The sudden and unexpected loss of the people’s Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jayalalithaa is an irreparable loss not only to Tamil Nadu but to the Cancer Institute (WIA) also. She was a self-made individual and a great leader. The strong hold that she had over the people of Tamil Nadu was phenomenal. She was charismatic beyond description. As an administrator, she was not only firm but took quick decisions, the only object being the interest of Tamil Nadu. Her welfare schemes for the underprivileged will be remembered forever. Many other States have tried to replicate them.

Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa was indeed a unique personality. The Institute can never forget her contribution to the welfare of the Institute. She was the first and lone voice that broke the Government / Non-government divide which would not have been possible without her strong recommendation. Our deep gratitude to her for her benevolence.

We pray that her soul rest in peace.
The Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai was established more than 50 years ago by the Womens’ Indian Association Cancer Relief Fund under the leadership of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, as a “mission” to provide scientific treatment and promote health education amongst all sections of people. The ethos of the Cancer Institute (WIA) is “service to all” irrespective of social or economic class. It was established in the faith that selfless service would generate its own strength and funds would always be found. The Institute will not be confined to the four walls of a multi storey building but will strive to reach out to every nook & corner of the state. The Cancer Institute (WIA) shall aspire to be a symbol of man’s eternal quest to conquer disease and an inspiration that reaches out to humanity.

Our logo is “Humanity with Wisdom”
• Dr. E. Vidhubala was invited as a resource person at the pre-conference workshop on “Pediatric Psycho-oncology” organized by the Pediatric Hematology Oncology Chapter of The Indian Academy of Pediatrics in November at Zion Hospital, Mumbai and delivered a lecture on ‘Research advances and limitations in Pediatric Psycho-oncology’.

• Dr. E. Vidhubala attended the steering group meeting in December, at New Delhi organized by Public Health Foundation of India to adapt a road map for India by conducting a situation analysis on implementation of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

• Dr. V. Surendran chaired a scientific session on “Psychosocial issues in Institutional Well-being” in the 3rd International Conference of the Department of Applied Psychology and 6th InSPA International Conference, Pondicherry University in October.

Dr. V. Surendran on “Psycho-oncology in India” at The Department of Psychology, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli in November.

Trained the District training medical officers and PA to DDHs on “Tobacco Cessation Strategies” in the state level workshop organized by the State Tobacco Control Cell, Government of Tamil Nadu in November.

Lecture on “Psycho-oncology” at the Department of Psychology, University of Madras, Chennai in November.

• Dr. Vijayalakshmi Research Advisor in Cancer Biology for projects from Centre for Nanotechnology, VIT, Vellore.


• Lecture on “Complications following gastrectomy for carcinoma stomach” at the ASICON 2016 in Mysore in December.

• Dr. Sabitha and Dr. Priya were invited to teach research methodology course work in October at the Rajiv Gandhi Center for Biotechnology, Trivandrum, Kerala.

• Dr. Priya, “Cancer Immunotherapy - The Cutting Edge” Frontiers in Oncology at Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals in December.

• Dr.T.Rajkumar, Guest Lectures: “Circulating tumor DNA in breast cancer” – in Molecular Pathology Conference in Tata Medical Centre, Kolkata in October.

Dendritic cell vaccine for cervical cancer in ICRB Conference, SRM University in November.

Precision Medicine – The Future in MMC, Chennai in November.

Nanobiotechnology - A technology with immense potential but has it delivered? in the Nanobio teck conference in AIIMS, New Delhi in November.

“Identify the Cancer Story Hidden in Your Genes” in the International Conference on Genetic and Molecular Diagnostics in Modern Medicine, at KIMS, Narketpally in December.

• Dr. Mayilvahanan Bose, “Biomarkers for early diagnosis and therapeutic target in cervical cancer” at UGC-NRCBS XXX Winter School on Advances in Molecular Diagnostic Techniques: Madurai Kamaraj University in December.

• Dr. Krishna Kumar, therapeutic Nuclear Oncology at Dr. Kamatshi Hospital in October.
• The Department of Molecular Oncology conducted “5 days hands on training in Liquid biopsy” with special emphasis on application of Next generation sequencing (NGS) in liquid biopsy in October at the Institute. Participants from various academic institutions and research laboratories from the country attended.

