



Christian Medical College Vellore



Newsline
July 21, 2025

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13

Dr. Vinitha Ravindran Retires



Dr. Vinitha Ravindran, Dean of the College of Nursing and Head of the Department of Continuing Nursing Education & Research Department, retired on 29th June, 2025, after 35 years of exemplary service at Christian Medical College Vellore. Her association with the institution began in 1982 as a B.Sc. Nursing student. She began as a staff nurse in the Community Health Nursing department in 1986. After her service obligation from a mission hospital in Kolar as a clinical instructor, she joined as a Junior tutor in the College of Nursing, CMC.

Her unwavering thirst for knowledge and excellence led her to pursue an MSc with clinical specialisation in Child Health Nursing from The Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in 1993, and later a prestigious PhD in Nursing from the University of Alberta, Canada. Her academic journey was decorated with honours, including the esteemed Genève Grey Medal, awarded for her outstanding contributions to clinically-based nursing research.

Her research, funded by esteemed institutions like CIHR and WCHRI, has delved deep into areas of illness processes, burn injuries, neonatology, and children's healthcare, bridging gaps between theory and practice, and improving patient outcomes across diverse populations. Her work has not only been published widely but has also informed and shaped real-world healthcare practices. As an educator, Dr. Vinitha has been a beacon of light to countless students. At our college of nursing, she held various academic and leadership roles – from Lecturer to Professor, Deputy Registrar, Deputy Dean, and lastly, as Dean of the College of Nursing and Head of the Department of Continuing Nursing Education and Research.

As Deputy Director for International Relations, she facilitated valuable international collaborations, bringing global perspectives into our classrooms and clinics. She has mentored numerous MSc students and PhD scholars, nurturing the next generation of nurse leaders and researchers with dedication and care.

Her teaching philosophy – rooted in holistic, evidence-based education, and the encouragement of critical thinking and lifelong learning has been instrumental in reshaping the nursing curriculum and pedagogy. Her contribution to the Board of Nursing Education, South India Branch (SIBE) had an influence on policy and curriculum development at the national level. Her role in the development Paediatric Super Speciality Centre at CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus is yet another testimony to her visionary leadership and commitment to child health. Her involvement with global platforms such as Sigma Theta Tau, ISBI, and GICS underlines her standing as a global nursing leader. She dedicated her entire career to advancing paediatric surgical nursing. She played a key role in the development of paediatric burns care and was instrumental in establishing the paediatric pain management team. In addition, she served as a nurse manager in the infectious diseases unit.

She has also been the Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Journal of Continuing Nursing Education, curating and advancing scholarly discourse in the field of nursing. Dr. Vinitha's dedication has been recognised with numerous awards, including the American Burn Association's Scholarship, CIHR Travel Awards, and the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship. Her most recent honour – being named the President of the Association for Paediatric Nurses of India (APNI) – is a fitting tribute to her lifelong commitment to paediatric healthcare and nursing excellence. Beyond her impressive contributions, what truly sets Dr. Vinitha apart is her humility, her passion for mentoring, her collaborative spirit, and her deep empathy – qualities that have touched and transformed every life she has encountered.

The College of Nursing thanks Dr. Vinitha Ravindran for her invaluable contributions, tireless service, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Dr. Vinitha is supported by her loving family. Her husband, Dr. Paul Ravindran, former Professor and Medical Physicist from CMC Vellore, is currently working as a Principal at North East Regional Multi-Disciplinary Paramedical Institute (NERMPI), Dimapur, Nagaland. Their daughter, Sharon Paul Gona, has completed clinical psychology and is presently a homemaker, and their son-in-law, Mr. Daril Gona, is a pastor. Dr. Vinitha Ravindran is also a proud grandmother to young Leora Niraya Gona. The CMC family wishes her a blessed retirement.

CMC Vellore Collaborates with Federal Bank to Build a Healthier Tomorrow

Federal Bank, as part of its CSR initiatives, signed two MoUs with Christian Medical College Vellore, one in support of the construction of a new pharmacy college and the other for cancer patient support through the Sanjeevani initiative. The MoU exchange ceremony was held at CMC Vellore's Town Campus, with key dignitaries Mr. KVS Manian, Managing Director & CEO, Federal Bank, and Dr. Vikram Mathews, Director, CMC Vellore.

