Celebrating

Diamond Jubilee

1954 - 2014

who said cancer is not curable

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**International Workshop on Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia**

International Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) Meet organised by Dr. Venkatraman, department of Medical Oncology along with department of Oncopathology was held at the Institute in January. Latest trends in the diagnosis and management of ALL was discussed in the meet. International speakers Dr. Andreas from Germany and Dr. Tomasz from Poland, 12 eminent national speakers and 180 delegates attended the meet. Data on outcome of ALL from various centres was presented. Dr. Venkatraman presented Cancer Institute data.

**International Workshop on Cancer Survival Methods for Cancer Registries**

Department of Biostatistics & Cancer Registry organized International Workshop on Cancer Survival Methods for Cancer Registries in March. Around 37 delegates participated including faculty members Dr. T. Andersson from Karolinska Institute, Sweden, Dr. R. Sankaranarayanan & Dr. F. Bray from IARC, France, Dr. R. Dikshit from TMH, Mumbai along with 31 trainees from cancer registries and research institutes. Dr. V. Shanta delivered the welcome address & emphasized the need for good documentation and data quality. The focus of the workshop was on imparting working knowledge on all possible aspects of cancer survival analysis. The main feature of the workshop was hands on training experience using advanced software in solving exercises on survival analysis.

**Patent**

Molecular Oncology Department has filed a patent in February for the below innovation:

Developed a Double antibody sandwich ELISA for p16 protein which would help screen women for cervical dysplasia and cancer. This technique has the potential for population based screening and can be done at the level of PHC’s itself, without needing highly trained personnel ~ Application number 475/CHE/2014.

**International Training**

Dr. B. J. Sunil, Associate Professor of Surgical Oncology underwent training in hepatobiliary surgery under the tutelage of Professor Chao Long Chen from 1-10-2013 to 31-3-2014 at the Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan and was awarded Fellowship in Hepatobiliary surgery and Liver transplantation.

We thank the Management of Sri Krishna Sweets, Sri Murali and Sri Sankara TV for recognition of Cancer Institute for the Chittirai Virudhu. Dr. V. Shanta added that as medical professionals and as charitable organisations, we have abided by the oath of Hippocrates that we take at the time of graduation, namely service to humanity and respect for human life and to do no harm or malice.

*Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much – Helen Keller*
Transcript from Dr. V. Shanta’s speech on Empowerment of Women on the occasion of 150th Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

The Women’s initiative will give a clarion call to women of India – in the words of Swamiji “Awake, Arise, Stop not till the goal is reached” a call to women to be part of what is happening around them, to bring back values and principles in life and for women to understand and appreciate their respective roles and responsibilities.

The women’s initiative – “The Hand that rocks the cradle” will awaken the new generation of young women and girls towards creating a better environment, a harmonious environment that can be the foundation for social and economic progress of India.

Empowerment is not just taking a graduation or post graduate degree. The days when women could be just house wives and be silent spectators to whatever happens around them will have to be past history.

It must be understood by women that empowerment cannot be given to them. It cannot come on a platter. It has to come from within. It has to be earned. This is possible only if women are educated and education is not just “literacy”.

Women need to understand that gender equity is not superiority or inferiority. It is a balance, respecting each other.

The major obstacles to empowerment are the traditional mind set of women and men, a sense of inferiority complex permeating the minds of Indian women, lack of understanding of equality and most importantly economic dependence. This has to be changed.

Let me conclude by drawing an inspiration from one of the women Nobel laureates 2012 – Ley Mah Ghowee. She was 39 years, a Liberian who said when she heard of the award,

Don’t wait for Gandhi; don’t wait for King; Don’t wait for Mandela You are your own Gandhi, You are your own King.

Medicine “an art” to Medicine “Science and an Art”

Excerpts from Dr. V. Shanta’s speech at Apollo Cancer Conclave 2014

Oncologic practice is perhaps one of the most difficult and complex super specialties in medicine. WHS 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 " The relevance of this in the context of ethical conduct and practice in medicine, especially in oncologic practice is more than real.