• Dr. Vijayalakshmi was the Organising Secretary for the Internal Auditor & Quality Management Systems 4 day training program accredited by NABET - Quality Control of India, conducted in the Institute in October. The main objective was to develop the skill necessary to become an effective Internal Auditor as per the standards of ISO:15189 towards quality management systems. The program was attended by 17 Institute staff & 35 professionals from Medical and Dental colleges in Chennai and was awarded 30 credit points by the Tamilnadu Dr.MGR Medical University.

• The department of Biochemistry conducted a half a day CME in November at the Institute. Dr. Malliga Ravindran, Director- Lab services, Anderson Diagnostic Services spoke on “The Role of HE4 & ROMA in the management of Patients presenting with pelvic Mass” & Dr. Malliga J. Preventive Oncology Department on “Screening of Common Cancers”.

• Dr. T. S. Ganesan organized visit of Dr. Andrew Fry from National Cancer Institute, USA to discuss possible collaborations between Medical Oncology, Clinical Research and NCI on developing novel treatments for childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Dr. Andrew gave an lecture on CAR T cells and acute lymphoblastic leukemia in November.

• Dr. Rama Khoka, Professor and Director of Research from Princess Margaret Hospital lecture on Stem cells and breast cancer at the Institute in September.

• Mr. Mukesh Poddar from BioRad lecture on “Luminex technology and BioPlex platform” in November at the Institute

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

• Dr. Laure Brigitte Kouitcheu Mabeku from Cameroon was awarded the C.V. Raman International Fellowship for African Researchers.

• Ms. Tatsha Bholah Chandra from Mauritius was awarded the RTF-DCS Training Fellowship for undergoing training in the Molecular Oncology Department for 6 months.
- Dr. Ramakrishnan  Lecture on “Complications following gastrectomy for carcinoma stomach” at the ASICON 2016 in Mysore in December.
- Dr. Sunil BJ Video on “Liver resection in Cirrhotic liver” at ASI TN & Pondy Chapter in September in Chennai.

Presentations:

- ACRSI-ISUCRSCON 2016, Mumbai September 2016:
  - Dr. Ramakrishnan - Laparoscopic versus open surgery after neoadjuvant chemoradiation in rectal cancer: long-term outcomes of a matched case-control study.
  - Dr. Niharika A prospective pilot randomised study comparing extralevator versus standard abdominoperineal excision in low rectal cancer & won best paper award.

- IASGCON 2016, Coimbatore, October:
  - Dr. Ramakrishnan presented a video demonstration of “Cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC for pseudomyxoma peritonei” & got the best video award.
  - A prospective pilot randomised study comparing extralevator versus standard abdominoperineal excision in low rectal cancer and Lecture on “ELAPE: what is it?”
  - Dr. Abhijit Das- Laparoscopic versus open surgery after neoadjuvant chemoradiation in rectal cancer: long-term outcomes of a matched case-control study.
  - Dr. Gaurav Das- Outcome of a series of patients with pseudomyxoma peritonei undergoing cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy at a tertiary cancer centre in India.
  - Dr. Madhupriya- Impact of Sphincter sparing surgery for rectal cancer on bowel function and quality of life.
  - Dr. Abhijith Das- Laparoscopic versus open surgery after neoadjuvant chemoradiation in rectal cancer: long-term outcomes of a matched case-control study & won best poster award.
  - Dr. Ajit A- A series of patients with Peutz-Jeghers syndrome.

