CANCER INSTITUTE (WIA)

NEWS LETTER

Celebrating Diamond Jubilee
1954 - 2014

September 2014

Issue : III

Volume : VII
Race Against Cancer – An Awareness Run

As part of Diamond Jubilee celebration, "Race Against Cancer" run was held at Island Grounds on 03.08.14. Around 6000 participants including cancer survivors, doctors, general public, students and staff took part in the event. The run was organised to spread the message "cancer is preventable, cancer is curable and early detection makes it possible". Actor Suriya flagged off the run. Sparrc Institute facilitated the event.

Cancer Survivor Conclave - 2014

Around 130 cancer survivors came together at the Cancer Survivor Conclave held at the Institute on 02.08.14. The program focused on empowering the survivors about cancer, life after cancer and their role as ambassadors of society. Survivor Ms. Vijayalakshmi proudly declared that she has won the battle against cancer, and the fear of the disease is a thing of the past. She underwent treatment at the Institute, "I was filled with fear but I underwent surgery and made it a point not to miss regular screening. I had a strong will to survive," she said Survivor Mr Ganess attended the conclave with his wife and son. "For several years, I did not come out and discuss that I survived cancer. Today, I no longer have that fear," he said.
02.07.2014 Remembrance Day of our beloved Adviser Dr. S. Krishnamurthi

Justice Gokulakrishnan, former Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court and member of the governing body of the Cancer Institute unveiled the statue of our beloved adviser Dr. S. Krishnamurthi on the Remembrance Day and addressed the gathering.

Transcript of Justice Gokulakrishnan's speech

The former Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Dr. S. Krishnamurthi, was remembered with special love and affection on the Remembrance Day. The occasion was graced by the presence of various dignitaries and officials. The former Chief Justice, in his speech, paid rich tributes to Dr. S. Krishnamurthi, who was a true visionary in the field of medicine and education. He mentioned that Dr. S. Krishnamurthi was a man of great vision and wisdom, who always looked at the future and planned for it.

Justice Gokulakrishnan talked about Dr. S. Krishnamurthi's contribution to the Cancer Institute and how he transformed it into a world-class institution. He highlighted Dr. S. Krishnamurthi's unflinching commitment to the betterment of society and how he always stood for justice and fairness.

Justice Gokulakrishnan concluded his speech by paying a fitting tribute to Dr. S. Krishnamurthi and expressing his hope that the Institute would continue to flourish under the guidance of the late Adviser.

Chairman Dr. V. Shanta said that the values and principles practised by adviser have been pivotal to the growth of the Institute. On this memorial day, I wish to thank our donors and their family who by their generosity and contribution made possible the enhancement of our infrastructure and dedicate all that has been achieved so far to the memory of Adviser and seek his blessings for continued growth of the Institute.

Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you

~ Mother Teresa
One day orientation program in Oncology for young doctors, final year MBBS students & Interns was organised in June by the Department of Medical Oncology. The goal was to raise awareness about oncology among young doctors and also to improve their medical skills and approach towards cancer. Around 100 students from Tamilnadu participated.

Faculty members delivered lectures on Screening & Preventive Oncology, Molecular Oncology, Pediatric Oncology, Diagnostic Methods, Treatment Options & Stem cell transplantation, Orientation programme in oncology Who said cancer is not curable? and Diagnostic approach in Oncology and there was a session on 'Career opportunities in Oncology' and Quiz in Hemato-Oncology.

Transcript from Dr. V. Shanta’s address to fresh medical graduates and interns

I consider it a great opportunity to address you on the subject of cancer, a subject that transcends physical and national boundaries. Cancer is a form of life. To put it crudely, it is a growth aberration. It is one of our own cells – "a traitor within" which for some reason breaks away from the regulatory mechanism. It is totally selfish does not care for its neighbours, breaks away from community living unconcerned with the organism within which they are living. It behaves like an aggressive enemy and spreads to other parts of the body. This is basically a failure of the regulatory mechanism. Why does the regulatory mechanism fail? It is a billion dollar question. 6 decades ago, when the Institute was founded, the management of cancer was anybody’s business, there were no statistics on cancer incidence, mortality data or follow up. There was no concept of oncology, we have moved from an era of incurability and fatality to an era of not just curability but prevention. Molecular technics have opened new avenues and capabilities in many areas of diagnosis, treatment and prevention in non communicable diseases. I wish to say that you are just starting your life’s journey. The opportunities you have and the avenues for work are innumerable. You can be a good clinician, practitioner, specialist, super specialist in the area of your choice, a teacher, a research scholar – whatever you aspire to be. Your goal cannot be graduation or post graduation. Medicine is not just a profession but an art and a science.