In the present context of increasing technology and multidisciplinary care, it will be the responsibility of the oncologist to carefully consider how to integrate science and art and ethical practice in oncologic care.

The availability of sophisticated technology should not be the sole reason for its use/prescription. One has to consider carefully when and where it is to be used, which is better and under what conditions and what is the cost benefit. Cancer treatment has not only to be accessible and affordable but equitable. The difference between the best, the state of art, the average and the worst is very large. It is a reality today in health care and most certainly so on oncologic care.

A significant number of cancer patients are treated by non specialists.

Martin Luther King said “ Of all inequalities in life, inequality in medicare is the most inhuman”

World Cancer Day 04.02.2014

Cancer Institute and Indian Dental Association Madras Branch jointly organized a Symposium on “ORAL CANCER PREVENTION” to commemorate the World Cancer Day highlighting the theme of the World Cancer Day ”DEBUNK THE MYTHS” based on the Target 5 of the World Cancer Declaration. Around 150 delegates participated.

Take up one idea, make that one idea your life, think of it, dream of it, live on that idea, this is the way to success ~ Swami Vivekananda
The Youth Health Mela a 5 day event was conducted in January at Valluvar Kottam, Chennai. Hon’ble Justice S.Rajeswaran, Dr. V. Shanta, Dr.Nevin C. Wilson, Regional Director, ‘The union’ South East Asia office, New Delhi and Tha. Vellaiyan, Tamilnadu Vanigar Sangankalin Peravai presided over the function.

The event was well attended by over 50,000 visitors. Sixty stalls on various lifestyle related concepts were demonstrated. Over 2000 students participated in various competitions held during the event. Around nine symposiums were conducted by governmental and non-governmental organizations and were well attended by various stakeholders. Cultural performances highlighting healthy practices were conducted every evening. These were followed by public lectures on topics related to health.

There was a model and traditional food court where only healthy and nutritive foods primarily based on millets were sold at nominal rates. The objective to introduce healthy food in an affordable and hygienic way was achieved to a great extent. Hon’ble Justice T.Mathivanan, Madras High Court, Chennai gave the Youth Health Champion award to Shri. Hemant Goswami, Founder and Chair person, Burning Brain Society, Chandigarh who was unanimously nominated by the organizing committee.

ACADEMICS - Lectures delivered by faculty January - April

- Dr. T.G. Sagar, Non Hodgkins Lymphoma in elderly patients at 13th Annual International Conference RGCON 2014 at New Delhi and Pediatric Hodgkins Lymphoma at Sankara Hospital, Bangalore.
- Dr. T.S. Ganesan, Prof. Motlag memorial lecture, Cancer stem cells at University of Madras.
- Dr. Rejiv, Chemotherapy of PMBT at Dr.Gosh Charitable Trust / MSD - World Cancer Day with CME on Pediatric Malignant Brain Tumor in Chennai and Hepatocellular Carcinoma: Current Scenario in India at CIPLA - Radiance Summit 2014 – An Update on Systemic Therapy for Hepatocellular Carcinoma in Chennai.
- Dr. Rejiv, Management of First Line Treatment in Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma at V.S. Hospital / GSK - CME on Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma in Chennai.
- Dr. Ramakrishnan, Carcinoma Stomach at the Annual Rapid Revision course in Surgery at SRMC and D2 dissection for gastric cancer: is it still a debate?” at CME on gastrointestinal cancers at Malabar Institute of Medical Sciences, Calicut, Kerala.
- Dr. Venkatraman R, preoperative chemotherapy in Wilms tumor at the JIPMER pediatric oncolgy conference and on awareness about pediatric cancer in All India Radio.
- Dr. Prasanth Ganesan, Diet and Cancer at Youth Health Mela 2014.