- Dr. Sabitha R attended a training “ Indian patenting, Filing procedure and Various proceeding of patent Act, Patent search & International patent filing procedure” conducted by RGNIIPM, Nagpur in November.
- NATCON IASO, September 2016 at Jodhpur:
  - Dr. Ramakrishnan, Panelist “Esophago-gastric junction tumors”
  - Dr. Sunil BJ Video on “Liver resection in Cirrhotic liver”.
  - Dr. Niharika A- ELAPE versus Conventional APR: A retrospective review.
  - Dr. Sivakumar M- Long-term functional and oncological outcomes following intersphincteric resection for low rectal cancers.
  - Dr. Gaurav Das- Outcome of a series of patients with pseudomyxoma peritonei undergoing cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy at a tertiary cancer centre in India.
INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

- Dr. Prasanth Ganesan, lecture “Clinical features of borderline ovarian cancers and low grade ovarian cancer” at the International Society of Gynecological Cancer Meeting at Lisbon, Portugal, in October.
- Dr. Ramakrishnan received a scholarship from the Appendix Cancer Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Foundation, USA & International Travel Scheme (ITS) grant from the Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi to attend the 10th International Meeting of Peritoneal Surface Oncology in Washington DC in November & presented poster “Cytoreductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for peritoneal surface malignancies- initial experience at a regional cancer centre in India”.
- Dr. E. Vidhubala attended the Autumn Quality of Life Group in September in Manchester, UK.
- Ms. Revathy poster on “Quality of Death of patients with advanced cancer- An exploratory study” at Asia Pacific Psycho-Oncology Network conference in Singapore in November.
- Ms. Fida Naseem poster on “Caregiver Quality of Life among paediatric cancer patients- A cross-sectional study” at Asia Pacific Psycho-Oncology Network conference in Singapore in November.
- Dr. Prasanth Ganesan, Visited the Teenage and Young adult cancer unit under the department of hematology and BMT at the University College of London, UK, in November to learn about the working of an ADOELSCLNT AND YOUNG ADULT focused cancer care unit.

ACADEMICS

Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy

- “Stapler Laryngectomy and Surgical rehabilitation of phonation in the SRMC - Head & Neck Surgery workshop in December.
- Moderated a Live Operative Workshop on VATS Three field Esophagectomy, Onco Surg 2016 in Tata Memorial Centre in November.
- Dr. Sarojini Talk on awareness of breast cancer to female staff of GE at the Institute.
- Dr. R. Arivazhagan attended the South Zone regional Conference of ACBI in September at CMC, Vellore & Mr. N. Sivakumar presented poster on “Tumor Marker Evaluation in Childhood Cancer”.

- Dr. R. Arivazhagan and Mr. N. Sivakumar attended a one day CME program on “Quality Management in Clinical Laboratories (SMART LAB)” conducted by MIOT Hospital in November.
- Dr. R. Arivazhagan attended the “43rd ACBI National Conference “ conducted by Bio Chemistry Department, KMC, Mangalore in December.
- Resource Center for Tobacco Control conducted awareness programmes for NSS officers, school & college students on tobacco control, around 3000 participants attended.
- Department of Psycho-oncology and RCTC conducted oral cancer screening in Korattur, Koyembedu and Patravakkam. 201 tobacco users were identified and screened, of which 32 clients who presented with pre-malignant lesions were referred to TCC for further intervention.
Dr Prasanth Ganesan:
- Acute lymphoblastic leukemia in young adults” at the Indo-German workshop on childhood diseases conducted at the Institute in October.
- “Management of Waldenström’s Macroglobulinemia” at the conference “Myeloma- state of the art” conducted at PGIMER, Chandigarh in November.

Dr. Venkatraman:
- “Empiric antibiotic treatment in febrile neutropenia” and "pediatric renal tumors” at ICON national consensus guideline meeting held at Mumbai.
- "Checkpoint inhibitors in lung cancer” at JIPMER, Pondicherry.
- Presented data on pediatric ALL and AML in the Indo-German workshop held at Cancer Institute.
- “Nutrition in pediatric cancer” at the St Jude Cure4kids international webcast meeting.
- “Tobacco control and tobacco associated cancers” in Doordarshan.
- “Running a free standing pediatric oncology unit: success and challenges”, at the Jivdaya meeting held in New Delhi.
- Mr Pichaimuthu Dept of Molecular Oncology, received “Nila Kavignar” award and title from “Nila Mutram” Tamil literary society in September.

Poster Presentation:
- Dr. Archit Joshi long term outcome of hairy cell leukemia from a tertiary care center in south India.
- Dr. Manu Prasad Bendamustine in B cell Lymphoma Experience from Cancer Institute in Hematocon 2016 at Jaipur in November.