International Visit

- Dr. Swaminathan, talk on Survival from childhood leukemia and trend in less-developed countries in the Childhood Leukemia Meeting as part of Turkish National Cancer Week International Symposium held at Anakara, Turkey in April.
- Dr. Sunil presented "Study of prognostic factors in periampullary carcinoma in patients undergoing pancreaticoduodenectomy" at the 26th Meeting of Japanese Society of Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Surgery at Wakayama, Japan in June.
- Dr. Malliga attended training program in Implementation and Dissemination Research in

Health organized by NCI/NIH, Harvard University and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, in Boston in July.
- Dr. Vijayalakshmi presented "Risk Stratification of early staged oral tongue cancers based on HPV status, p16 expression and tobacco habits – reporting largest Indian data" in 5th World Congress of IFNOS and Annual meeting of American Head and Neck Cancer Society (AHNS) held in New York, USA in July and completed training and fellowship program on "Molecular Cancer Prevention and control" funded by NIH, NCI in USA in August.

Every idea that strengthens you must be taken up and every thought that weakens you must be rejected

– Swami Vivekananda
• Dr. Krishnakumar participated in the National workshop on advanced management of thyroid disorders in June at Tamilnadu Government Multi Super Specialty Hospital, Chennai.

• Indo-European BMT meeting, Chennai in July—faculty members Dr. Rejiv Rajendernath, Dr. Venkatraman Radhakrishnan & Dr. Prasanth Ganesan delivered lectures.

• Dr. Krishnakumar, an expert member for the vetting committee meeting for purchase of workstation for gamma camera at JIPMER in July.

• Dr. Krishnakumar - paper presentation "Evaluation of Bone graft Prosthesis viability by serial MDP bone scan, poster "In house personnel monitoring of nuclear medicine staff radiation exposure during various radio pharmacy procedures and lecture "Detection of GI bleed site with RBC scan and Capsule endoscopy, chaired a session on Nuclear Thyroidology at SNMI, southern chapter held at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncogyo, Bangalore in August.

• Department of Psycho Oncology conducted training program on Tobacco and Primary Prevention of Cancer at various organizations in Chennai - Thiyagaraya college Tondiarpet, Boys Home, Royapuram, General Public of Krishna Nagar, Tambaram, ICF Hospital, Kilpauk, NTL Call Taxi, Croma Retail Company & Renault Nissan.

• Mrs. Soundara Viveka completed computational training in Microarray data analysis of oral tongue cancer datasets, in Department of Genetics, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai in August.

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**Transcript of Dr. V. Shanta's speech at the 14th National Convention on Quality on 20.06.14**

The Cancer Institute (WIA) celebrating the Diamond Jubilee year, is "in a way", an unique institution, continuing its ethos enunciated 60 years ago by the founders despite significant changes in concepts in medicare, in an environment of corporate ethos and still continuing as a non profit voluntary charitable institution, providing state of art treatment to all patients irrespective of social or economic divide. The main architect of all the round achievements of what the Cancer Institute today is and what it stands for is Dr. Krishnamurthi, an idealist and visionary. It is his vision and far sightedness that has been responsible for the many firsts to the credit of the Cancer Institute (WIA).

In general, values reflect the behaviour and actions of the individual. This becomes a habit and in course of time and ultimately defines the character of the individual. As medical professionals, our values relate to respect for human life, do no harm or malice. Our work culture including discipline, punctuality, appreciation of dignity of labor and all else depends not just on values and principles enunciated by the founders but what is actually practised by them in real life. When this happens, in the long run, the same values and principles become part of the Institution and the staff. At the Institute, discipline, dress code, proper conduct, behaviour and punctuality are all strictly enforced. There is a continuing effort to provide the state of art in patient care, diagnostic & therapeutic. Despite the fact that we are NGO, we have been pioneers in many areas. The Institute has come to stay. Till this year, the Institute as an NGO would not be considered for enhancement of grants. For the first time, the year 2013 become a redefining year with the personal recommendation of the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu to the Prime Minister to consider the Institute for being considered a State Apex Centre for cancer which has been done.
World No Tobacco Day 31.05.2014

To create awareness about cancer, the use of tobacco and myths about cancer on World No Tobacco Day Signal Campaign and a Rally was organized in Chennai. Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Health Minister of Tamil Nadu flagged off the rally at marina beach. General public, students and staff took part in the event.

