



GMC Global Eye



Official Newsletter of
Gandhi Medical College
Global Alliance

September-December 2018

Editorial

Mr. Gunaranjan

Founding President, United Care Development Services

United Care Development Services (UC) www.yousee.in has been engaged with its volunteer service initiatives at Gandhi Hospital since 2012. The scope and scale of work at Gandhi Hospital has grown over the years, working collaboratively with Volunteers, Hospital Administration and several partner NPOs like Seva Bharathi, Meenakshi Venkataraman Foundation (MVF), Gandhi Medical College Global Alliance (GMCGA) and Gandhi Medical College Alumni Association (GMCAA). The work has also been supported by individual donors and institutional donors that include United Way of Hyderabad and in a very significant manner in the past three years, by the Tata Trusts.

A few significant areas of service that UC is currently engaged in are providing through donor support nearly 25 Nurses for enhancing services at the Medical ICU of Gandhi Hospital, the busiest ICU at Gandhi Hospital, in partnership with Seva Bharathi, providing nearly 20 staff to man help desks at the Out-Patient Block, Emergency Block and the Labor Room Complex of Gandhi Hospital, and assisting MVF in its newborn hearing screening and intervention program. To enhance the quality of care for the patients, UC recently commenced a Nursing Assistant Skills program in the Emergency Block, wherein about 40-50 patient attendants at the Emergency Block are trained daily in some basic Nursing Assistant Skills at the small skills lab created in the Emergency Block of Gandhi Hospital.

The experience and learning gained at Gandhi Hospital has helped UC to sharpen and expand its healthcare services and open-source healthcare IT solutions, to nearly 35 Government Hospitals across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, and also to other the free healthcare providing institutions like the initiatives run by the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations. Most importantly, the newer experience at these institutions is also helping UC to integrate and reorient its initiatives at Gandhi Hospital. The journey of this volunteer initiative continues with the active collaboration and support of several individuals and organizations.

President's Message

Alok Agrawal (GMC'81)

Dear Friends,

We continue to strengthen GMCGA, while maintaining the old initiatives and planning new projects at our alma mater. I am happy to share a resolution passed unanimously by the members of Board and Trustees recently. It states that "GMCGA is a service-oriented organization formed to serve our alma mater while fostering kinship among GMC alumni. We will strive to keep the overhead expenses to less than 5% annually and will ensure that they do not exceed 10% in any given year. If for unforeseen reasons, the overhead expenses exceed 5% during a year, measures will be taken to cut down the expenses in next two years, so that the average annual overhead expense stays below 5% percent. The organization will not reimburse personal expenses incurred by any member. Furthermore, funds collected for a specific project from donors, and designated for a specific project will not be used for any other purpose, unless requested by donors. Changes will have to be approved by at least 80% of the members of Board and the Trustees."

An excellent collaborative model has evolved on the ground. In this edition, we bring you articles from our Non-Profit partners in Hyderabad who work hard to make a difference in Gandhi Hospital.

I seek your help in reaching out to all GMC graduates globally and informing them of our activities. These activities are listed on the website <http://www.gandhimedicalglobalalumni.org/>

Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season and a wonderful 2019.

Alok Agrawal

Projects

Srini Vasan Sundarum (GMC'81)

Seva Bharati: A wonderful partnership with GMCGA:

The main goal of Seva Bharati is to eradicate poverty through education and skill development.

We find GandhiMedical CollegeGlobal Alliance (GMCGA) to be an excellent partner and help organize CPR program, manage Clean Drinking Water Plant, provide meals to 240 attendants every day and are involved in almost all their activities and programs. We provide **shelter** at a nominal fee of Rs. 10/ per day for about 150-200 indigent patient attendants with purified drinking water, lockers, toilets, bathrooms and sleeping mats. Serving as a model, construction of shelter homes has started in other Government hospitals.

At the request of hospital administration, **HelpDesks** in Outpatient block, Radiology, Gynecology and Labor rooms were started. Our Volunteers guide about 3000 patients and their family members every day in these departments. Volunteers are provided in the Emergency Room round the clock for transporting patients. Our volunteers go around the hospital wards in the afternoon **counselling** patients and their attendants.