Dr. T.S. Ganesan attended:
- Indo German workshop on childhood diseases in October. This was preceded by a Science Circle lecture by Dr. Andreas Kulozik on childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia in October at Taj Coromandel. The aims of the workshop was to explore possible collaborative projects between India and Germany.
- A draft paper has been circulated following the workshop.
- ICMR expert committee on Stem cells and Regenerative medicine in September.

Lecture & Poster Presentation at the 3rd Indian Cancer Genetics Conference and Workshop on “Methods in Molecular genetic analysis” at Advanced Centre for Treatment Research & Education in Cancer, Tata Memorial Centre in December.
- Dr. T. Rajkumar, Panel discussion on “Establishing Cancer Genetic Services for affordable, actionable & timely genetic testing, cancer screening for those at high hereditary risk and the Ethical Legal & Social issues”.
- Keynote lecture on “Germline genetic alterations and choice of systemic therapy”.
- Mrs. Meena Kumari, poster “Improving Mutation screening of Hereditary breast and/or Ovarian cancer Syndrome by Next generation sequencing” & was selected for Oral Presentation.
- Ms. Aparna, poster “Identification of candidate genes in hereditary colorectal cancers by next generation sequencing in comparison to denaturing high performance liquid chromatography”.
- Dr. Samson attended an “Indo-UK workshop on Genomics medicine” at National Institute for research in tuberculosis, Chennai in November.
- Mrs. Chandra and Mrs. Inbaroja Lab Tehnicians attended a seminar for the Blood Transfusion Service for Technical Staff in November at Mahabalipuram.
- Dr. G. Deepa Devi presented Poster “Resolving blood grouping discrepancies in reverse grouping due to weak antibody production in oncology patients at the Indian Society of Transfusion Medicine conference in Bhopal in November.
- Dr. B. Narmadha, Mrs. Chandra and Mrs. Inbaroja attended an Orientation meeting for Roll out of training programme on Strengthening Quality Management Systems in NACO supported Blood Banks in December at TANSACS office, Chennai.
31st Annual Conference of the Radiation Oncologists of India TN & PY chapter in Chennai in November. The theme of the conference being leading innovations and nurturing academics for consensus. Dr. G. Selvaluxmy Prof and Head of Radiation Oncology and President of the association addressed the gathering.

Faculty and staff delivered lectures:

- Dr. Harish Kumar “Pre operative chemoradiation in esophageal cancers”.
- Dr. A N Aswin “challenges of radiotherapy in post operative neck”.
- Dr. Sivakumar “Adaptiveradiotherapy—an avant-garde in reducing Normal Tissue Complication Probability (NTCP) in Head and Neck Cancers”.
- Dr. Anupama Reddy “Assessment of radiological changes in lung after radiation therapy for breast cancer”.
- Dr. Deepika Balasubramaniam “Comparison of 3 different techniques in post operative radiotherapy for carcinoma parotid”.
- Dr. Krithikaa “Do we really need a shift to image guided brachytherapy in treating carcinoma uterine cervix?”.
- Dr. Ritesh Santosham “Does concomitant boost using conformal therapy maximize local control in locally advanced stage iii.B cervical cancer”.
- Dr. Vijayaveeran “Hybrid simultaneous integrated boost technique in locally advanced tongue cancer”.
- Dr. Sureshkumar “case on Sweet’s syndrome – MASS (Malignancy Associated Sweet syndrome)

Poster presentations:

1. Family history of cancer and risk of oral cavity cancer by Dr. Kavi Sankar
2. Knowledge, attitude and practice (kap) study on cervical cancer Awareness among men
3. Group discussion as a modality of pre radiation counselling for Patients treated for cervical cancer
4. Assessment of quality of life in survivors of cancer cervix treated with radiotherapy or concurrent chemoradiotherapy – a prospective Study - by Dr. Grace
5. Role of Radiotherapy in locally advanced vulval carcinomas by Dr. C. Suresh
6. Study on effect of unplanned time gaps (natural disaster) during radiotherapy on local tumour control in carcinoma cervix by DR. Bharathi Srilatha.
7. Neoadjuvant Chemoradiotherapy in Resectable Carcinoma Esophagus- Tolerability and pCR rates Cancer Institute Experience by Dr. K.Muthiah.

