

Ludhiana CMC Board USA
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LUDHIANA CMC US REVIEW

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2016 CONVOCATION

The Ludhiana Christian Medical College was blessed with a beautiful day for the 2016 Convocation/Graduation Exercises. Above we see the 2016 graduating class from the College of Medicine. This will be the last year to graduate 50 students. Next year's picture will show a graduating class of 75 students for the first time in the institution's history.

Pictured below, Rev. Max Marble visits with Dr. Abraham Thomas (CMC Director), chief guest and keynote speaker Dr. Vedprakash Mishra (Chancellor, Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences and Chairman, Medical Council of India Academic Committee) and representative from Baba Farid University Dr. B. S. Adlakha.

In addition to the College of Medicine, students graduated from the Dental College, the College of Nursing, the College of Physiotherapy and the College of Allied Health. Also pictured below is the College of Nursing Principal, Ponnamma Singh, presenting a diploma to one of the College of Nursing graduates.



DENVER ALUMNI MEETING

North American alumni of the Ludhiana Christian Medical College will meet in Denver, Colorado, August 4-7, for the 2016 Alumni Association Meeting/Reunion. The event is being planned by Dr. Satish Garg. North American CMC Alumni have been gathering each year since the Alumni Association was organized in New Orleans 35 years ago. Activities include continuing medical education, various kinds of entertainment, a short business meeting, updates from Ludhiana and lots of informal visiting and catching up during meals together. Every year there are some attending for the first time while others have hardly ever missed. We hope you have placed the upcoming 2016 gathering on your calendar.

The 2016 program and registration information may be found on the US CMC Board website which is www.folus.org. You will also find there video highlights of the last two alumni gatherings.



US CMC Board Meets in Atlanta

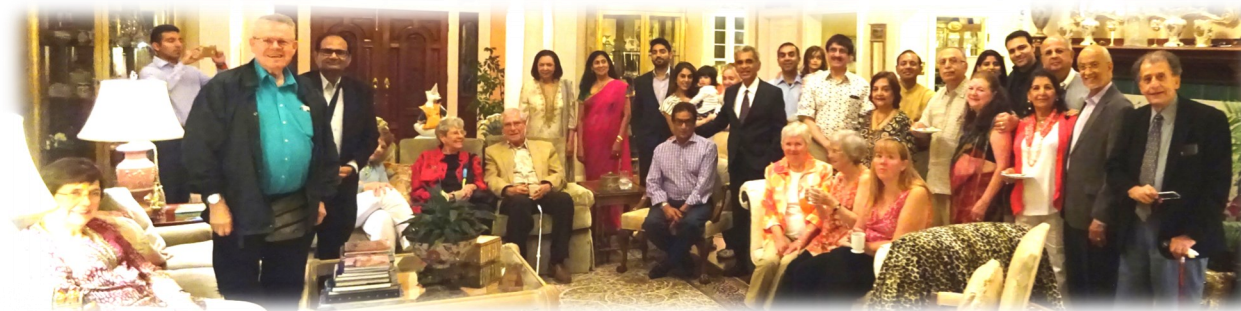


Joy Paul, Rosalee Heffron, Linda Gupta, Arun Adlakha, Roberta Jones, P.L. Ogra, Virginia Hall, Elizabeth Paul, Chittur Ananthakrishnan, Sewa Legha, Susan Sarin, David Simon, Max Marble

The US CMC Board was organized over 85 years ago to support Ludhiana Christian Medical College. Through the years the US Board has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars from churches and church agencies for buildings, equipment and scholarships. The Board was also able to apply for and receive several million dollars of federal funds from the US Agency for International Development to build the Out Patient Hospital, the

Health Sciences Building, Hostels for Men and Women and remodeling the Old Medical College to house the Dental College. Later on in 1982 the Ludhiana Christian Medical College North American Alumni Association was formed at a meeting in New Orleans. In 1989 when Ludhiana CMC was in a severe financial crisis and was on the verge of closing the US Alumni came to the rescue and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep the institution afloat. By God's grace they were successful.