The construction of a new pharmacy college at CMC Vellore, Bagayam, is supported by a grant from Federal Bank Hormis Memorial Foundation. The 40,476 sq ft facility will rise on 2.5 acres of land. The Pharmacy College will be the first of its kind in the district of Vellore to train a new generation of pharmacists in the highest standards of pharmacy education.

The college will feature cutting-edge laboratories, lecture halls and research facilities, ensuring that students receive a world-class education that will prepare them for the complexities of modern-day pharmacy practice. With an expected annual intake of 60 undergraduate students, the college is slated to commence admissions for the academic year 2026–27.

Additionally, the partnership for cancer patient support through Sanjeevani initiative of Federal Bank which began last year will continue this year too. 764 cancer patients have received subsidies for cancer treatment at CMC Vellore, for pre-diagnostic tests, treatment like chemotherapy and radiotherapy and for medication.



CMC Vellore Collaborates with AU Small Finance Bank

Contributes lifesaving equipment such as ventilators and patient monitors for rural and marginalised communities across India and SAARC nations.

In a meaningful step towards enhancing access and quality of healthcare, AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest small finance bank, has extended critical support to Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC), Tamil Nadu by donating a ventilator and four patient monitors under its CSR initiative. This contribution will boost critical care capacity at CMC's Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU). The ventilator is expected to benefit around 60 patients annually, many of whom require 5-6 days of intensive respiratory support post-surgery. Additionally, each patient monitor will assist in the recovery of 3-4 post-operative patients daily, benefiting over 900 patients per monitor every year. In total, the initiative is expected to directly benefit more than 3,600 patients annually.



Distance Education Unit honoured with the 2025 CCIH Change Agent Award

CMC Vellore's commitment to equipping communities through distance learning received international recognition at the Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) Conference held in Washington, D.C., from 9th to 11th June, 2025. The institution was honoured with the 2025 CCIH Change Agent of the Year Award for the pioneering work of its Distance Education Unit.

Representing CMC at the event, Dr. Sunitha Varghese, Research Coordinator of the Distance Education Unit, accepted the award during a special ceremony on June 10. The award celebrates faith-based teams who are transforming health and well-being at scale through innovation and impact. This year's theme, *Change Agents for All*, highlighted organisations empowering vulnerable populations through sustainable approaches.

CCIH's Board of Directors commended the Distance Education Unit's efforts in training more than 2500 Christian NGO workers, from 27 Indian States belonging to over 150 mission organisations and Churches, particularly in underserved areas, through blended learning. The programme is spearheaded by the Distance Education Unit by a handful of Master nurse trainers and a doctor, who have worked using a cascade model, training about 100 nurses in 23 of the mission hospitals as regional nurse trainers since 2011. Reviewers noted that this work has led to measurable reductions in out-of-pocket medical expenses through the promotion of healthy behaviours, lifestyle changes, and home-based care. The unit's scalable and sustainable model was identified as a beacon of faith-driven public health.

A poster authored by Dr. Jachin Velavan and Dr. Sunitha was presented by the latter at the conference under the title, *Harnessing Technology to Implement a Nation-wide Mentoring Model for Community Health Officers in India* showcasing how Distance Education Unit has used technology efficiently to implement a nation-wide virtual mentoring programme to support newly recruited Community Health Officers (CHOs) at Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centers across India. Using a cascading mentor model and technology-enabled tools, over 15,000 CHOs were mentored by trained State Mentors, leading to significant improvements in clinical, public health, and managerial confidence. This garnered much interest among the CCIH conference participants.

This award affirms CMC's role as a leader in wholistic, community-based health education and opens new avenues for collaboration, resource sharing, and greater global engagement. "We dedicate this recognition to the grace of God, the untiring efforts of the Distance Education team, and all our community health partners across India who carry forward CMC's healing ministry beyond hospital walls," said Dr. Jachin Velavan, Associate Director for Missions, in her digitally relayed acceptance speech for the award.