- Dr. R. Arivazhagan, Role of Clinical Bio Chemists in Good Clinical Laboratory Practices at PGIBMS, Taramani.
- Dr. Vandana, Principles of Radio Frequency Ablation at the 5th Annual Conference of Indian Academy of CT guided Interventions in Chennai.
- Dr. E. Vidhubala, Life style and Youth health at the Science Festival 2014 held at Anna Gem Science Park School and Psychology for Shaping the Society at the inauguration of National Psychology conference at Annamalai University, Chidambaram.
- Dr. Dr. E. Vidhubala, Significance of Volunteerism for Corporate Youth for the volunteers of Mindtree in Chennai.
- Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Applications of Biotechnology and Molecular Diagnostics in Cancer detection and treatment at Stella Maris College for Women and Cancer Prevention and Control – is lifestyle a unifying factor ? National Symposium on lifestyle related diseases at DG Vaisnav College.
- Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Cancer – Preventive Oncology perspectives at Vel’s university, Chennai and My experiences with Microarrays in Cancer Research at workshop in Microarray Data analysis at Dr. MGR Educational and Research University.
- Dr. Surendran, Tobacco Cessation Methods at Madras School of Social Work, Chennai.

Few things in the world are more powerful than a positive push. A smile. A world of optimism and hope. A ‘you can do it’ when things are tough ~ Richard M DeVos
Dr. V. Shanta delivered the Mother Teresa Memorial Oration 2013, an award in memory of Mother Teresa a legend in her life time at Loyola College in February

The award has been instituted by Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA) whose mission is pursuit of Ethics and Excellence. It has been awarded for the multiple initiatives of its CSR team. Chairman Dr. V. Shanta presented the award to ACC Limited, India’s leading cement manufacturer and delivered the Memorial Oration.

“In a era abounding in corruption with dwindling values, principles, standards, ethical practice, especially in medicare and pharmaceutical business there is an urgent need to change the environment.

The progress of a people whether in economy, industry, public health, social living or political understanding is basically and fundamentally linked to the standard and quality of education and their universality.

International Women’s Day Celebrations

Dr. V. Shanta addressed Dr. Ambedkar Law College, DRDO, Ministry of Defence, Women Indian Association, Hospira Health Care and Asha Nivas in March on the occasion of International Women's Day Celebrations

Transcript from Dr. V. Shanta’s speech at Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University on International Women’s Day

Universities in general whether law university, medical university or any other name are not just educational centres but are also advanced centres for advancing citizenship and social justice. The basic objectives of empowered women in whatever profession they are should be taking on a leadership role, leadership to educate the unemployed women on what is empowerment, the need for education and economic independence.

The women in the legal profession, I am sure can contribute significantly to educate the lower socio economic group on the rights that they have and help them in many ways.

Central University of Tamil Nadu 1st Convocation Address by Dr. V. Shanta in February

I must say that the present day students are fortunate to have new avenues for study and a wide spectrum of specialities – bio engineering, bio technology and information technology have all become a world of their own. The graduation day is just the beginning – start of your life journey. You have a long way to go. A degree is not an end by itself it is an instrument for further development. Acquisition of knowledge, enhancing oneself is toward service, benefit to the community around you – “Service above self”. Universities are centres for advancing citizenship and social justice. The students have to be educated, to be democratic, creative, caring and constructive citizens of tomorrow. The universities should not only provide quality education but must be centres of character building. This becomes extremely important in an era when values, ethics and principles in life are sidelined and in many areas going down the ladder.

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. Their communication skill and courteous behaviour 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.”

INNOVATION

The first Isolated limb perfusion for extremity malignant melanoma was performed at the Institute. The procedure required a multi disciplinary team for successful completion.

The procedure involves isolation of the vascular supply of the lower limb with a cardiac bypass machine to deliver hyperthermic chemotherapy to the limb. The team included Dr. N. Kathiresan, Dr. Madhan (Consultant Cardio thoracic and vascular surgeon – Apollo Hospital, Chennai), Dr. Hemanth Raj, Dr. N. Krishna Kumar, Dr. R. Rejiv, Dr. Anand Raja, Dr. M. Sivakumar & Dr. R.G.S. Madhu Priya.

