

HISTORY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SURGERY
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE

The Department of General Surgery at the Christian Medical College came into existence in 1918, when the founder of our Institution, Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder, established the Missionary Medical School for Women at the Mary Taber Schell Hospital, which had been built in the town of Vellore in 1902. Dr. Jessie Findlay joined the Institution in 1920 as her assistant in the Department of Surgery. In 1924, the Department of Surgery moved to the newly built hospital at Thottapalayam (the present location) and Dr. Scudder was the first Lecturer and Head of the Department. In 1925, she became the first Professor of Surgery and Dr. Jessie Findlay, Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Scudder continued to function as both General Surgeon and Obstetrician and Gynecologist till 1928. In 1928, Dr. Carol Jameson took charge of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Dr. Scudder became full time Professor of Surgery and Principal of the Missionary Medical School. In 1928, the Weyerhaeuser Surgical Block with an operation theater complex consisting of two operating rooms and inpatient wards was built with generous contribution of the Weyerhaeuser family in the USA and this augmented the surgical activities in the Institution. In 1940, Dr. Jessie Findlay became the Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery.

In the year 1942, on obtaining provisional affiliation to the University of Madras the Missionary Medical School for Women became a Medical College, training women medical students as graduate doctors with M.B.B.S. qualification. By then, the Department of Surgery had been established with excellent clinical and academic standards by Dr. Ida Scudder and her associate, Dr. Jessie Findlay.

When the provisional affiliation to the University of Madras for the M.B.B.S course was granted, the Department of Surgery was staffed by only three doctors - Dr. Jessie Findlay and two assistants, one with M.B.B.S. and the other with L.M.P qualifications. Because of the lack of university-recognized faculty for training and inadequate clinical material (lack of male patients) for M.B.B.S training, the first three batches of women medical students had to go to the Government Pentland Hospital in Vellore and to the Government General Hospital in Madras (Chennai) to make up for the deficiency in clinical material that existed in the Institution then.

However, with the up-gradation of the institution to a Medical College, appropriate facilities and expertise to treat male patients as well, became mandatory. Therefore, from 1944 onwards, men surgeons with appropriate qualifications and experience were appointed as senior faculty and facilities were established for the care of male patients in the Institution. Dr. Norman S. Macpherson, F.R.C.S (England), Dr. John S. Carman, F.R.C.S, (Canada), Dr. Paul W. Brand, F.R.C.S (England) and Dr. T. Howard Somervell, F.R.C.S (England) were the first men surgeons to be appointed in the Institution in the years 1944,1945,1946 and 1948 respectively.

Dr. Jessie Findlay retired in August 1945 after 25 years of loyal, dedicated and self-sacrificing service to the institution.

In 1947, the University of Madras granted permanent affiliation to the Institution (even though the official intimation in this regard came only in 1950, coinciding with the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Institution) and the Missionary Medical College for women became coeducational and was renamed as "Christian Medical College".

In the same year, Dr. Gwenda Lewis M.B. Ch.B, DA., FFARCS, an experienced anesthetist from the UK joined the Institution and established the Department of Anesthesia. Dr. Gwenda Lewis's far-sightedness and commitment to offering the patients the best preoperative care, extended beyond the confines of her own department and she established the Blood Bank for the Institution in the year 1948.

Simultaneously, along with the above human resource developments, up-gradation of the physical structure of the Department of Surgery began to take shape and this necessitated division of the department into 3 units in the year 1948. The three surgical units had their individual freedom to plan and progress as autonomous entities, while maintaining perfect unity, harmony and co-ordination between them in matters involving Human Resource Development (HRD), postgraduate and faculty selection, academic commitments and sharing of the infrastructural facilities for patient care. A tradition of weekly clinical meetings, involving the entire faculty and postgraduate trainees coming together for sharing information and discussion on difficult clinical problems and recent advances in surgery was established at the time of the division of the department into three units. This tradition of weekly interactive sessions continues to remain pivotal to all the patient-care, HRD, academic, developmental and social activities of the department. The Heads of the Department, over the years, have coordinated and facilitated all the departmental and inter-departmental activities. The following is the list of the heads of the Department of General Surgery since its inception:

Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder	-	1924 to 1940
Dr. Jessie Findlay	-	1940 to 1945
Dr. John S. Carman	-	1945 to 1956
Dr. Norman S. Macpherson	-	1956 to 1959
Dr. H.S Bhat	-	1959 to 1965
Dr. A.S Fenn	-	1965 to 1969
Dr. L.B.M. Joseph	-	1969 to 1973
Dr. Geoffrey V. Shead	-	1973 to 1978
Dr. A.S. Fenn	-	1978 to 1986
Dr. Prakash Khanduri	-	1986 to 1992
Dr. Booshanam V. Moses	-	1992 to 1996
Dr. S.R. Banerjee Jesudason	-	1996 to 2001

Dr. Aravindan Nair	-	2001 to 2005
Dr. V. Sitaram	-	2005 to 2009
Dr. Sunil Agarwal	-	2009 to 2010
Dr. John C. Muthusami	-	2010 to date

Heads of the Department and Units changed as the senior faculty left the institution either on superannuation or for personal reasons or were asked to take on full time administrative responsibilities or leadership of specialty departments.

The trifurcation of the Department of Surgery in 1948 paved the way for further progress of General Surgery and development of subspecialties. The leadership of each unit had a special interest in and commitment to the development of a subspecialty. Therefore, the concept of specialty oriented General Surgery which will be referred to later with greater clarity, had existed in the department of General Surgery since its formative years. As the patient load and magnitude of specialty related surgical care increased, the specialties branched off gradually as independent departments.

