

CANCER INSTITUTE (WIA)

# NEWSLETTER

**A tribute to a legend - Remembering Padma Vibushan Dr V Shanta**  
on her 4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Oration Celebration  
- By N.L.Rajah, Sr. Advocate & Chairman, Cancer Institute(WIA)

Dr. Shanta’s fervent wish was that the Research Division of Cancer Institute must produce at least one Noble prize winner.

Remembering her remarkable journey & staunch resolve towards Cancer Institute. I have had the good fortune to be closely associated with Dr. Shanta from 1989 when she came to consult me on a legal issue relating to Avai Home, an orphanage, which again is one of the remarkable institutions founded by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy. Whenever she needed advice for a legal matter, or sometimes to even discuss some aspect of management of Cancer Institute she would fix up a time to meet and come over to my office to discuss the issue. This, quite astonishingly, continued even after she turned 90.

Once, very visibly disturbed by subjecting her to such trouble I told her that it was not right for her to visit me and that I be permitted to visit her if and when she needed my help. She answered with a gentle smile, *“You know, I live in Cancer institute. My whole day I spend there attending to patients and caring for patients. Do you want to deny me the pleasure of some short outing like this?”* I had no answer.

Her pedigree was remarkable. I went to meet her and express my joy when I learnt that she had been conferred the Padma Vibhushan. I said to her, “Now that you have been conferred the Padma Vibhushan, I guess the next award will be the Bharat Ratna”. She smiled at that and said, “Even if that were conferred on me, I would possibly still be under qualified in my family ... you see my two uncles were Nobel Prize winners”. Yes, her uncles Dr. C. V. Raman and Dr. Chandrasekar were eminent scientists who won Nobel prize for physics.

I recall, Dr Shanta’s one fervent wish to produce at least one Noble Prize winner by the Research division of Cancer Institute. **Collectively it is our duty to make this dream come true.**

In a world that is fast becoming transactional and market oriented, it is a great blessing to serve an institution such as Cancer Institute.

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Program Link

**(Cont.)**

## CANCER INSTITUTE (WIA)

### A tribute to a legend and the institution she served (Cont.)

Its motto of “service to all” striving to offer ethical medical services, continues to inspire and motivate every one of its employees, volunteers, and various council members who work tirelessly for this great institution.

Such are the times we live in that we need to constantly run to stay in the same place. However, every one of us, who are part of Cancer Institute do not propose to stay in the same place. We shall actively progress and render our institution a beacon of hope to those who knock at our doors.

I consider this as a noble opportunity to serve and to lead an institution which has been built on the untiring and selfless efforts of stalwarts such as Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Dr. S. Krishnamurthi and Dr. V. Shanta. Their lives are testimonies to peerless sacrifice, dedication and commitment that humans can achieve and must be presented as text book material for young students especially doctors to study and emulate.

I am sure all of you will join me in our efforts to make Cancer Institute an incomparable institution in the area of cancer prevention and care and foremost in the country.



By N. L. Rajah,  
Senior Advocate,  
Chairman, Cancer Institute

### Dr. V. Shanta's 4th Memorial Oration - Honoring the Legend

The Cancer Institute (WIA) hosted a Memorial Oration in honour of Dr. V. Shanta on March 15, 2025, in Chennai, celebrating her pioneering contributions to cancer care. The event featured heartfelt tributes from colleagues, including Dr. M. K. Srinivasan, N.L. Rajah, Dr. Hemanth Raj, Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, and Dr. Arvind Krishnamoorthy, highlighting her clinical excellence and unwavering commitment to patients.

Long service awards and academic honors were presented, and the day also marked the joint inauguration of the Institute's new academic wing—realizing Dr. Shanta's vision for advancing cancer education. The ceremony brought together medical professionals, donors, caregivers, and well-wishers to honour a legacy rooted in compassion, service, and dedication to the underprivileged.



Dr. M.K. Srinivasan (Former Dir, Public Health Care Centre),  
Dr. Hemanth Raj (Exec. Vice Chairman), N.L. Rajah (Chairman, Sr. Advocate)



APRIL 2025

## Exciting Update: New Academic Block Inaugurated

We are thrilled to announce the completion of our academic block, spanning approximately 9,200 sq. ft., located on the 4th floor of our Diagnostic Complex, also known as the Bhagavan Adinath Jain Complex. This new space is designed to enhance the learning environment and provide essential facilities for both students and faculty.