With the help of another Non-Profit Organization, we have recruited and placed about 60 Nurses in different locations of the hospital. We enjoy a very fruitful collaboration with GMCGA and hope to do many more projects with them in future.

On October 2, 2018, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, **Swach Bharat Program** was carried out at Gandhi hospital by Seva Bharati in collaboration with State Bank of India. 1895 persons participated in the event at Gandhi hospital.

- S.N. Murthy



Swach Bharat Program – Gandhi Hospital

Projects

Srini Vasan Sundarum (GMC'81)

Ear To Hear Program: Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation

Congenital hearing loss is recognized as one of the most common birth disorders. In many developed countries universal hearing screening is mandatory at the time of birth. This is not norm yet in India and hearing impairment goes undiagnosed till the child is in late infancy. By then, it is too late for the subsequent interventions to be fully effective. This leads to speech loss, impaired communication & cognitive skills, possible mental illness, social exclusion and unemployment. It is estimated that 100,000 children are born in India amounting to 20% of world with disabled hearing loss. The scale of problem is immense and need for action cannot be overstated, to minimise both for the individual and the nation.

Meenakshi Venkatraman Foundation (MVF) was established as a registered charitable public trust in 2013 by GV Krishnan (husband of Dr. Bhuvaneshwari Krishnan, GMCGA life member) and GV Sethuraman (born in Gandhi in 1950) in memory of their late mother Meenakshi Venkatraman who lost her hearing after delivery in Gandhi. The foundation was established to do advocacy and provide free access to **Hearing Screening, Diagnosis, Intervention and Rehabilitation of Hearing Impaired children** with resource support as may be needed for cognitive development of children in India, starting with the first phase of providing these services in Gandhi Hospital, Secunderabad. MVF commenced newborn hearing screening (NBHS) in NICU, Paediatrics Gandhi in October 2013 and scaled to Diagnostic and Intervention facilities in 2015. To date 27,000 babies have been screened in Gandhi (6,000 in NICU and 21,000 babies in post-natal) Hospital. MVF also does diagnosis (ABR test), intervention (providing free hearing aids) and therapy/special education at Gandhi Hospital.

MVF with support of GMCAA conducted a National Seminar PRANAV to create awareness about Universal Newborn Hearing Screening to Doctors, Audiologists, Speech Pathologists and Special Educators of State of Telangana. MVF will shortly upgrade Diagnostic, Intervention and Therapy facilities at Gandhi with the support of GMCGA.

- *GV Sethuraman Managing Trustee*



Obituary



Dr. K.P. Sarma

Our classmate and beloved friend Dr.Koppolu Sarma (K.P) passed away on the 2nd of October 2018. He joined GMC in 1963 and graduated in 1969-70. He came to the U.S in 1972 and after training as a Radiation Oncologist he settled in Crown Point, Indiana where he practiced for over four decades.

He was devoted to his family and the community to which he made valuable contribution through philanthropic activities. In 2003 he joined a small group of GMC alumni to plan the Golden Jubilee celebration of the founding of our Medical College. For fifteen years thereafter, he actively supported the alumni associations (GMC GLOBAL & GMCAA) in various capacities - treasurer (2006-2009). Member of the E.C (2006- 2012) & Chairman of the Board of Trustees (2016-18). No matter how busy he was, he rarely missed the monthly teleconferences, regional or annual alumni meetings. He was instrumental in publication of the souvenirs to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee celebration and inauguration of ITC at AEC.

Soft spoken and humble, he offered thoughtful analysis of issues at hand. He was a clear thinker with deep convictions. For GMCGA he was the heart & soul. He made significant financial contribution to GMCGA (over \$50,000.00). He was also active in local cultural and professional organizations.