“Successful leaders see the opportunities in every difficulty rather than the difficulty in every opportunity.” – Reed Markham
**Cancer Awareness And Prevention**

- Cancer Institute exhibited stalls on "Tobacco Control, Cancer Prevention, Blood Donation and Hereditary & Pediatric Cancer" at the Chennai Science Festival – 2014 organized by Science City, Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu and Anna University in January at the Anna Gem Science Park School, Chennai. Around 7000 students and general public visited the stall.
- Resource Centre for Tobacco Control exhibited a stall on cancer prevention and tobacco control at the Inter Oratory Youth Day organized by Don Bosco Technical Campus, Chennai in February. Around 800 youth visited the stall.

Five Days Intensive Workshop on Tobacco Cessation Intervention for Health professionals who are a critical resource for advancing the agenda of tobacco control was conducted in February at the Institute. Around 16 Health professionals from Dental Colleges, Nursing Colleges and Private practitioner were trained on tobacco cessation intervention.

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<th>Awareness programme</th>
<th>Activities conducted by department of Psycho-oncology as part of SMILE Support Group at the pediatric ward</th>
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| Awareness programme on Tobacco Control and Cancer Prevention conducted by resource centre for tobacco control in Feb / March Training conducted for:  
120 NSS officers at the MSSW, Training, Orientation & Research Centre’s training program.  
70 Teachers of Church Park St. Ursula’s School  
30 senior level staff of Orchid Pharmaceuticals  
60 employees of TIDC India, Chennai  
42 students of New Development community college  
400 public at Taramani Corporation School, Chennai  
100 employees of Allison Transmission India Pvt. Ltd, Chennai. |  
- Magic show for children  
- Drama activity for children who enacted a typical day at the ward, many children voluntarily spoke about how they came to know about their diagnosis and they expressed their preference about how they would like to be informed of their diagnosis. This session gave an insight to the psychologists to understand the problems and the needs of these children age 9 – 14 years.  
- Christmas celebrations  
- Art Therapy session for Cancer Survivors organized by CANSTOP SMF Hospital at Hotel Radha Regent. |

**Panel discussions by faculty members in various meetings**

- Dr. Rejiv, Improving Treatment Outcome through personalized approach in 1st line mCRC and Optimizing Treatment Decision for maximizing outcome in 1st line mCRC.  
- Dr. Ramakrishnan, Epidemiology of stomach cancer and Evaluation of stomach cancer. Peritoneal surface malignancies  
- Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Lung Cancers.  
- Dr. Venkatraman, MRD in ALL, preoperative chemotherapy in Wilms tumor.  
- Dr. Arivazhagan chairperson, Cancer Bio Chemistry session.  
- Dr. Surendran chaired “Positive Psychology for Holistic Living” at Ahmadabad.  

**Fund raising and awareness at Dinamalar Smart Shopper – 2014 at Pondicherry**

Dr. Prasanth Nair  
Won the first place in TYSA (Torrent young scholar award), national level Competetion for final year medical oncology post graduate students at Ahmedabad in March.
Center News

- Dr. T. Rajkumar, nominated by the Scientific Council of International Agency for Cancer Research [IARC], as the Chair of the Review panel of the Mechanisms of Carcinogenesis group in IARC, Lyon, France.

Nominated by the Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Cancer Diagnostic and Research Centre being jointly set-up by DBT-SKIMS at the Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Nominated as a special Invitee in the DBT-RNAi Task Force.

- Department of Molecular Oncology and Beckman Coulter Inc India, conducted three day Workshop on "Flow cytometry and cell sorting" in February. Dr. Andreas Wicovsky delivered lecture on "Sorting circulating tumor cells".

- Dr. T.S.Ganesan, participated in the American Association of Cancer Research, at San Diego.