The newly constructed academic block features:

- A Classroom with seating for 30 students
- An E-Classroom for 60 students
- An Exam Hall with seating for 120 students
- Dean's Office
- Academic Officer's Office
- A Discussion Room
- A Pantry (for use during examinations)
- Statistician Room
- Record Room
- Clinical Trial Services Unit (CTSU) department
- Male and Female Restrooms



This milestone project was made possible through the generous donations of Rs. 3 crores from The Sanmar Group and Rs. 2.60 crores from Super Auto Forge.

The academic block was officially inaugurated on 15th March 2025 by distinguished guests:

Mr. Prashanth Vasu, Managing Director, Coordination & Review - The Sanmar Group, and

Mr. Seetharaman, Executive Chairman, Super Auto Forge.

*We look forward to the positive impact this new space will have on our academic and research activities!*

## CT simulator Inauguration

We are excited to announce the inauguration of a state-of-the-art 4D CT Guided Simulator (SOMATOM go.Sim) at Cancer Institute (WIA), a significant advancement in radiation oncology. This initiative was made possible through the generous support of Mobis India Foundation, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment to promoting healthcare. The inauguration ceremony, held on 17th March, was graced by Mr. Prem Sai, General Manager of Mobis India Limited, who officially unveiled the new CT Simulator.



This cutting-edge technology represents a major leap forward in cancer treatment. The CT Guided Simulator offers real-time 4D imaging, which greatly enhances the accuracy of treatment planning. By capturing detailed patient-specific anatomical and motion data, it ensures precision in radiation therapy, minimizing damage to healthy tissues while targeting cancer cells. This breakthrough technology will directly benefit 15-20 cancer patients each day, improving clinical outcomes and the overall quality of care.



The partnership between Mobis India Foundation and Cancer Institute (WIA) highlights a shared dedication to strengthening cancer treatment infrastructure across India. As part of their CSR initiative, Mobis India Foundation has provided a generous one-time financial assistance of INR 5.95 Crore for the procurement and installation of the CT Guided Simulator.

This partnership marks a crucial step toward advancing cancer care and bringing cutting-edge treatment to more patients in need.

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## Contributions of Information Technology Team

IT department at the Cancer Institute plays a pivotal role in ensuring the smooth functioning of technology and digital systems that are integral to daily operations, patient care, and employee support.



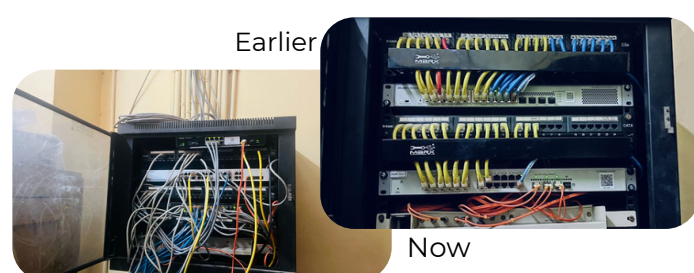
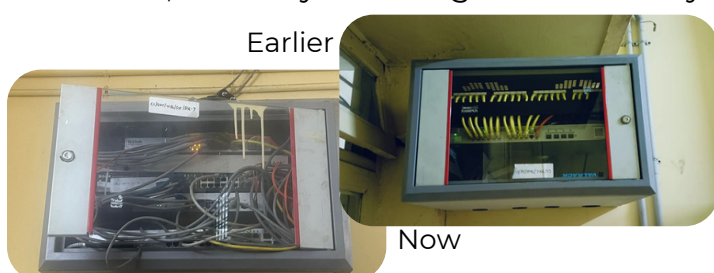
**Networking and Infrastructure:** IT department is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the network infrastructure via seamless connectivity for staff, patients, and the systems in place across various locations. This includes overseeing Wi-Fi Access Points, networking switches, Printers, Terminals, Biometric machines and CCTV setup. Streamlining the Network access points & creating a new IT infrastructure in the academic wing which is on par with the current technical nuances in a short time.