Both the US Board and the Alumni Association have played key rolls in supporting Ludhiana CMC. The US Board membership has changed in the past five years to include an increasing number of alumni members. During the recent board meeting a desire was expressed for the US Board and the US Alumni to work more closely together. In order to explore what this might look like the US Board unanimously decided to change its bylaws, which require that the Annual Meeting be held in the Spring, in order to hold the 2017 meeting at the same time and place as the alumni meeting, which is usually held in July or August.



Atlanta Area Alumni and US Board Gathered at Feroze and Parveen Yusufji's Home for Dinner

Dehra Dun Train Station Encounter



On my recent trip to Ludhiana I found myself waiting for an hour on the Dehra Dun train station platform. Others were waiting as well. I decided to strike up a conversation with a Sadarji (Sikh man) who was about my age. We talked about the weather and trains and then about where we were headed. When

I said I was going to the Ludhiana Christian Medical College he asked me if I knew Dr. Joseph John. I responded that I did indeed know him and had actually made a video interviewing him about the bone marrow transplant department that he heads up. A big smile broke out on the man's face as he told me that two years ago they had taken his 10 year old grandson to Ludhiana CMC. There his grandson was treated for thalassemia, an inherited blood disorder. The boy has recovered and is doing just fine. This chance connection with Ludhiana CMC was wonderful. My new friend went over to tell his wife, which brought a big smile to her face. The three of us stood smiling and praising God for the healing ministry of the Ludhiana Christian Medical College and Hospital.

100th CMC Bone Marrow Transplant



Mrs. Sangeetha Clarence, Drs. Amrith Mathew, Joseph John, Chepsy C. Philip

Dr. Joseph John and his team have just performed their 100th bone marrow transplant. He shared with me this brief history:

The pioneering and legendary work on Clinical Hematology was started by Dr. Betty Cowan a Scottish Physician, in the 60's. 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 Dr. Alex 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. Sewa Legha MD has been helping CMC in medical oncology and Haem-Onc since 1974 while he was with National Cancer Institute in USA and ever since he has been giving his time and talent to help CMCL in Medical Oncology.

Mabreen Simon CMC Memorial Fund

Mabreen Simon, wife of Rev. Dr. David Simon, member of the US CMC Board, passed away after a bone marrow transplant operation in Pennsylvania last year. David and his family have set up a memorial endowment fund for the Ludhiana Christian Medical College to be used for bone marrow transplant and cancer research. Contributions to this fund will continue the fine medical work being done as evidenced by the completion of the 100th transplant at CMC. Tax deductible contributions may be sent to Ludhiana CMC, PO Box 1327, Columbia, MO 65205.



2016 Founder's Day Reunions



Back Row: Devaj Singh, Deepchand Bajpai, Gundeep Dhillon, Manjit Grewal, Navdeep Lumba
Second Row: Yoteen Marfatia Cameron, Bharti Sachdev, Namrata Sidhu, Gaurav Malhotra
Front Row: Malkit Johal, Kanwaljit Bajpai, Paramjeet Joshi, Jaya George, Shalini Mahajan

Fourteen of our US alumni returned to Ludhiana for the 2016 Founder's Day. Founder's Day is held each year to celebrate the birthday of missionary Dr. Edith Brown, who founded the college and hospital. Pictured are members from the Batch of 1966 celebrating their 50th reunion and members from the Batch of 1985 celebrating their 25th reunion. Each returning alum was given an opportunity to share memories from their school days. Dr. Paramjeet Joshi presented a continuing medical education session on Children's Mental Health.

Anesthesia Machines and Cardiac Monitors



It was a joy to meet Dr. Dootika Liddle, Professor and Head of the Anesthesia Department. She was happy to show us one of the five anesthesia machines and cardiac monitor units that we have donated. We owe a deep debt of thanks to the many generous donors who made these much needed units possible. We owe a special note of thanks to Mrs. Susan Sarin, and Drs. Joy and Elizabeth

Paul, who each donated \$23,300 to purchase complete units.

New Urgent Project: Brachytherapy

After learning about the need for brachytherapy equipment to treat cancer, especially cervical cancer, the US CMC Board voted to raise \$160,000 needed for the purchase of the equipment. Dr. Sewa Legha, retired oncologist from MD Anderson in Houston and long-time US CMC Board member, is preparing information for a fund raiser for this urgent need.