World Allergy Week 2025 Celebrated at CMC Vellore – Ranipet Campus

In alignment with the World Allergy Organisation's (WAO) 2025 global theme, *Anaphylaxis-A Preventable Threat*, the Department of Pulmonary Medicine at CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus, organised a dynamic awareness programme on 2nd July, 2025, to highlight the critical need for recognising and managing severe allergic reactions.

This initiative was part of World Allergy Week 2025, observed from 29th June to 5th July.

The programme focused on educating the community about:

- Common triggers and symptoms of anaphylaxis, including difficulty breathing, hives, swelling and dizziness.
- Emergency response measures, especially the use of epinephrine auto-injectors.



The event commenced with a prayer song, followed by a welcome address by Dr. Vignesh Kumar K, Assistant Professor, Department of Pulmonary Medicine, who underscored CMC's leadership in allergy and asthma care. Dr. D.J. Christopher, Senior Professor, introduced the theme, emphasising the life-threatening nature of anaphylaxis and the importance of early recognition, timely adrenaline administration, and public education.

Dignitaries, including Dr. Balamugesh T, Associate Medical Superintendent; Ms. Sonia Abraham, Deputy Nursing Superintendent; and Mr. Prabhuson, graced the occasion, lauding the department's efforts in community outreach and advocacy. The highlight of the event was the prize distribution for competitions- Asthma Awareness Quiz, Short-Video Competition, Poster Presentation, and Slogan Writing.

Dr. Rashmitha T delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all contributors for making the event a success, followed by prayer and benediction by Rev. Ebenezer.

The stall inauguration and ribbon-cutting ceremony, led by hospital administration representatives, opened an interactive learning hub for attendees. The following stalls were put up for the community awareness:

- AV aids
- Allergy screening
- Asthma and Allergy education
- Skin prick testing
- Spirometry (lung function) testing

A total of 110 visitors engaged with the stalls, demonstrating strong community interest. Of these, 41 individuals took part in free skin prick testing, while 45 participants completed spirometry (lung function) testing, highlighting active community involvement in the health screening activities. This initiative reaffirmed CMC's dedication to raising awareness, improving diagnosis, and preventing anaphylaxis. The Department of Pulmonary Medicine extends sincere thanks to the staff, students, and guests who made the event meaningful.

Prize Winners:

Asthma and Allergy Quiz competition:

First prize: Ms. Sona Vinod, Second prize: Ms. Feba S John, Third prize: Ms. Cynthia Rachel Grace.

Short film competition:

First prize: Victor and team (D201), Second prize: Staff from B601, Third prize: Kamini and team (Paul Brand OR).

E-Poster making competition :

First prize: Mr. Sathyan (PB B.Sc. student), Second prize: Ms. Teena Mary (C102), Third prize : Ms. Akshaya (C201).

Normal Poster making competition:

First prize: Femina Jasmine (C201), Second prize: Meena S.(B001), Third prize: Ebinezer Priya (D204).

Slogan writing competition :

First prize: Mr. Dinesh T. (K-ward), Second prize: Mr. S. John (D201), Third prize: Ms. Sheeba M. (B001 Monc Daycare).



CME on Psychiatric Disorders in Secondary Care

The Department of Continuing Medical Education and the Department of Psychiatry organised a CME on Psychiatric Disorders in Secondary Care on 12th July, 2025. The programme was moderated by Dr. K.S. Jacob, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, CMC Vellore Chittoor Campus. The speakers, Dr. Dheeraj Kattula, Dr. Deepa Ramaswamy, and Dr. Swetha Madhuri Chikkala from the Department of Psychiatry, CMC Vellore, discussed the Management of Substance Use Disorder, Somatic Symptoms, Paediatric Mental Health Conditions. Dr. Susheel K. Tharien, Head, Department of Psychiatry, Christian Fellowship Hospital, Oddanchatram presented on Psychiatric Practice in a Secondary Care Hospital. The program was attended by more than 180 participants from 16 states and several departments in CMC. The CME Department thanks Dr. Rajesh G., Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, Dr. K.S. Jacob, Telemedicine Department, and all the faculty for making the CME possible.

