



ISSUE 199 | April - June 2021

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Life for All

A Quarterly Newsletter of Christian Medical Association of India



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STANDING STRONG DESPITE ...

A Word from the General Secretary
~ Dr Priya John



The financial year for 2021-22 started off with a literal rocking of the boat, a feeling of the carpet being pulled off from under one's feet, getting punched in the gut... and all the other proverbial sayings which tested one's capacity to cope, to adjust, to stand strong and to get up.

Our mission member hospitals were all hit hard. The overwhelming case load of Covid 19 serious patients requiring oxygen support and ventilation took its toll on the healthcare infrastructure, the staff, and the hospital systems apart from the financial consequences.

As on 30th June 2021, we have 274 member hospitals/institutions in our database. More than 85% provided Covid-19 Care at different levels of care during both the waves. CMAI tried to support them by first assessing the need. This proved to be a challenge because of the dynamically changing situation at the hospital level. The local government notices were not uniform from State to State, and a common intervention or support could not be done. However, common platforms of training for standardising treatment and system protocols proved to be very useful and CMC Vellore stepped up to the challenge in a very effective way.



A few mission hospitals had to close for a significant period because of the various financial and local administrative challenges. We will look into the causes and support them accordingly.

CMAI website was used to disseminate useful resources which could help the hospitals cope with the demands of changing rules and regulations. Empowering the hospitals to access local and foreign funds was the best way forward. Praise God for the donors who gave so graciously during a time of dire need.

Networking took centre stage during the second wave and there was a steep increase in names on the donor database.

CMAI worked with the church and other network partners to promote covid appropriate behaviour, vaccination, effective social models to support the community, man a clinical helpline during the peak of the pandemic, create awareness on mental health and other programmes for the well being of both the hospital, church, and community. Accountability, good stewardship, and trustworthiness are the qualities this pandemic has brought to the forefront and while each one will need to be worked on and to all stakeholders, none of them will be taken for granted.

CMAI needs to support more strategically in the following areas: - Governance and administrative challenges in the hospitals, Research and Human resource provision.

This was brought up during our first regional conference for this Biennial year, the Northeast Regional Conference, held in the month of May 2021.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we take steps boldly to support our member hospitals and institutions, knowing fully well that they will stand strong despite the challenges mainly because of the faithfulness of the good Lord and their commitment to serving all who are in need.



Christian Medical Association of India

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CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (CMAI)

General Meeting of the Christian Medical Association of India

Dates: Friday-Saturday, 12 – 13 November 2021

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING

AGENDA

Friday, 12th November 2021, Time 1830

Business Session 1

1. Opening Prayer
2. Roll Call
3. Appointment of Recording Secretaries
4. Condolences
5. Confirmation of Minutes of General Meeting held on 7th and 9th November 2019
6. Receiving of General Body Minutes held on 16th July 2021
7. Matters Arising
8. Report of the General Secretary, Treasurer, Editor
9. Acceptance of the Revised Byelaws
10. Introduction of CMAI App
11. Formation of Nomination Committee
12. Any other matter
13. Closing Prayer

Saturday, 13th November 2021,

Sectional Meetings: Time- 1100

Business Session II, Time:16:50

1. Reports of Sectional Meetings
2. Election of Executive Committee and other appropriate Committees of the Association for 2021 – 2023
3. Venue for the Next Biennial Conference
4. Any Other Business with the permission of the Chair
5. Vote of Thanks & Closing Prayer



A fellowship of Christian health professionals and health institutes serving the churches in the ministry of health, healing and wholeness.

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NORTH-EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

~ Imtinenla Aier, Chaplains' Section

At CMAI Regional Conferences are opportunities to provide a platform to connect with Member Institutions of the region and engage with fellow Christian health workers at hospitals. The conference brings together participants across the region and network, thereby create an opportunity to encourage each other and acknowledge the work progress through the healing ministry. Despite the ongoing Pandemic the CMAI North-East (Virtual) Regional Conference, under the theme of Renew & Restore, as a beacon of light brought together a time of sharing experiences, inspirations and action/suggestions.

The Northeast Regional Conference was held online for 3 days included an inaugural session, a business session and three sessions focusing on Motivation for Mission, Mental Healthcare and Challenges & Opportunities in Mission Hospitals. These resource persons and moderators for these sessions were from CMAI network hospitals contributing with information and bringing valuable perspective to the themes. The online attendance was 200 including 100 from CMAI Member Institutions, 55 from School of Nursing, 25 from CMAI and 30 from various churches.