**System and Software Maintenance:** Regular upgrades and maintenance of the computer systems, printers, and software licenses are handled by the IT team. They ensure that all systems are up-to-date and functioning efficiently, avoiding system downtimes and inefficiencies. IT team has optimized the usage of various license agreements.

**Patient Care and Third-Party Application Support:** IT department plays a major role in the identification & implementation of **New Hospital Information System (HIS)**. IT Plays a vital role in technology enablement of Electronic Medical Records (EMR), Work-Flow of OPD & other patient related process including tools for Patient Screening in preventive oncology. IT played a major role in trouble shooting & maintaining the old HR Leave management system. Seamless integration of **MyNavigator** (new HRMS) has been enabled by the IT team.

**L1 (End-User) Assistance & Technical Support in Website updates:** Frontline IT support is provided to employees to address any issues related to hardware, software, or network access. IT team supports in creating dedicated event website and information updates in institute's website. IT team provides timely solution and support for various technical requirements on application, technology upgrade, connectivity & live content streaming.

**In-House Team of Engineers:** Team consists of software, hardware, and network engineers who work together on development, system enhancements, network & safety architecture, troubleshooting & application development. Team has created user-friendly applications in a short time, and they are being maintained by the in-house team.



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## 1. World Cancer Day 2025 – United by Unique: Voices of Hope and Hands of Change

On World Cancer Day 2025, Cancer Institute (WIA), in collaboration with the HCL Foundation, organized a series of impactful events under the theme "United by Unique: Voices of Hope and Hands of Change," highlighting solidarity, education, and a holistic approach to cancer care.

**Human Chain: Hands of Change:** Held at the Dr. S. K. Campus Entrance from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., symbolizing collective action in the fight against cancer, bringing together staff, students, survivors, and volunteers.

**Exhibition Stalls: United by Unique – A Holistic Journey to Wellness** were set up showcasing integrative aspects of cancer care such as mental well-being, physical health, nutrition, hereditary cancer, prevention, and personal hygiene by various departments.

**Symposium: United for Cancer Prevention and Psychosocial Challenges** underscored the importance of comprehensive cancer care, focusing on prevention strategies and the psychosocial needs of patients and caregivers.

Source: Dr. Surendran



## 2. SCOPE'25: Surgical Oncology Clinical Orientation Program for Exam going post graduate students (Dept. of Surgical Oncology)

The Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai organized the Surgical Oncology Clinical Orientation Program for Exam going post graduate students (SCOPE 2025) on January 4th and 5th, 2025. Cancer Institute conducted this event in collaboration with IASO (Indian Association of Surgical Oncology), TASO (Tamil Nadu Association of Surgical Oncology) and ISO (Indian Society of Oncology).



This two-day academic fiesta attracted more than 170 surgical oncology residents preparing for Exam from all over the country and provided residents with a wonderful opportunity to present oncology cases in front of some of the most distinguished senior faculty members and seasoned examiners from all over the country. The event started with a qualifying round consisting of multiple-choice questions from which top 8 residents were selected to present cases covering all major aspects of a Surgical Oncology exam ranging from oral cavity cancers, breast cancers, gastro-intestinal and even the malignancies of the musculoskeletal system. Students also participated in an open OSCE session and a team-based Quiz competition which comprised of stimulating questions leading to an in-depth discussion of a wide range of topics.

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For the first time in 19-year old history of the event, an IASO medal was awarded to the resident presenting the best individual case, judged by the faculty. Cash awards were also given to the Best presenter and for the teams winning the quiz. The Cancer Institute and the IASO have pledged to make this a permanent feature of all the upcoming SCOPE events. Overall the SCOPE 2025, like its previous editions was a runaway success bringing residents and faculty together under one roof.

### 3. ONCO-POCUS: Cancer Institute (WIA) & Gleneagles Hospital collaboratively conducted an One-Day Workshop on Application of POCUS in Onco-Anaesthesia (Dept. of Anesthesia)

The Department of Anesthesia from our institute, in collaboration with Gleneagles hospitals, Chennai conducted a day long workshop entitled “Application of POCUS in Oncoanaesthesia” on the use of Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in the practice of Onco-anaesthesia on March 9, 2025, at Gleneagles Hospital campus, Perumbakkam. The workshop had experienced faculty from different hospitals from MGM, Kauvery hospitals in Chennai, CMC Vellore apart from faculty from Cancer Institute and Gleneagles hospitals.

