would conduct anywhere between 11 (1970) to 52 (2018) eye camps in a year.



In 1971, the Christoffel-Blinden Mission, an International NGO from Germany, began supporting the Department with a new aim- 'Service, Rehabilitation and Research'. This was the golden era of the Eye Camps, under the able leadership of Dr. Richard Daniel (1970-1994).



It was Dr. Daniel who took the team to Chauri Chaura, a nondescript sleepy village (famous from the British Raj era) near Gorakhpur, in UP. These were 5-week long Eye Camps – and the tradition continued with Dr. Arin

Chatterjee and Dr. S.M. Bhatti. Cataract was so prevalent here, that the team would operate upon 2000 patients in 3 weeks each year! Surgical standards were never compromised even in such heavy camps. Starting with ICCE, we moved on to ECCE with PCIOLI and then switched over to Manual SICS and are now doing Phacoemulsification in Base Hospital Eye Camps as well. Plus we have religiously stuck to Follow-up visits to each camp site 2-6 weeks after surgery.



Another memorable stint each year would be a 5 to 7 week-long mission in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, where we would conduct a series of Eye Camps in the back of beyond villages and believed we'd never return to civilization. The other 'big' camp was the 5 weeks camping session at 6 remote villages (we could not even pronounce their names) in Himachal Pradesh.



Even today the PG Residents and Interns regularly participate in the MES Eye Camps. Most of them go and serve in Mission Hospitals across the country. However in the new millennium, the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB) changed its Eye Camp policies. The Base Hospital OT approach was enforced and States were encouraged to conduct Eye Camps with the help of teams from within the state. Many Eye Camp teams closed shop, but our MES continued to move

ahead, welcoming the new policies and changes. We still conduct over 40 screening Eye Camps each year.



Another landmark in the history of the Department was our participation in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Comprehensive National Blindness Survey (NPCB-WHO) which began in 2001. We surveyed the villages of Solan District (HP), for 4 months, accompanied by the Community Medicine team. Later, we conducted Rapid National Blindness Surveys in Haridwar, Pauri Garhwal and Solan, as well as the Trachoma Survey in Hoshiarpur. In 2004, the NPCB selected our Department for setting up the Sentinel Surveillance Unit (SSU) in Punjab.

In the year 2003 we started the Diploma in Ophthalmic Techniques course in this region. In 2006 the Ocular Prosthesis unit was reopened by Mr. Anil R Singh and in 2010, the Pediatric Ophthalmology unit became fully functional. This was followed by the inauguration of 2



Community Ophthalmology wards, a Library & wet lab for PG Residents, the Glaucoma services, the optical unit, a state-of-the-art OT Complex and the Eye Bank. We acknowledge the encouragement and support from CBM, Orbis and Dr. Gurpal S Bhuller and Dr. Neena G Singh in these advancements. From its humble beginnings, the Department has metamorphosed into a big set-up today.



In the next few months, we are gearing up to revive the Eye Bank and in the year 2020, we would have two of our students joining back after fellowships in Pediatric Ophthalmology and Vitreo-retinal surgery.

For this brief history on the Department and the MES, I am thankful to the help extended by Dr. S.K. Chopra, who was also my PG thesis guide, Dr. Richard Daniel, one of our most respected teachers, and Dr. Arin Chatterjee, with whom I attended the maximum number of outstation Eye Camps.



**Dr. Nitin Batra**

## OBITUARIES

**Dr Manish Sonsati**  
(Batch of 1991)  
(12.04.1972 – 13.08.2018)



Dr. Manish Sonsati is a man who was admired by his classmates for his patience, tolerance and gentle smile.

After completing his MBBS, he worked in Padhar hospital, MP and later moved on to Edgbaston UK along with his wife Meetu. He practiced with dedication and passion in the cardiothoracic surgery unit at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital till his sudden and untimely death on the 13th of August 2018. His cremation and burial service was in the first week of September in UK. He is survived by his daughter and wife and a host of grieving classmates and friends.

**-M. Joseph John, MD, DM '91**

**Dr Anita David (Bose)**  
(Batch of 1980)



Dr Anita David (Bose) left for her heavenly abode on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2018. Anita, my batch mate and friend, was a gentle, ever smiling person who sang beautifully.

She always faced her health problems with grace and courage. Her tremendous faith in God, positive attitude to life and her inner strength have touched and inspired us all.

Anita, we will always remember you as our dearest friend. You are the first from our batch to have left us. You will always live on in our hearts and memories. In our grief we celebrate your life.

Rest in peace, dear friend!