On day 01, the inaugural session was moderated by Rev. Thensem Singson- Chaplain, Satribari Christian Hospital, followed by opening prayer by Rev. Abhisekh John –EFI, NE Coordinator India and a welcome address by Dr. Priya John, General Secretary, CMAI and keynote address by Rev. Gibson Marak. Director, Welcome Ministry-Guwahati who shared on the theme of Renew & Restore. The first thematic session was moderated by Mr. Atsung Imchen, Regional Secretary Chaplain Section as Dr. Vijay Anand, Surgeon, Makunda Christian Leprosy & General Hospital, Assam spoke on the Topic “Motivation for Mission”.

On day 02 of the conference, the thematic session was moderated by Ms. Thadoi Chanu, Regional Secretary Nurses Section as Dr. Starlin Vijay, from Makunda Christian Leprosy & General Hospital gave a presentation on Mental Healthcare. This was followed by a discussion on Challenges and Opportunities in the Mission Hospitals, moderated by Dr. Esther Liani, Regional Secretary, North-East CMAI and led by two panelists Dr. Asolie Chase -Medical Director, Baptist Christian Hospital Tezpur, Assam and Dr. Sedevi Angami -Director, Christian Institute for health science & Research (CIHSR), Dimapur, Nagaland.

The first two days of the conference's inaugural sessions keynote addresses, business and thematic sessions were moderated by the Member Institutions. The participation of various organisations working closely with CMAI was also witnessed.

“We look forward for Christian Medical Association of India to help us focus on with their strengths in governance, quality research and human resources. We in our north-east region are hopeful that with CMAI's support these needs will be reinforced and create a clear pathway for the growth of hospitals and the region.” shared Dr. Sedevi Angami.

A VOICE TO LEAD - A VISION FOR FUTURE HEALTHCARE – CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

~ Jancy Johnson, Secretary - Nurses League

International Nurses Day is celebrated globally on May 12. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. This year the theme was "A Voice to Lead - A Vision for Future Healthcare" and was uniquely celebrated by CMAI to honour the nurses especially of mission hospitals who have worked tirelessly during the pandemic.

For the first time it was a unique opportunity for other organizations like NCCI, EHA and CHAI also joining in honouring the nurses.

A total of nearly 400 nurses actively participated in this virtual event. At the programme many senior Nurse Leaders from India and abroad participated. President and General Secretary of both NCCI and CMAI, felicitated the programme and spoke about the valuable and contribution of nurses.

The stalwarts of nursing profession from mission hospitals like Dr. Pauline Brown, Dr. Mary Varghese and many other distinguished leaders appreciated and encouraged the contribution of the nurses. The President of NCCI Rev. Dr. PC Singh encouraged the nurses with his keynote speech.

Testimonies from the patients and salutation by India Today to the unsung heroes of the frontline medical workers was also presented during this time.

Special programs based on the theme was presented by way of dance and songs by the nurses and students from different mission hospitals. There were brief speeches coming from the heart of nurse leaders such as Dr. Bala Seetharaman, CNO of CMC Vellore, Mrs. Mercy John, Principal, College of Nursing CH, Bissamcuttack, Dr. Leah Macaden, Lecturer in Health Sciences and Mrs. Jancy Johnson NL Secretary of CMAI. Rev Fr Abraham Executive Secretary of NCCI coordinated the whole program while Rev Asir General Secretary of NCCI also felicitated the nurses.

Overall, it was a joyous occasion - marked as the first time such an event was done virtually in CMAI in collaboration with likeminded organizations.



Come Join us as we celebrate and honour the lives of Nurses and their Services

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2021



Date: May 12, 2021 | Time: 4PM

Live on Facebook @ NCCI & CMAI

Zoom meeting details:

Meeting ID: 974 8502 4705

Passcode: nursesday

<https://zoom.us/j/97485024705?pwd=aWZ-reXkyUjF3VWFhVStnYjNSWWWhKUT09>

WAVES OF COVID-19. WHAT IS NEXT?

~ Elsy John, Administrators' Section

The mission hospital health care system needs to be prepared for successfully fighting the third wave of COVID-19. However, as we continue with the second wave, aptly the question is, what is next? Is there anything that we can do better to control the next wave to make sure it doesn't cause deaths?