- Lecture by Mr. David S Philips, Product Application specialist, Thermo Fisher Scientific USA "Evolution in Biological Safety Cabinets " at the Institute.

- Lecture by Dr. Rathore, Sr Application Scientist Schrodinger, Bangalore "Antibody modeling, Mutation analysis and Bioluminate " at the Institute.

- Department of Nuclear Medicine conducted 1 month observership training for MSc Medical Physics students of Arignar Anna Cancer Hospital, Karapettai, Kanchipuram.

- Dr. T.S.Ganesan, 4 posters in Indian Association of cancer research, Kollam and posters in Cancer Con 2014 IIT in Chennai.

Dr. Venkatraman and Dr. Cherian presented Institute AML data in TamilNadu pediatric oncology group meeting at Childs Trust Hospital.

PAPER / POSTER PRESENTATION – January to April

- Dr. T.S.Ganesan, 4 posters in Indian Association of cancer research, Kollam and posters in Cancer Con 2014 IIT in Chennai.

Dr. Venkatraman and Dr. Cherian presented Institute AML data in TamilNadu pediatric oncology group meeting at Childs Trust Hospital.

- Dr. R. Arivazhagan paper presentation "Evaluation of salivary and serum enzyme markers in Breast Cancer patients” at the 40th Annual conference of Association of Clinical Biochemists of India at New Delhi.

- Dr. Sivakumar, paper presentation "Quality of life in neobladder Vs Ileal conduit for urinary bladder cancer at madras urological society.

- Dr. Akash, Voriconazole Is A Safe And Effective Anti-Fungal Prophylactic Agent During Induction Therapy of AML in BTG 2014 at Taiwan.

- Dr. Cherian Thampy, on Pediatric AML experience from South India at BTG 2014 at Taiwan.

- Dr. Souwmya, Flow Cytometry Evaluation of Minimal Residual Disease in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia – Indian Experience at the ALL MEET.

- Dr. Prasanth Nair, oral presentation on Pediatric AML experience from South India at Pediatric Oncology at JIPMER.

- Ms. Valliammai won first prize at ALL MEET held at the Institute and presented poster at IACR at Kollam.

- Ms. Meena Kumari, Hereditary Cancer Detection and prevention programme at the Chennai Science Festival.

- Ms. Rashmi Mohapatra, Anti-proliferative effect of lichen secondary metabolites on human cancer cell lines from different tissue origin at SRMC.

- Ms. Aparna N, Screening for Novel anticancer agents from natural sources on human cancer cell lines based on NCI protocol at SRMC.

- Dr. Venkatraman represented the Institute in the national ALL collaborative group meeting and in Indian Cancer Society meeting in Mumbai.

Training

- Dr. Gopal, 4 week training course on mass Spectrometry in Bremen, Germany in January. The training covered basics of MALDI mass spectrometry, MALDI imaging, and ESI LC-MS using Ion-trap mass spectrometer.

- Dr. Vijayalakshmi Use of SPSS in Data Analysis in Department of Biostatistics, National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR), Chennai in December.

- Dr. Vijayalakshmi Clinical Trials and Meta-analysis organized by Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Malabar Cancer Centre, Thalaserry, Kerala in April.

- Ms. T. Soundara Viveka, Microarray Data Analysis organized by Department of Biotechnology, Dr MGR Educational and Research University in February.

- Dr. R. Balaji, "Maintenance and management of nude mice colonies and techniques in laboratory animal experimentation. Adhoc laboratory animal science and techniques training course held in NCLAS, NIN, Hyderabad.

- Dr. R. Arivazhagan, two days workshop on "Applied Coagulation Laboratory to Practice” at CMC Hospital, Vellore in March.

The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand ~ vinc Lombardi


• Krishnamurthy Arvind, Vijayalakshmi R. Metastatic follicular carcinoma of the thyroid with tumor thrombus extending on to the superior vena cava. Thyroid Res Pract 2014 Jan;11:29-31