- *RD Kumar (GMC '63)*
- *Sudhakar Rao (GMC '64)*

A Plea

Dear GMC alumnus, as 2018 comes to a close, let's introspect on some of our unfinished tasks for this year. It would be remiss to let this year go by without giving back to our beloved alma mater GMC/GH, which undeniably was the most significant experience that charted our life's journey. Where we have arrived today and how we continue to impact the community around us, can be traced back to the very first day we set foot on the GMC campus. I request you to read the various accomplishments and ongoing efforts of GMCGA outlined in this newsletter. Our organization is particularly mindful about keeping our overheads to as minimum as possible to ensure maximum impact to our recipients. Your unflinching support and generosity will be instrumental in sustaining these programs. For instance, the Bhojanamrita program is aiming to attain a Corpus fund amount of \$300K, so that it can be self-sustaining for future years from the proceeds of the interest earned in a conservative investment fund.

I thank you for your continued involvement in GMCGA and trust placed in us in ensuring that your charitable contributions reach the targeted volunteer organizations that strive each and every day to make GMC and GH a better place for future generations. Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

- *Srini Vasan Sundarum (GMC'81)*

Activities

Aruna Vallabhaneni (GMC'81)

OGKTMA & GMCGA Annual Meeting, 2018

The Osmania Gandhi Kakatiya & Telangana Medical Alumni Association (OGKTMA) in conjunction with Gandhi Medical College Global Alliance (GMCGA) held their 33rd annual meeting in San Francisco on September 14th and 15th of 2018.

We had a great turnout this year with attending alumni members ranging from 1965 batch all the way to 2000 batch. A special shout out to the GMC alumni who showed up in large numbers. The support exhibited by them is much appreciated.

The social gathering night was followed by a day full of activities that included CME presentations from eminent speakers, one of whom - Dr.Prabhakar Sharma (GMC alumnus) presented 'Cardio-renal crosstalk – Implications in Health and Disease'.

Kudos to the CME course director, Dr.Sudhakar D. Rao (GMC alumnus) for organizing a very well put together set of CME conferences, one of the best CME among recent alumni meetings.

The prime time speaker was distinguished Alumnus Dr.P.S Reddy (Alumnus of Gandhi Medical College), chairman and founder of SHARE foundation (Science Health Allied Research Education). It was inspiring to hear about Dr.P.S Reddy's REACH program (Rural Effective Affordable Comprehensive Health Care).

Dr. Syed Nissar of GMC received the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The GMC meeting was presided by Dr.Venkat Bodavula as Dr.Alok Agrawal was unable to attend due to prior commitments.

During the banquet dinner, Dr.Venkat B also gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the various GMCGA accomplishments including Free meals program, AHA approved CPR training at the International Training Center, Clean drinking water plant among others.

Efforts were made to increase awareness about the GMC global association in a bid to boost member enrollment.

- Nandu Gourineni (GMC '97)



Foundation Day

September, 2018

Obituary



Dr. Ramnivas in 1968 - the year he graduated from medical school

Ramnivas graduated from GMC in 1968. He hails from a business family near Charminar. During medical school he helped run the family business. He was the only professional in his family in that generation. He straddled the business and professional world with ease. After postgraduate subspecialty training, he engaged in family practice because he was dedicated to serving the disadvantaged population. He charged moderate fees and meticulously maintained the clinic hours; all social activities had to wait until his clinic was closed. He married very early, was a married man when he was in medical school. He was troubled by high blood pressure and diabetes. Even with these disabilities he continued to serve his patients until two weeks before his death. He developed a stroke and passed away shortly on Oct. 2, 2018. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and most importantly the families he served so compassionately.

- Murali Rao
- Anil Gandhe

Calendar of Events

Save the date:

December 7-9, 2018- Class of '68; Golden Jubilee Celebration, Palm Exotica Resort, Shankarpally, Hyderabad
January 12, 2019 - Class of '98 - Tamba Indian Cuisine, Las Vegas
January 18-19, 2019- Class of '63-68; Alankrita Resorts, Hyderabad
May 2019 -Class of '65, Venue and date TBD
July 4-7, 2019- Class of '94, Silver Jubilee Celebration, Pragathi Resorts, Hyderabad
September- October 2019 - GMCGA Annual Meeting, Venue and date TBD