AWARDS and PRIZES

1. Dr. DVLN Sastry award for best paper in Brachytherapy was awarded to Dr. Krithikaa
2. Best paper award for Dr. Vijayaveeran
The magnitude of cancer as a health problem is a growing one, a subject that transcends physical and national boundaries. Just the word “cancer” evokes different emotions in different people – panic, a sense of desperation, of incurability and many more. Millions of dollars and thousands of Researchers are engaged 24 hours a day on this absolutely biological, biochemical and yet human enigma. The sun never sets on Cancer Research. This is but a reflection of the complexity and enormity of the problem. With this as the background, it becomes extremely relevant for budding medical undergraduates and graduates to be aware of at least a few basics about cancer and oncology.

As medical students, you have a long way to go. You have to decide as to what you want to do or want to be. The options are numerous. You must remember that there must be a continuous acquisition of knowledge. It is a lifetime process. It is not the awards or rank that you get in your exams. It is what you will be in life what you contribute to the community around you, what you contribute to science.

“Infinite striving to be the best is man’s duty. It is its own reward.”
- Mahatma Gandhi.

W.H.S Jones in his translation of the work of Hippocrates says, “Medicine is a difficult art and one inseparable from the highest morality and love of humanity”.

CANCER TO ONCOLOGY/ORIGIN & EVOLUTION

Transcript from Chairman’s speech at Stanley - Undergraduate Medical Congress
In September
Transcript from Chairman’s speech at the 9th Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Open University in the immediate presence of the Chancellor of the University, the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 02.12.2016

Education is for economic independence. This is essential for anyone to lead a life of dignity. You must aspire to be the best in whatever you do or undertake – to be successful, to achieve, to be a role model, to be a leader. To do your best whatever work/skill you are involved in, that is its own reward. This is what Mahatmaji said. Educational institution not only provide quality education but are centres of character building. Universities, Schools and Colleges help to create men and women to be efficient not only in whatever areas they are trained but men and women with wide vision and not narrowed down by petty domestic barriers. Right living, right thinking is inculcated by teachers who not only teach but practice what they teach. Work ethics including hard work, discipline and ethical practices must be inculcated by setting an example and by routine practices of elders and teachers – so that these become automatic and part of one’s life, not only as students but in actual life.

Teachers by their code of conduct should set an example to the students. They must not only be role models, but be able to create role models. They have to enhance themselves acquiring strong skills in technology and use of technology as a teaching tool, optimizing resources and information available. Their communication skill and courteous behavior must create a major impact in the minds of students. As our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam says “The Teacher is the window to learning and knowledge and to generate creativity”. To the students and those completing their courses, treat your school/college/place of training, your teachers and trainers with respect. Your work place must become a temple and your work will be your prayer. This is to say that you will be devoted to them as you will be to God. If you follow the dictum, you can make your own Destiny.

I would like to narrate stories of few achievers who made their own destiny.

Despite obstacles and challenges, there have been women achievers. I just like to mention Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, hailing from a socially handicapped environment in an era where girls were born only to be married, had to struggle against an environment that was not just unfavourable but hostile. She was the first girl student to be admitted to the Maharaja College in Pudukottai against a crescendo of protests from the Hindu Orthodoxy and yet became the first women medical graduate in India and the first woman legislator in the world. Her contributions to women’s welfare uplift and empowerment of women in 1930s would have today earned a Nobel Prize. She is the founder of the Avvai Home, a home for destitute women and children and the Cancer Institute (WIA), the second specialty hospital in India in 1954.

The other is Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee who said, don’t wait for a Gandhi, don’t wait for a King, don’t wait for Mandela, you are your own Gandhi, you are King, you are Mandela.

The intense confidence that there is nothing that cannot be achieved has to come from within. Faith – faith in ourselves that we can achieve has to come from within.

If you want to succeed, there must be passion.
**PUBLICATION**