The day long’s course had live demonstrations of Airway, Cardiac, Lung, Abdomen, ophthalmic POCUS along with ultrasound scanning of central venous access, difficult peripheral vascular access and screening for deep vein thrombosis.

The delegates were given hands-on practice with all the mentioned techniques along with a short academic lecture earlier in the day. The delegates included postgraduate MD Anesthesia residents as well as practicing anesthesiology consultants. The workshop was also awarded MGR university and Tamil Nadu Medical Council credit points. The course was well received and was given an excellent feedback by the delegates.



Consultant Anaesthetists: (L TO R) Dr. Rajasiddharth (MGM Hospital); Dr.Velmurugan (Kauvery Hospital); Dr.Madhurima (Gleneagles Hospital); Dr.Punitha (Cancer Institute (WIA)) and Dr.Sathish (CMC Vellore)

### 4. Workshop on Communication: Building Trust Under Pressure (Dep. of Anesthesia, Pain and Palliative Care)

The Department of Anaesthesia, Pain and Palliative Care organized a half-day workshop titled “Building Trust under Pressure – Communication Essentials for Anaesthesiologists” on February 15th, 2025. The organizing team included Dr. Meenakshi.V.V, Dr. Thendral Ramasamy, Mrs. Vinutha, Dr. Prasanna Vani and Dr. Kausalya.

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The workshop, aimed at onco-anaesthetists, provided valuable insights into the fundamentals of effective communication. Participants discussed the key principles of successful doctor-patient interactions and interdepartmental communication. Through role plays demonstrating examples of both participants, underscored the critical importance of developing strong communication skills particularly in high-pressure situations. The workshop was met with enthusiastic participation and emerged as a resounding success.

Extending similar workshops to faculty and postgraduate students across other departments holds immense potential to reinforce better communication practices, ultimately enhancing patient care and collaboration.



**5. Five-week workshop on Advanced Multi-Omics Techniques in Molecular Oncology, supported by ICMR-HRD**  
*(Dept. of Molecular Oncology)*



The Department of Molecular Oncology hosted a 5-weeks workshop on “Advanced Multi-Omics Techniques in Molecular Oncology”, supported by ICMR-HRD. The workshop attracted applications from students across prestigious institutions. Out of 60 applicants only 30 applicants were selected after a thorough screening process. The training covered a broad range of research areas, including genomics, proteomics, preclinical pharmacology, cell biology, immuno-oncology, research methodology, and basics of bioinformatics. Participants received hands-on training, and several subject experts from pharma and top academic institutions, delivered lectures. The feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive.

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## 6. Handing Over Ceremony of Digital Mammogram at Tiruvannamalai Cancer Education and Screening Project (Dept. of Preventive Oncology)

The handing-over ceremony of a digital mammogram by the Rotary Club of Madras to the Tiruvannamalai Cancer Education and Screening Center, Cancer Institute (WIA), was held on 10 March 2025, in Tiruvannamalai. The facility will benefit an estimate of 2,45,000 eligible women in the district. The Chief Guest, Shri Ganesan S., EVP-Special Projects at SBI Mutual Funds, inaugurated the mammography unit. This is the second digital mammogram unit sponsored by SBI Mutual Funds and donated through the Rotary Club of Madras.

The first unit was installed in Sivagangai district at the Devakottai Vallal Mena Cancer Screening Center. Dr. Malliga J. Subramanian, Head of Preventive Oncology at the Cancer Institute (WIA), was the guest of honor. The event witnessed high participation from members of the Rotary Club of Madras, including President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn. Krishnamoorthy Vijayan, Rtn. Ganesh Anandhakrishnan, and Rtn. Bobby Krishna, as well as the staff of the screening program at the Cancer Institute (WIA).