1. Long strategy: Covid-19 is here to stay for a while. Healthcare professionals must identify and coordinate resources in developing strategies and planning for the next wave, separating the current warring faction.

2. Involve Specialists: The planning committee should be represented by leading healthcare professionals in the relevant fields - pulmonologists, virologists, epidemiologists, etc., as well as senior executives of India's largest Covid patients' hospitals.

3. Awareness Campaign: we need to focus on behavioral awareness campaigns and appropriate indicators of Covid-19 in advance. Involvement of local leaders, gram panchayats, local priests, district movie celebrities and other influential people in rural areas will help spread the word.

4. Check the P3 Model: BBMP in Bangalore caught Mr. Nandan Nilekani to help reorganize the bed reservation system to facilitate the distribution of hospital beds for Covid-19 patients. We should be committed to this phase, before the third wave, low-cost ventilators, medical oxygen units, cellular care units, delivery centers near their regional locations, and out-of-the-box solutions that will facilitate care in all hospitals. Train away rural health doctors and medical students in their region for self-examination, exercise, and treatment of diagnosed cases.

5. Data: Valuable information to be collected in all stages of infection. Pre-infection stages, signs, and symptoms leading to the viral stage, various treatment programs and outcomes, recovery rates of infection after infection and mortality rates, medications applicable to normal age groups, data can tell the whole story, details, and a larger picture at once. This will help our experts gain insight and develop appropriate strategies for approaching the next waves.

5. Create a Non-invasive Screening Program: The ideal solution is a three-phase program - telephone startup for multilingual photography, launching online video collections, offline connections across the country that provide basic health care services in extreme cases.

6. Integrate Mental Healthcare: We need to begin to integrate mental health support into basic Covid-19 care programs and hospitalization programs to help children cope with the much-changed, difficult, and disconnected lives living in the post-Covid world.

LOST CERTIFICATE

I, **Nirmal Jaya Sheeba B** have lost my original GNM & Midwifery Course Certificate bearing no. 12795.

If found, kindly give it to me or inform at the given address:

Ms. Nirmal Jaya Sheeba V, 1/43, West Street,
Nantrikuzhi, Boothapandy – 629852
Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

ROLE OF FAITH-BASED HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

~ Dr. Abhijeet Sangma, Doctors' Section

Faith-based health care providers include everything from small clinics supported by individual churches to complex networks of hospitals and medical and nursing training colleges. Many countries, including India, have organized networks of Christian health-care institutions.

The three largest Christian health networks in India are: the Christian Medical Association of India (CMAI) with 274 Protestant institutions, the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) with over 3,500 institutions, and Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA), a Protestant Evangelical organization with 20 hospitals and a large network of community health projects.

All three associations express commitment to work toward health for all, especially for “resource-poor people of India living in remote and difficult-to-reach areas of the country, who have little to no access to healthcare in the places where they live.”

While there are many Christian medical colleges belonging to different churches, three are well-known and highly ranked by national organizations and publications: Christian Medical College, Vellore; Christian Medical College, Ludhiana; and St. John's Medical College in Bangalore.

Christian mission hospitals represent one of the largest providers of healthcare in India after the government. However, India's religious landscape is vast, with 80% of the population identifying as Hindu, 13% as Muslim, and 2-3% as Christian. Hindu and Islamic organizations also provide a significant amount of health care in India.

Faith-based organizations in India are vital to providing access to health care for those living in poverty or regions without access to care. Christian hospitals and health networks work to fill the gaps not covered by public healthcare and act to support the public healthcare systems, as they did by designating mission hospitals to treat and test for COVID-19.

Without the work of FBOs in India, patients living in poverty would have limited access to specialty services and care in areas such as maternal and reproductive health, tuberculosis, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. FBOs in India serve as a model for the use of village health workers, pioneered by the Comprehensive Rural Health Project. Christian mission hospitals represent one of the largest providers of healthcare in India and are vital not only to the delivery of care, but also to community health education and prevention of disease.

HSSC COVID-19 RELATED CRASH COURSES

Under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship with Healthcare Sector Skill Council, Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, virtually launched the Covid Related Crash Courses on 18th June 2021.

CMAI has supported the initiative by sharing the registration process within its national database of member institutions. During the reporting period, a total of 15 institutions have shared their interest in participating in the course and many others have will also follow.