Special Prayers : July 20 - 26, 2025

Pathology : Dr. Meera Rajan Peter K., and Staff

Forensic Medicine and Toxicology: Dr. Mousumi Sen and Staff

Cytogenetics : Dr. Mary Purna Chacko and Staff

Council of Baptist Churches in North East India

Council Member: Dr. Kechongol Sophie

Hospitals : Satribari Christian Hospital, Guwahati, Jorhat Christian Medical Centre, Tura Christian Hospital, Christian Hospital, Babupara and others

Eastern Regional Board of Health Services

Council Members: Dr. Nibedita Pramanik and Mr. Milind Gude

Hospitals : Evangelical Hospital, Khariar, Christian Hospital, Mungeli and others

Friends of Vellore - U.K.

Council Members : Dr. Thomas Pulimood and Mrs. Ruth Tuckwell



Welcome

- **Dr. Priyanka Vandana Sukesh Pande**, Associate Professor, PICU, on her return from study leave.
- **Dr. Rosemol Varghese**, Lecturer (NM) Gr.II, Department of Clinical Microbiology, on her return from sabbatical leave.

Retirement

Mrs. Malathi M., Sr. Secretary, retired on 17th July 2025, after 27 years of dedicated service to the Institution. She worked in the Principal's Office from 1998 to 2009 (11 years) and from 2009 to 2025 in the Curriculum Office (16 years). Her husband is employed at a private company, and they are blessed with two children.

Her daughter, Ms. Renugayathri, is working at a private company and holds an MBA degree. Her son-in-law is a Manager at Bank of Baroda, Chennai Alwarpet branch. Her son, Mr. Seenu Prasath, is undertaking Service Obligation after completing his B.Sc. in Cardiac Technology from CMC. She is blessed with two grandchildren.

The CMC community is thankful for her dedication and commitment to the institution and wishes her a blessed retired life.



Obituary

Dr. Andrew Braganza (MBBS batch of 1979-80), Senior Professor & former Head of Ophthalmology, Christian Medical College Vellore, passed away on 1st June, 2025. A distinguished alumnus of the CMC Vellore MBBS Batch of 1979-80, Dr. Andrew dedicated his entire professional life to this institution, leaving an indelible mark as an exceptional ophthalmologist, a pioneering glaucoma surgeon, and a passionate educator.



Dr. Andrew was a man of extraordinary intellect and diverse talents. During his student years, he wasn't just a top academic performer, graduating with flying colours. He was also a vibrant presence in college life, famously directing plays for various events, showcasing his charisma and love for the arts. He approached his work with an unwavering dedication. Dr. Andrew was passionate about ophthalmology, particularly his specialisation in glaucoma surgery, where his skill came to be widely recognised. He genuinely cared for his patients. The countless lives he touched through his precise surgical hands and compassionate care stand as a testament to his commitment to healing. His enthusiasm for Ophthalmology was contagious. It inspired many students whom he mentored and taught. His students fondly refer to him as the teacher who "thinks outside the box".

Beyond his professional prowess, he was a fascinating individual, embodying a zest for life and an indomitable will. Decades ago, as a young doctor and a new father of two, he faced a life-threatening battle with pancreatitis and its severe complications. Yet, with immense grit and determination, he defied the odds - a testament to the powerful spirit that would shape his entire life. This profound experience fueled his commitment to living life to the fullest. He had a direct manner that, while sometimes challenging, made him an unfailingly engaging conversationalist, full of insightful observations and sharp wit. Famously unburdened by conventional constraints, he became a true connoisseur of travel, art, and good food. Even in the face of significant health challenges - diabetes, chronic pain and eventually liver disease - his vibrant spirit never dimmed. He continued to perform surgeries with remarkable precision, teach with unwavering energy, and, notably, enjoy his daily Schell Canteen egg puff and lime juice, often followed by a spirited drive in his maroon Ford around town.

Despite his intense focus on his work, Dr. Andrew found immense joy in his family. He deeply loved his daughters, and his grandchildren were a source of immeasurable pride and delight. He made sure everyone knew it, often sharing anecdotes and pictures and beaming with joy whenever they were mentioned. Dr. Andrew Braganza did a tremendous amount of good in the world, not just through his medical expertise, but also through his unwavering spirit. He will be remembered by his many grateful patients, his colleagues, his friends, and family for his unparalleled passion, remarkable skills, and the unforgettable zest with which he embraced every aspect of his life. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations within the CMC Vellore community.

