



## PAUL HARRISON AWARD 2021

The *Paul Harrison Award* was instituted in 1966 to honour medical graduates or post-graduates of CMC Vellore, who, through their outstanding and selfless contribution in the field of healthcare, have been able to uphold the motto of the Institution, '*Not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*'

Dr. Christopher Moses joined Christian Medical College, Vellore, in 1975. His father was a surgeon in the Jalna Mission Hospital, and Christopher was promptly named 'Jalna' after his home-town in a good-humoured way. His roots and empathy with the less fortunate led him to become the social service secretary of the Student's Union in his fourth year. This took him to several remote villages in and around Vellore, and strengthened his resolve to a lifetime of mission service.

He met his future wife, Dr. Shobha Elizabeth Mathew, in Vellore, and they soon realized a common bond in their wish to bring healing to the less advantaged.

On completion of his internship, Christopher returned to Jalna for his service obligation. Shobha followed him in 1982 after they were married, shifting her service obligation there. She had always wanted to specialize in ENT, but seeing the need for obstetric care in the villages around Jalna, she began devoting her time to women's health care. In 1984, Dr. Christopher and Dr Shobha returned to CMC Vellore, he to pursue an MS in general surgery, and she to do her Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. After his post-graduation in 1987, Christopher stayed on as a junior lecturer in the Department of Surgery and Surgical Endocrinology until 1989, when Shobha completed her MD in Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

They then returned to the Jalna Mission Hospital and resumed their work in right earnest, bringing new technologies to Jalna for the first time: ultrasonography, gastroscopy and complex surgeries. For first time that the hospital also began admitting complicated obstetric cases. He was popularly known as 'the operating physician'. With colleagues who had trained in CMC, Dr Christopher was able to bring in free neurology, neurosurgery, haematology, medical oncology services and neuropsychiatry services. These services are now part of what the hospital routinely offers. Together with a dedicated German team, JMH has been organizing free plastic surgery camps annually for the last 16 years conducting cleft lip and palate surgeries, releasing contractures from burns and correcting congenital anomalies.

In 1992, he was invited to become the hospital's medical superintendent, and continues to serve in this position ever since. To help him with his new duties, Christopher did a postgraduate diploma in business management in 1992 and an MPhil in health and hospital systems management from BITS Pilani in 1996. He also completed a diploma in medicolegal systems and a diploma in taxation.

Meanwhile JMH continued to add on new services. In 2000, Christopher established the first critical care unit in the district. Little did he know then that this unit would save his own life when he contracted cerebral malaria in 2004! The upgrading of the School of Nursing followed—staff nurses from JMH were sent on study leave with full salary for 2-3 years to then come back and teach the graduate medical nursing course from 2002. The icing on the cake for Christopher and Shobha was construction of a new 27,000 sq feet Obstetric and Gynaecologic block with state-of-the art facilities in 2006. Always conscious of the drought-stricken, hot and dry environment of Jalna, JMH was equipped to harvest rainwater, and runs almost entirely on solar power during the daytime.

JMH is today a popular destination for students for their secondary hospital posting as well as service obligations, allowing the hospital to pass the torch of mission service to the next generation. Dr.

Shobha continues to teach students of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Mumbai, as well as DNB students.

Besides bringing quality medical services to this remote part of Maharashtra, Dr. Christopher and Dr. Shobha have continued to do their utmost to make a difference in the socio-economic and spiritual lives of the people amongst whom they have chosen to live. In 1998, JMH became only the second charitable hospital after CMC Vellore, to introduce a dual pension scheme. With almost half of the salary drawn at retirement coming in as pension and empowered by interest-free loans, several illiterate and semiliterate staff fulfilled their ambition of seeing their children become doctors, nurses and engineers.

In 1999, Shobha was selected by Haggai International for advanced Christian leadership training in Maui, Hawaii. Since then, she and her small group of men and women have been providing pastoral care to innumerable villages around Jalna that do not have presbyters or clergy, managing also in the intervening years, to build seven churches in these remote villages. Every year she conducts a vacation bible school attended by over 600 children, believing that sharing the values of Christ would help these children learn religious tolerance towards each other as they grow up. She contributed funds for these activities by setting aside a portion of her income.

In 2020, Dr Moses responded admirably to the covid pandemic. He worked with the local government officials to set up a 120 bed covid facility and a 40 bed ICU with sufficient oxygen and ventilators. They were able to provide care for over 800 patients during the two waves of the pandemic.

In addition to all their medical and social work, Shobha and Christopher are gracious hosts to all their students, staff, and friends. They strongly believe in maintaining the strong bonds of love and friendship that CMC instilled in them.

Their son Aditya has done his PhD in management and is a professor at IIM Ahmedabad. Their daughter, Ruth completed her MD general medicine at CMC Vellore.

Dr. Christopher and Dr Shobha firmly believe that the Lord has shepherded them all these years, and look to His grace and mercy to continue to serve the people of Jalna and the villages around them, in the years to come. They have truly brought to life the college motto "not to be ministered unto but to minister". Their work is a true manifestation of the spirit of Aunt Ida, who was brought to India by her parents who served in the remote villages of southern India, and who in turn, brought life-saving health services to Vellore, and through what is now CMC, to the rest of India

Christian Medical College is proud to honor Dr. Christopher Moses and Dr Shoba Moses them with the Paul Harrison Award for the year 2021.

**DIRECTOR**

**PRINCIPAL**

Vellore  
22.11.2021