THE FAMILY MEDICINE PROGRAM

~ Dr Santosh Mathew, ICMDA

The Family Medicine team takes forward the blended model of the 2-year International Postgraduate FM program that was initiated in partnership with CMC and Loma Linda University. Current status – 29 candidates from 14 nations started the course on 4 May 2020. The first year was completed by the end of March 2021, and 28 candidates appeared for the 1st year examinations. All passed. 19 candidates were awarded scholarships amounting to 50-80% of 1st year fees. A few candidates were allowed staggered payment of fees in view of the challenges associated with the pandemic. The first face to face contact program planned for September 2020, was conducted online. The Faculty Development program also had to be cancelled but was facilitated online. Monthly online contact sessions have started from January 2021. The 2021 batch started with 50 candidates on 24 May 2021. There are candidates from 24

nations. 19, 10 and 1 candidates were offered 75%, 50% and 25% scholarships respectively.

Our hope is that both cohorts can meet face to face for contact programmes at our six contact centers in Africa (Egypt, Uganda, Nigeria) and Asia (India, Pakistan, Cambodia). If the pandemic context does not allow for the same, alternative plans will be explored. We have started exploring options of offering I-PGDFM in other languages. Discussions with French, Spanish and Russian doctors, are currently ongoing. In the 2021 batch, there are nine francophone but bilingual doctors, who will become champions for taking forward the French language program. We are exploring partnerships with hospitals from the three language regions for establishing contact centers.

STORIES OF WORKING TOGETHER WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

~ Christopher Peter, Communication Department

CMAI works closely with the government and its network on issues of equity, strengthening of health-care system, policy, education, medical ethics and much more. During the pandemic situation various member hospitals of CMAI were approached by healthcare departments of the Government. Across India, the mission hospitals received requests and guidelines for allocating a number of beds for Covid positive patients. Around this time, the private hospitals were reported being overwhelmed with fear and sudden surge, even denying care in certain cases to the distressed patients.

However, in sharp contrast, even though the mission hospitals were struggling to operate with increase in costs and decrease in revenues, they continued to offer care. Especially in rural areas where the popu-

lation has fewer options, our hospitals have fearlessly worked 24/7 and assisting the government by offering infrastructure support. This was appreciated because suspected cases were referred to government hospitals who were also facing limitation in capacity and delivery of medical services.

These experiences of the entire CMAI network have become COVID-19 success stories of working closely with the government. From allocating beds, to creating exclusive vaccination centres, creating innovative solutions to demand in PPE equipment, etc., CMAI has continued to receive testimonials and stories of inspiration. These will be collated and communicated once received from across the network of hospitals.

CONTINUOUS ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CAHPE) ~ Lyric Abraham, Allied Healthcare Professionals' Section

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LOST CERTIFICATE

I, **Sijimol P. George** have lost my 2nd Year marklist of GNM & Midwifery Course bearing registration no. U1114. If found, kindly give it to me or inform at the given address:

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Athirampuzha, PO
Kottayam, Kerala

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**Christian
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WE ARE LOOKING FOR Program Officer cum Executive Assistant, Allied Health Professionals Section

Nature of Job:

Coordination and clerical support in the activities of the Allied Health Professionals Section in three main areas:

- (1) AHP Sectional activities,
- (2) Central Education Board activities and
- (3) Healthcare Sector Skill Council Activities.

Reports to:

Head, Allied Health Professionals Section, based in Delhi.

Age: 25-35 years

Post open: one

Last Date for Application: 12th September 2021

**FOR FULL DETAILS KINDLY VISIT
{ www.CMAI.org/Vacancy }**

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The General Secretary, CMAI

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Being the voice of CMAI

The main function of CMAI's Communication Department is to disseminate information to the CMAI membership. It informs members of the past and prospective activities, discusses views on various issues related to health and healing ministry. It speaks on behalf of CMAI to people who are interested and committed to promote holistic healing to all. The regular CMAI publications related in this period were:



Publication: Christian Medical Journal of India.

CMAI's official publication, which has a readership in India as well as abroad.

Released edition: No. 36.1

Theme: "Renew & Restore"



Publication: Life for All

LFA is the quarterly newsletter of CMAI that knits our network together with news, reports from the field and important announcements.

Released edition: No. 198

Period: January-March 2021



Publication: Footsteps

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{ To view past editions visit our website www.cmai.org/publications }

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