Dr. Andrew's daughters, Soumya and Tara, thank you for your condolences and support during this difficult time. They can be reached at soumya.braganza@gmail.com

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved members of the family at this time.

SITUATIONS VACANT

CLICK THE FOLLOWING LINK TO VIEW THE VACANCIES
[HTTPS://CLIN.CMCVELLORE.AC.IN/CMCAPP/LISTAPPLICATION.ASPX](https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx)

Vacancies under the Principal's Office - for queries, contact the mentioned office

1. Demonstrator (NM) (Term Post) with M.Sc. (Biostatistics) / M.Sc. (Statistics) for the Department of Biostatistics

Job Description : Candidates should handle Biostatistics classes for M.Sc. Biostatistics, Nursing & AHS students and offer statistical consultation to PGs, faculties, etc.

Salary Scale : As per institutional rules. **Accommodation :** Not provided.

Applications to be done only through an online application system. Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx> Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted. Applications will close by **July 26, 2025**.

2. Associate Research Officer for the Department of Nephrology **Job Code : 1611**

Qualification: B.Sc. / M.Sc. (Life Science or Nursing) / B. Pharm / MPH / M. Pharm (regular) /from recognized university.

Experience : Candidates must have minimum of 2 years of experience with bench work related to research and diagnostics. **Salary :** As per institutional rules. **Mode of Appointment :** Project Mode.

Accommodation : Not Provided.

Applications to be done only through an online application system. Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx>. *Hard Copies and Emails will not be accepted.* Applications will close by **July 25, 2025**.

Vacancies under the office of General Superintendent-for queries contact the mentioned office

3. Audio-Visual Editor (Project) for the Office of Communications - Directorate

Qualifications : Under Graduate / Post Graduate degree in Visual Communication, Animation, Digital Media, Multimedia, Mass Communication or related.

Age Limit : 35 years and below. **Consolidated Salary :** As per institutional norms.

Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted. Final year students are not eligible. Applications should be made online. Applications through other job portals will not be considered. Apply on or before **July 30, 2025**.

Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx>

4. AC Mechanic Gr.IV for AC & REF Section

Qualification : SSLC + 2 year Govt. ITI.

Age Limit : 35 years and below.

Salary : As per institutional norms.

Preference : Candidates those who have successfully completed AC Mechanic - 4th year.

Note : Only Regular mode will be accepted, private or correspondence will not be accepted. Final year students are not eligible. Applications should be made online. Applications through other job portals will not be considered. Existing staff (term or project or permanent) can apply only after getting necessary approval from Head of the Department.

Applications are to be done only through the online application system. Apply on or before **July 24, 2025**.

Please log on to <https://clin.cmcvellore.ac.in/cmccapp/listapplication.aspx>

Others

5. King's Matriculation Higher Secondary School inviting applications for the following:

(a) Post Graduate Teachers - Accountancy, Commerce & Botany

Qualification : M.Com., / M.Sc., Botany with B.Ed., with teaching experience in higher secondary schools.

(b) Female Physical Education Teacher

Qualification : Any Degree with B.P.Ed., with experience.

(c) Teachers for KG Classes

Qualification : Nursery Trained / Montessori Trained with proficient in phonics.

(d) Supervisor

Qualification : Any degree with experience.

Salary will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

Eligible and interested candidates with fluent in English with excellent communication skills and experience at the high / higher secondary levels may forward their resume within 10 days to **Correspondent, King's Matric. Hr. Sec. School, MBKG Pannai, Kasam, Katpadi, Vellore – 632 007.**

Email to: correspondent.kingsmatschool@gmail.com

6. Applications for Teacher at Sparkling Stars Creche and Playgroup, CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus.

We are hiring female teachers fluent in English, with +2 / Degree and TTC / Montessori / B.Ed qualifications. Prior teaching experience preferred but not mandatory.

Location: Preference for candidates living near CMC Vellore, Ranipet Campus.

Send your CV and certificates via email below or submit at the Ranipet Housing Campus Security Gate.

Last date : 26th July, 2025.

Phone : 9810932814

Email : ranipetcreche@gmail.com