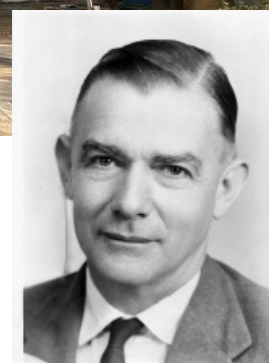




## New orthopaedic complex - Paul Brand Block - opened as COVID facility to tackle immediate crisis

The Paul Brand Block, a new inpatient facility, planned as an orthopaedic care complex but to currently accommodate COVID-19 patients, was dedicated to patient service at the CMC Hospital Campus on Monday, 3rd May, 2021.



*Dr. Paul Wilson Brand*

The Collector of Vellore, Mr. A. Shanmuga Sundaram I.A.S., in the presence of CMC Director, Dr. J. V. Peter and various other key officials who attended in person or virtually, inaugurated the Paul Brand Block, named after the late and illustrious hand surgeon.



*State-of-the-art operation theatre inside the Block*

The complex houses 11 state-of-the-art operation theatres, including two day care theatres and one septic theatre, a fully equipped High Dependency Unit (HDU) with 12 beds, which was upgraded to an Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in view of the pandemic, and three low dependency wards with a total of 105 beds

and 22 post-operative recovery beds. The theatre complex, with positive and



negative pressure options, will enable surgeons to perform operations on COVID patients, without compromising the safety of the healthcare workers. The building also has a diagnostic radiology suite with X-ray, Ultrasound, CT scan and MRI facilities. As such, a comprehensive care package can be offered to COVID patients with various needs.

Speaking on the occasion, the District collector described CMC as the “pride of Vellore” and the “biggest strength for the district administration”. He said that he had been a “personal witness to the remarkable work done by CMC Vellore rendering services to the sick and the suffering during the pandemic, for more than a year now”. He asserted that the achievement of Vellore having the third largest vaccinated population among the districts in Tamil Nadu would not have been possible without CMC.



*Mr. A. Shanmuga Sundaram, District Collector, Vellore*

He also pointed out that CMC’s projections about the trajectory of the pandemic from time to time was very helpful to the district administration for framing appropriate policies and for putting into place infrastructural facilities, ahead of time. “When we were having only 30 plus cases way back in June 2020, CMC predicted 7600 cases in the next one month. This allowed us to put in place almost 4000 plus beds.” He added that acting on that prediction, various COVID centres were opened, the oxygen supply was increased and he was able to alert colleagues in the Collectors’ Forum. He added that CMC was a strength not only to the district but also to the State and the country, and that



it's both-and model of caring for both the rich and the poor should be emulated by medical institutions across the country.

CMC Director, Dr. J. V. Peter, mentioned that over 1000 COVID positive patients are currently under CMC's care, about half of whom are admitted. More than 700 patients have been cared for through the CMC COVID Home Isolation & Management (CMC CoHIM) program, a home monitoring program run by nursing staff, under medical supervision. The provision of home monitoring, which has greatly reduced the stress on beds required for admission, has been one of the unique aspects of COVID care in the second wave, he said.

Dr. Peter thanked the Collector for his immense support saying, "Our collector has been a source of support and encouragement to us during the pandemic. It was he who, with foresight, gave special permission for the renovation work to continue in this building during the lockdown, since he felt that it might be required for COVID work". A hostel for nursing students, which was more than 50 years old, stood in place of this facility earlier.



*Project lead Dr. Mark Ranjan Jesudason*

He also extended gratitude for the support of friends and well-wishers from India and across the globe, which has enabled CMC to continue its charitable work at an all-time high, despite a marked reduction in income due to the pandemic.

Other speakers at the event included Dr. Mark Ranjan Jesudason, Associate Medical Superintendent (Head of the Division of Surgery and Department of Colorectal Surgery) and project lead, who gave an overview of the project, and Dr. Vikram Mathews, Associate Director, Admin. (Professor of Haematology), who proposed the Vote of Thanks. Rev. Dr. T. Arul Dhas, Head of Chaplaincy, pronounced the invocation and blessing. Public Relations Officer, Mr. Durai Jasper, hosted the event.

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