## 7. World Lymphedema Day March 6th (Dept. of Physiotherapy)



Lymphedema is a frequent and sometimes difficult complication of cancer treatment. Lymphedema is swelling due to the accumulation of lymph fluid. It can result after surgery, radiation, or other types of cancer treatments. It may occur in the legs as well. In breast cancer, melanoma, and gynecologic region cancers, lymphedema significantly affects activities of daily living, emotional quality of life, and overall quality of life in some patients. Luckily, the function of physiotherapy also has a place in the treatment of cancer-related lymphedema (CRL) with effective interventions and enabling the patients to regain their independence and self-esteem. Early intervention and ongoing management are essential in preventing the progression of lymphedema and preserving patients, quality of life. Ongoing follow-up and reassessment allow for monitoring of progress and modification of treatment plans, as necessary. Physiotherapy care can greatly enhance the quality of life of cancer patients with lymphedema. Through a blend of interventions such as manual drainage, compression, exercise, and skin care, patients are empowered by physiotherapists with the self-management tool of the condition, symptom reduction, and regaining independence. Cancer survivors with lymphedema have through physiotherapy an avenue of enhanced physical well-being, emotional resilience, and enhanced overall quality of life.

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## 8. The Raman System (Renishaw inVia Raman Confocal microscope)

Single laser system was purchased through the ICMR Intermediate project 2023. The project is a collaborative venture between **CIWIA** & **CSIR-NIIST**, Trivandrum.

(from The Dept. of Cancer Biology & Molecular Diagnostics)



**Dr. Raman Spec Opening Ceremony**

The Renishaw inVia Raman Confocal microscope comprises a research-grade microscope coupled to a high-performance Raman spectrometer. It is simple to operate yet delivers outstanding performance—high signal throughput, combined with high spectral resolution and stability—giving reliable results, for even the most challenging measurements like biological samples.

The inVia microscope's highly efficient optical design produces the best Raman data, even from minute traces of biological material. Raman spectroscopy can be used to measure the chemical composition of a sample, which can in turn be used to extract **biological information**. A molecular level study of cellular and biological processes are essential for understanding the mechanism and detection of diseases together with its therapeutic outcomes. A large number of studies employing Raman scattering, together with an accurate database for each characteristic peak frequencies to analyze non-cancerous or cancerous tissues, classification of normal, malignant and benign samples for different cancers like breast, cervical and oral using various multivariate analysis has been developed.



**Dr. Raman Spec Opening Ceremony, Continued...**

However, a major issue of Raman scattering is its inherently weak signal which led to a handful of improvisations over typical Raman spectroscopy out of which Surface Enhanced Raman Scattering (SERS) received huge acceptance allowing the ultrasensitive detection of analytes with low concentration through the amplified signals using gold nanoparticles. The potential of ultrasensitive SERS analysis in single living cells has been demonstrated using colloidal gold nano particles (AuNPs) deposited inside cells which resulted in strong enhancement of Raman signals of biomolecules opening up exciting opportunities for biomedical studies.

In the current project, we are **exploring for the first time, a label free SERS** based spectroscopic approach in cervical exfoliated cells for generating a sensitive differential spectral fingerprint for straight forward detection of squamous cell carcinoma and its precursor lesions during the progression of cervical cancer. The analysis is being performed for distinguishing three groups i.e. **NRML, HSIL/LSIL (pre-cancer) and CSCC**. This spectral fingerprint will follow the AI-based classification to identify cervical intra-epithelial lesions or malignancies.

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## 9. Madurai: Observing National No Smoking Day: Promoting Awareness through Action (Dept. of Psycho-Oncology, 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> event)

In observance of National No Smoking Day, the Department of Psycho-oncology organized a month-long awareness campaign across schools and communities. Activities included cycle rallies, awareness rallies, dental check-ups, IEC material distribution, and health education sessions focused on the dangers of tobacco and second-hand smoke. Students were educated on the health risks of tobacco, the impact of secondhand smoke, and strategies to resist peer pressure, promoting a tobacco-free school environment.

As part of the outreach, a mass awareness campaign at HCL Tech engaged employees through creative activities such as

- Fit Check Pakkalama? (lung health game)
- Health Pyramid (organ function awareness)
- Think Out of the Box (problem-solving challenge)
- Face Painting and Clay Model Making
- Selfie Frame for photo-based pledges

These interactive sessions effectively raised awareness, encouraged healthy lifestyles, and reinforced the importance of living smoke-free.