RALLY

Reiterating the need to control tobacco use for cancer prevention, Chairman Dr. V. Shanta urged the government to stop giving incentives for growing tobacco. "On one hand, the government asks institutions like us to create awareness on tobacco cessation; on the other they give such incentives. Taxation alone is not enough. We need political will," she said.

SIGNAL CAMPAIGN

Orientation programme on creating Tobacco Free Community was organized by Resource Centre for Tobacco Control in July at the Institute with the aim to educate the youths and other volunteers in creating awareness about the use and prevention of tobacco, around 77 people attended.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME AT ABIRAMI MALL AND PHEONIX MALL

Department of Psycho Oncology organized an awareness program for Seminary Students in August and discussed about the incidents pattern, trends, myths and facts, causes of cancer and role of Priests in cancer prevention.

Leadership is standing with your people. People say you have to live to fight another day, but sometimes you have to show you are a true leader

~ Leymah Gbowee
Lectures delivered at the Institute

- Dr. Sanjeeva Prasad Kalva Chief of Interventional Radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, "Portal vein embolization, Ablation vs. Embolization for HCC and Trans-arterial therapies for liver cancer in April .
- Dr. Andreas Wicovsky, Beckman Coulter "Sorting circulating Tumor Cells", in August.
- Dr. Bhagavatula Moorthy, Dept Of Pediatrics, Bayer College of Medicine, Houston, Tx, USA "Mechanistic role of cytochrome P450IA enzymes in polycyclic aromatic hydro carbon (PAH) mediated lung carcinogenesis in mice" in August.
- Dr. Swaminathan, Epidemiology and screening in common cancers in PROVE 2014 in June and Cancer Incidence Pattern and Trends in the meeting on Role of priests in cancer control in August.

Lectures

- Dr. Rejiv Rajendernath at ASCO update 2014, Hyderabad in June & on Tobacco and cancer at Awareness towards cancer programme in Chennai in July.
- Dr. PrasanthGanesan, Current Management in Hodgkins Lymphoma at MMC Chennai and Myeloma trials ASCO update 2014 in June.

Workshop and Training

- Department of Electron Microscopy organized a one day workshop on Techniques and Applications of Transmission Electron Microscopy in August. This was followed by demonstration of the instrument. This is the first time a workshop on electron microscopy is held in Chennai after about 30 years, around 70 research scholars and scientists participated in the workshop and attended demonstration and lectures by national and international faculties.
- Dr Hoa T M Bach from Institute of Biotechnology, Vietnam Academy Of Science and Technology, Hanoi did part of her drug screening work in the Department Of Molecular Oncology from March –June.
- Around 200 doctors and nurses have been trained in BLS and 60 in ACLS at the Institute. Code Blue team and system has been established for quick response and management of emergency situations.

Around 45 patients undergoing Chemotherapy were given free wig with the support of Rotaract Club of WCC.
• Krishnamurthy Arvind, Kumar RK, Ravishankaran P, Ramshankar V, Balkis Begum AS, Rangarajan GK. Exploring the role of Tc-99m DMSA (V) scan in medullary carcinoma thyroid patients with postoperative persistent hypercalcitoninemia in the era of PET-CT. Indian J Nucl. 2014;29:146-150.


• Ramakrishnan A Seshadri, Saurabh Gupta. Complete radiological and metabolic response of colorectal liver metastasis after neoadjuvant chemotherapy: to resect or not?

• Indian Journal of Surgical Oncology Epub DOI 10.1007/s13193-014-0330-7.


Our heartfelt thanks to GRT Thanga Maligai Jewellers for their kind donation of Rs. 1 crore which would be used to fund research activities.

We thank Thermo Fisher Life Science Solutions, Mr Dev Ohri, Managing Director for their kind donation of Ion Torrent PGM Sequencer, ideal for sequencing small genomes, sets of genes or performing gene expression profiling or ChiP-Seq in July. It is faster than any other next generation sequencer. Its speed, simplicity and scalability makes it an ideal platform for diagnostics.