**-Dr. Mary Varghese (John Vettath) '80**

**Mrs. Marjorie Prior**



Marjorie Prior, wife of the late Dr Frank Prior, died peacefully in her sleep on 8th November 2018. She was aged 91 years. Dr Prior was the Professor of Anaesthesia and Dr Frank Prior and Marjorie Prior lived and served in Ludhiana from 1958-1982. She is fondly remembered by her 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

**-Andrew Prior (Son)**

**REV J. N Noel**



With great admiration and hope we sent Rev. Jaiwant Nathaniel Noel to His Eternal Home in God's Lap on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019. He was the longest serving chaplain in Fellowship Department. Born on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1926 in Mhow Cantt (MP) he finished his BD from United Theological College, Bangalore and later Master in Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, New Jersey (USA). He joined Fellowship Department in June 1977 and served Christian Medical College, Ludhiana up to 2012 in different capacities. He was awarded Dr. D. W. Mategaonkar National Award by

CMAI in 2011. He had a deep-seated love for nature, literature & poetry. Over and above all the most outstanding attribute in his personality was his down to earth humility and his love for humanity expressed through his sharp wit, deep commitment and consistent service to God. Let he rest in peace in God's abode and his family and loved ones have the hope and consolation.

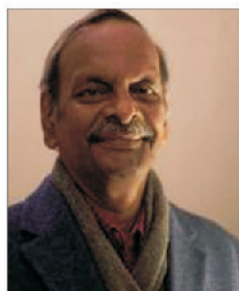
**Rev Alex Peter**

**Dr Dhyanchand Charles  
(PG Pediatrics)**



Dr Dhyanchand Charles passed away on 27 January 2019 in Bangalore following a prolonged illness. He did PG (Paediatrics) from CMC. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer 4 years ago. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Namitha Charles and children Vineeth and Sanjana.

**Dr Arvind Dayal  
MS (Orthopedics)**



Dr Arvind Dayal passed away on January 1, 2019. He did MBBS from CMC vellore and did MS Orthopedics from CMC Ludhiana.

**Lt. Gen (Retd) Dr Gurvinder Singh Chopra**



Lt. Gen (Retd) Dr Gurvinder Singh Chopra, SM, VSM, passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2019. He was an alumnus of Patiala Medical College and was commissioned in Army Medical Corps in 1977. He obtained MD Microbiology in 1988 from AFMC, Pune and was awarded Ph.D in Molecular Biology from prestigious AIIMS, New Delhi in 1998. He joined CMC Ludhiana as Professor in the Department of Microbiology in 2014 after retiring from the Armed Forces. He established the Molecular laboratory in the department and trained our postgraduate students in the field of PCR for diagnosis of various infectious diseases and guided their thesis. He was also a popular undergraduate teacher. We the faculty, staff and students of Microbiology department will deeply miss him. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Kusamjeet Chopra & his children.

**Contributed by:** Lt. Col. Sanmeet Singh (Son) and Faculty, Department of Microbiology, CMCL

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **Reunion of the Batches of 1970 & 1989 on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020**

The Founder's Day celebrations & Alumni Reunion of the batches of 1970 and 1989 will be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at CMC Ludhiana. The batches will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> year reunions respectively. We invite all 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](mailto:cmcl_alumni@yahoo.com);  
[cmcl\\_dhalumni@gmail.com](mailto:cmcl_dhalumni@gmail.com)

## Change of Guard

Dr William Bhatti (batch of 1984), Professor and Head of Pediatric Surgery was appointed as Director of Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana on 15th of February 2018 and assumed office from April 1, 2018. He brings with him a rich experience of administration after being a deputy director and Medical Superintendent over the last 6 years.



Dr Jeyaraj D Pandian, Professor and Head of Neurology took over as the Principal of the Medical College. He was earlier the Dy. Director Research. He is an internationally known Stroke expert and brings with him the expertise of working with World Stroke Organization, World Health Organization, National Institute of Health StrokeNet, USA, National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia and Indian Council of Medical Research.



Dr. Dhruv Ghosh (batch of 1990) was appointed as the new Associate Director. He is a well-known Pediatric Surgeon with overseas fellowships from Sydney and Perth. He was earlier the Deputy Director Missions.

Dr. Anil Luther (batch of 1989), a well known vascular surgeon and Professor, Department of Surgery was appointed as the Medical Superintendent. He was earlier serving as the Associate Medical Superintendent. The other appointments included Ms. Kamlesh Gill as the Nursing Superintendent and Dr. Mrs. Reena Jairus as the Principal of College of Nursing.

## **STAY CONNECTED**

**Dear Alumni,**

**Kindly follow the link below to update your information with us:**

**<https://goo.gl/forms/7Xat8bIIcvjMw3WY2>**

CMC Alumni Xpress Connect is very proud of each alumni, many of whom continue to excel in various academic, leadership and service roles in India and across the world. We have many who keep a low-profile and work behind the scenes but have been instrumental in impacting the health and healing to thousands. CMC Alumni Xpress Connect encourages all its alumni to stay in touch with each other and with the College. We would love to hear from you. We want to share in the joy of your academic awards and professional successes. We would like to be of assistance whenever and where ever we can.

Please drop a line at: **[cmclalumni@gmail.com](mailto:cmclalumni@gmail.com)**

**[cmcl\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:cmcl_alumni@yahoo.com)**

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**(8:00 hrs to 17:00 hrs),**

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