## 10. Strengthening Tobacco Control: Enhancing Enforcement for Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions in Tamil Nadu



The Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai, in collaboration with the State Tobacco Control Cell, Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, organized a Consultation Meeting on March 11, 2025, to strengthen tobacco control and enforcement in Tamil Nadu's educational institutions. Inaugurated by Dr. K. Krishnaraj, with a special address by Dr. R. Swaminathan, the meeting highlighted the rising burden of tobacco-related cancers and the need for stricter COTPA implementation. Subject matter experts, including

Dr. Aravind Krishnamurthy, Dr. T. Pravin, and Mr. Cyril Alexander, discussed enforcement strategies, legal frameworks, and successful models. Emphasizing intersectoral coordination and community involvement, the meeting concluded with a state-level action plan. Sixty-five enforcement officials participated, reaffirming commitment to a tobacco-free environment for students.

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## 11. Empowering NSS Leaders: Establishing YACC Clubs for Cancer Prevention and Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions



The Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, Chennai, in collaboration with the NSS, University of Madras, organized a sensitization program on 14th March 2025 titled “Empowering NSS Leaders: Establishing YACC Clubs for Cancer Prevention and Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions”. The event aimed to empower student leaders to promote cancer awareness and tobacco control. Key speakers included Dr. Vaneeta Aggarwal, NSS Coordinator University of Madras, Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, and Dr. K. Krishnaraj.

Sessions focused on cancer prevention, the harms of tobacco, and the formation of Youth Ambassadors for Cancer Control (YACC) Clubs. The initiative encourages student-led advocacy for healthy, tobacco-free campuses. The program concluded with lunch and certificate distribution, marking the start of a youth-led movement for public health in Tamil Nadu.



## 12. Exploring Horizons in Psycho-oncology: Symposium and Panel Discussion at Women Christian College (WCC)

On March 4th, 2025, the Department of Psychology, Women’s Christian College (WCC), Chennai, in collaboration with the Department of Psycho-oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai, organized a symposium titled “Exploring Horizons in Psycho-oncology: Insights through Symposium and Panel Discussion” at the Bertha Corfield Auditorium, WCC. The event began with an inaugural session featuring a Presidential Address by Dr. Lilian I Jasper, Principal of WCC, and an Inaugural Address by Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Professor and Head, Department of Surgical Oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA), who spoke on the theme “Multimodal Cancer Care: An Oncologist’s Perspective on Integrating Psycho-Oncology.” The academic sessions included insightful presentations by Dr. V. Surendran on the psycho-social impact of cancer, Mrs. S. Revathy on distress

screening and management, and Mrs. R. Divya on survivorship and quality of life. The symposium concluded with a panel discussion on “Why Psycho-oncology? A Career Perspective for Psychology Students,” moderated by Dr. C. Sundaramoorthy, Assistant Professor, Department of Psycho-oncology and RCTC. The panel featured multidisciplinary perspectives from Dr. L. Manikandan (Assistant Professor, Surgical Oncology), Dr. V. Priyadarshini Venkataraman (Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology), Mrs. G. Vidhya (Psycho-oncologist), Dr. D. Sathish Kumar (Senior Medical Social Worker), Mrs. S. Deepika (Psychologist), and Mr. M. Jaganath Rajiv, a cancer survivor from Coimbatore. The event successfully engaged psychology students in discussions on the growing field of psycho-oncology and its role in comprehensive cancer care. The program concluded with a vote of thanks and certificate distribution.



### ★ UPCOMING EVENTS & Events covered in the next issue ★

**‘SOAPCCON 2025’** hosted by Cancer Institute (WIA) on **August 22 to 24** at Chennai **National Oncoanaesthesia Conference**

*Top experts, innovators, young achievers and leaders in Oncoanaesthesia coming together for a spectacular event. Join us for cutting-edge insights, ground-breaking discussions, and networking opportunities that could shape the future Anaesthesia and cancer care. Mark your calendars for this essential event in the world of Anaesthesia!*

#### Events covered in the next issue...

**4<sup>th</sup> Memorial Oration | Dr V Shanta’s Stature Inauguration | Sports Day**

APRIL 2025

### 13. Pediatric Cancer Registry and Data Meeting 2025: Uniting Experts to Build a Stronger Data system for Pediatric cancer (Department of Medical Oncology)