Carcinoma cervix is the most common cancer (almost equal to breast cancer) in women both in terms of incidence and mortality in India. Indeed, developing countries as a whole experience a disproportionate share of the disease burden, accounting for 86 % of all cervical cancers and 88% of all cervical cancer mortality worldwide. This equipment is needed not only to treat patients but to train postgraduate students in radiation oncology.

Send donations to Ludhiana CMC US, PO Box 1327, Columbia, MO 65205.

Outreach to Liberia Continues



Liberia, the first republic of Africa, was established by its indigenous population and freed American slaves. Once one of the most stable countries in the continent, its progress has been interrupted by decades of civil war caused by ethnic unrest. Subsequently, years of corruption and a recent Ebola outbreak have left the country's economy in ruins.

Seven years ago, Dr. Abi M. Thomas, Principal of Christian Dental College, Ludhiana, visited Liberia and found an acute shortage of dentists and basic dental care in the country. An agreement was made with Ganta United Methodist Hospital (GUMH) to send one dentist every year from India to serve the people and train them in oral health care. With the support of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries (UMGBGM) and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), this project was undertaken and materialized into a fully functional dental clinic. At present, I am the fifth dentist to pursue the agreement and offer my services to this community.

The dental clinic of GUMH is a busy place and has 80-90 out patients monthly. Along with providing dental care to the citizens of Liberia, we also receive patients from Ivory Coast and Guinea. The oral health care provided here is comprehensive and ranges from procedures such as fillings, extractions and RCTs; to surgical operations for fracture reduction and cyst/ tumor management. Both minor and major oral surgeries are undertaken in the clinic. A nurse assists me during the procedures. Currently, there are 2 working dental chairs. The dental materials available are sparse, but we make do with what we have. The school for dental assistants, established to train registered nurses as dental nurse practitioners, has 1 student who is being trained in basic dental procedures such as scaling and tooth extraction. We are also working on an outreach program that will involve visiting the surrounding villages and providing dental care and education to them. Mr. Patrick Mantor, the hospital administrator, encourages us with his incessant support.

Due to the poor financial state of the country, most of the treatments are done under concession. Payment of service may not always come as cash. Patients show their gratitude with eggs, juice boxes, pineapples and occasionally a chicken. Language is a significant barrier as the English spoken in

Liberia is particularly different from the one I'm familiar with. The dental assistant helps me with translation when patients converse in the regional Dialect of Mano. Unavailability of electricity is one of the primary problems in this part of Liberia. During my initial few months here, Ganta had no power supply, but the hospital provided us with a generator that gave us a few hours of electricity in the evenings.

Our goal is to establish this dental clinic as a set up that provides quality dental care and education to Liberia and its neighboring countries. Even though we are severely limited in our resources and most of our equipment is 5 years old, by the grace of God we have successfully managed to treat every patient who has come to us for treatment. But there is immense scope for improvement in oral health care facilities such as the need for a local dental material supplier; new instruments; dental equipment repair etc. We welcome sponsors who would like to help us in this endeavor.

Over the past 7 months I have come across many new and complicated cases. Through these, I've encountered situations that were beyond my control. But God has been faithful and has helped us overcome every challenge that we faced. It is these daily miracles that have made me understand and truly believe that "my work is for a king".



—by Dr. Jhurgen Caszo (We thank him for taking the time to write this article.)

Paul Investment Fund Established



With an initial donation of \$50,000 Drs. Joy and Elizabeth Paul have set up a new investment fund with the US CMC Board to benefit the Ludhiana Christian Medical College. They plan to build up the fund for the purchase of a lithotripsy machine for the Urology Department. There are now 5 special alumni investment or endowment funds which have been established by CMC Alumni, with a combined balance of \$439,962. This

is a wonderful way to give back to CMC. For information about establishing such a tax deductible fund for CMC you may contact US CMC Board Executive Director Max Marble at MarbleLCMC@gmail.com.

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Friends Of Ludhiana United States