The Pediatric Cancer Registry and Data Meeting, held on January 31 and February 1, 2025, at Ramada Plaza, Chennai, marked a significant step toward strengthening India's pediatric cancer surveillance. Hosted by the Cancer Institute (WIA) in collaboration with INPHOG, the event convened over 40 leading experts, including epidemiologists, oncologists, researchers, and policymakers from IARC, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, ICMR-NCDIR, AIIMS, Tata Memorial Centre and other leading cancer treating centers across India. 150 delegates attended the meeting. The two-day meeting featured insightful sessions on cancer registration, data quality, epidemiology, and health system gaps. Highlights included presentations on gender disparities in pediatric cancer, the economics of registry implementation, and barriers to population-based data collection. International speakers shared global experiences, while Indian experts presented regional registry data and survival trends, including a compelling analysis of pediatric cancer incidence in India.

A key highlight was the release of the Chennai Population-Based Childhood Cancer Registry report - 2022 and Hospital-Based Childhood Cancer Registry report, alongside the inauguration of both the Tamil Nadu Population-Based and INPHOG Hospital-Based Registries, by Thiru Ma. Subramanian, Hon'ble Health Minister of Tamil Nadu, and TMT. Supriya Sahu, IAS. Panel discussions, debates, and open forums fostered collaborative dialogue, concluding a strong consensus on the need for legislation to support cancer registration and a continued commitment to building a reliable, national pediatric cancer data infrastructure and unified data strategies to improve outcomes for children with cancer across India.



Education provided by teachers has been the major pillars of human civilisation, development and progress. What initially started as a strategic transmission of wisdom, knowledge and skill through verbal means by elders of a clan/tribe has now evolved into a formal education system. The Indian Gurukul learning system was a residential learning programme where the guru imparted moral, social, spiritual and scientific knowledge to his pupil in an individually tailored fashion.

Even in today's environment where edutech companies have created various multimedia platforms for education, nothing can replace the interactive and physical transmission of knowledge and skill by a teacher to a group of students in a formal school/college environment.

Being a teacher is more than a vocation. In fact, it is one of the highest calling. A good teacher who possesses immense power through the knowledge and skills that he/she has acquired, willingly and sacrificially transfers everything he/she knows to the students in spite of knowing that his/her students will be better than him/her in the future.

The teaching process is a transactional process where the teacher spends tens of hours to prepare for a one-hour lecture. During this journey of learning, a teacher not only is inspired to continue to learn and update his/her knowledge but also learns from his/her students through discussions and debates.

Good students always have the opportunity to become better than their teachers because they have knowledge and skills input from multiple teachers with multiple competencies and skills.

As a good teacher, I believe in the above tenets of education and strongly believe that only through formal teaching can a 360 degree development of a student be ensured.

I believe that a strong, trustful and respectful relationship between a teacher and a student can ensure exponential future development and growth of human civilisation.

-By Dr. Shirley  
Dean-Academics



## PREVENTIVE PEARLS

How to prevent a cancer if we don't know when it comes? What to do if there are no effective screening methods? What if that cancer is aggressive type with high propensity for metastasis? Yes, Of course I am talking about CANCER OESOPHAGUS. Looking scary??

But don't worry even then due to advancements in medical sciences it can be dealt swiftly.

Two prominent cancers of oesophagus are Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) and Adenocarcinoma (ADC) which constitutes about 90 % of cancer of oesophagus. Foremost cause of SCC is smoking and tobacco chewing. Other causes attributed are Iron deficiency anaemia, poor dental and oral hygiene, and immunosuppression. Chronic Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and H.pylori infection contributes to ADC of oesophagus.

As the proverb says "PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE" there are few ways in which this disease can be prevented. Abstinence from smoking and tobacco chewing can reduce the risk up to 2-5 fold. Having healthy foods (Iron and protein) and maintaining good oral hygiene helps in prevention. In case of reflux gastritis immediate consultation with specialist and endoscopic visualisation of entire oesophagus can help in identifying early lesion or premalignant lesions (BARRETS OESOPHAGUS). Skipping the chronic symptoms of GERD by just taking PPI's or antacids can be detrimental.

ASGE (American Society of Gastro-endoscopy) guidelines suggest screening and surveillance for Barret's oesophagus in high risk patients (Age >50, male, smoker, chronic GERD >5 yrs, central obesity and first degree relative with Barret's). Yearly endoscopy for proven high grade dysplasia and endoscopy once in 3-5 yrs for rest of the group can reduce morbidity and mortality of this dreadful disease.

We have to be more vigilant on disease like cancer oesophagus which becomes symptomatic (dysphagia) at the later stage when the treatment modalities are limited and successful results of treatment are bleak.

-By Dr Manikandan Venkatasubramanian  
Associate Professor – Surgical Oncology

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## Radio Diagnosis & Imaging (Highlights)



**Tamil Muthalvan K**, B.Sc. Intern bagged 2nd prize in Oral presentation and Monika M, III year student was awarded 2nd prize in Quiz competition National conference RITE 2025 held on March 16, 2025.



**Mr. Asfaq Ahmed S** awarded certificate of merit the best outgoing student in the branch of B.Sc. Nuclear Medicine Technology for the year 2024



**Ms. G Rithiga** awarded certificate of merit the best outgoing student in the branch of B.Sc. Radiology and Imaging Technology for the year 2024.

*Correspondent Mr. Vikram Babu*

## Ph.D AWARDEES



**Dr. Y Swapna** has completed her Ph.D thesis and has been awarded Doctorate in Philosophy in Pathology (Faculty of Medicine) for her work on “Analysis of factors associated with blood donation and to predict influencing determinants of intent to repeat blood donation”. She successfully defended her thesis /PhD Viva -Voce on January 23, 2025. Chettinad Academy of Research and Education has accepted and acknowledged the same.

**Dr. Deepa R** has completed her Ph.D thesis and has been awarded Doctorate in Philosophy in Oncology for her work on “Role of 5-Hydroxymethylcystosine and 5-methylcystosine in Breast Cancer” Analysis, supervised by Dr. Samson Mani, a former Professor in the Department of Molecular Oncology. She successfully defended her thesis /PhD Viva-Voce on February 13, 2025. The University of Madras has accepted and acknowledged the same.



*Correspondent Dr. Swapna*

**APRIL 2025**

**Anaesthesia ( Highlights)**



**Anne Christina** received gold medal for BSc Anesthesia technology course this year **(Right)**



**Dr Raksha R,** M.Ch, Surgical Oncology was awarded a gold medal for standing first in her batch.

Correspondent Dr. Nivedhyaa

**LONG TENURE AWARDEES**

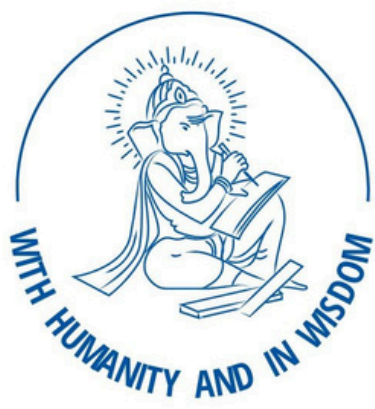
- Rajagopal R - Tumour Registry - Assistant
- Velankanni - Nursing - ANM
- Veeramani K - Tumour Registry - Social Investigator
- Maheswari V - Out Patient - Assistant
- Vidhya J - Tumour Registry - Social Investigator
- Dhamodaran C - Clinical Bio-Chemistry - Scientific Assistant
- Venkatesh R - Tumour Registry - Assistant
- Ravichandran M - Library - Librarian
- Sampath P - Tumour Registry - Assistant Professor
- Sathish M S - Surgical Oncology- Chief Physiotherapist
- Kanchan Murhekar - Onco-Pathology - Professor
- Kalaivani B - Onco-Pathology - Technician
- Ponni N - Radio Therapy- - Technician Grade II
- Rajambika T - Blood Bank - Technician
- Kalpana P - Nursing - ANM
- Ramesh N - Tumour Registry - Social Investigator
- Vettriselvi S - Onco-Pathology - Technician
- Mohanavalli R - Nursing - Staff Nurse
- Mohana G - Tumour Registry - Assistant
- Banumathi R - Radio-Diagnosis & Imaging
- Padmavathy V - Out Patient - Assistant
- Muralidharan P - Out Patient - Assistant
- Suja Rajesh - Nursing - Staff Nurse
- Rangarajan G K - Nuclear Medicine - Scientific Assistant

Source: Finance Team

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- B.Sc. Operation Theatre & Anaesthesia  
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Source: Dean Office



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