The three Units of the Department started functioning in the following format at their formation in 1948.

Surgery Unit I (General Surgery /Urology)

Head: Dr. John S. Carman

Out patient days: Monday/Thursday

Surgery Unit II (General Surgery /Orthopedics)

Heads: Dr. T. Howard Somervell and Dr. Paul W. Brand

Out patient days: Tuesday/Friday

Surgery Unit III (General Surgery /Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery)

Head: Dr. Norman S. Macpherson

Out patient days: Wednesday/Saturday

By the turn of the decade in 1950, the specialties of Thoracic Surgery and Neurosurgery had been established as integral parts of the Department of Surgery but under the independent leadership of Dr. Reeve H. Betts and Dr. Jacob Chandy who joined the Institution in 1948 and 1949 respectively. In 1950, the University of Madras granted permission to start postgraduate training in General Surgery leading to Master of Surgery (M.S) degree with **three** candidates per year and Dr. H.S. Bhat, Dr. N. Sarweswara Rao and Dr. G.K. Nayanan were the first ones to register for the course.

The postgraduate training in General Surgery in Christian Medical College, Vellore, right from its inception had three unique features. Firstly, it was an in-service training

program requiring the trainees to shoulder the primary responsibilities for patient care. Secondly, the duration of formal training was three years, after an experience of one year as senior house officer in Surgery or two years of service in a peripheral hospital as a prerequisite to selection. This was different from the then University protocol which was a two year training following one year experience as senior house officer in Surgery. Thirdly, it was a compulsorily residential training, the trainees having to reside on the hospital campus throughout their training period.

In 1952, the first National Conference of the Association of surgeons of India was held at the Christian Medical College, Vellore, hosted by the Department of Surgery.

During the first decade following the permanent affiliation of the Medical College to the University, a few changes took place in quick sequence. In the year 1954, Dr. John S. Carman became the Director of Christian Medical College and Hospital and Dr. Somervell retired from the institution. In 1957, Dr. Paul Brand moved out to develop the Department of Orthopaedics and Hand and Leprosy Reconstructive Surgery and in 1959, Dr. Norman Macpherson retired from the Institution. These necessitated a few changes in the administrative set-up of the department and in 1960 the headships and specialty interests of the units had the following pattern:

Surgery I	Dr. H.S.Bhat (General Surgery and Urology)
Surgery II	Dr. A.S.Fenn (General Surgery and Pediatric Surgery)
Surgery III	Dr. L.B.M Joseph (General Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

In the year 1963, Urology moved out of General Surgery as an independent specialty department under the leadership of Dr. H.S Bhat and Dr. Frank H. Garlick, a senior surgeon from Australia who joined the department in 1962 stepped in as Head of Unit I. Dr. Garlick had a priority for training interns and surgical trainees in basic surgical skills. Accordingly, he established a surgical skills laboratory in his unit, for the department of general surgery and produced an 'Interne's Manual' giving a lot of practical guidance on the primary care of surgical patients.

Further events during the period between 1963 and 1980 brought about frequent changes in the leadership and faculty of the 3 units. In 1967 Dr. John Carman retired after two decades of pioneering leadership role in Surgery and the Institution. In 1967 Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery branched off from Unit III under the headship of Dr. Dawson Theogaraj. Towards the end of 1967, Dr. Geoffrey V. Shead, a senior surgeon from Australia joined the department.

In 1969 the department consisted of the following faculty arrangement:

Surgery I	-	Dr. Frank H. Garlick - Head Dr. Jacob T. Kuruvilla Dr. G.B.R. Walkey
Surgery II	-	Dr. A.S. Fenn - Head Dr. J.O. Devadatta Dr. K.E Mammen

Surgery III

Dr. L.B.M. Joseph - **Head**
Dr. Geoffrey V. Shead
Dr. Sampath Savarirayan
Dr. Prakash Khanduri

Dr. Frank Garlick resigned from the Institution in 1971 in response to a call to strengthen, surgical care and training in peripherally located Christian health care centers in India and neighboring countries. At this, Dr. L.B.M. Joseph moved over to Unit I as its head and Dr. Prakash Khanduri as his assistant. Dr. Geoffrey Shead remained in Unit III as its head. Dr. Shead and Dr. Sampath Savarirayan laid the foundation for the specialty of Peripheral Vascular Surgery as part of Unit III. Dr. Shead is also remembered for his leadership role in establishing the Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) and the Hospital Infection Control Committee (HICC) in the Institution. The credit for the establishment of CSSD and HICC is also shared by Mrs. Violet Jayachandran, the then Professor and head of Surgical Nursing. The Department of Surgical Nursing also made immensely valuable contributions to the up-gradation of surgical wards and operation theater complex.

The number of postgraduate (MS) seats was increased to **four** in 1972.

In January 1974, a spacious new operation theatre complex (in the present location) consisting of 14 air-conditioned operation rooms with many additional facilities, was inaugurated. Prior to that, the theater complex in its earlier location (the present Cardiology Department) consisted of 7 operating rooms in a cramped space. The new facility was indeed a stepping stone for the strides of progress that followed in the Department of Surgery. In this context, the leadership role played by Dr. H.S Bhat and Dr. A.F Desmond as members of the planning committee for the new operation theater complex needs to be specially mentioned with appreciation and gratitude.

In 1974, Dr. L.B.M. Joseph became the Director of Christian Medical College and Hospital but continued as the head of Unit I. In 1978, Pediatric Surgery moved out of Unit II as an independent department under the headship of Dr. K.E Mammen. At this stage, Dr. Fenn planned to develop Endocrine Surgery as a specialty attached to Unit II. In the same year Dr. G.V. Shead left the Institution and Dr. J.O Devadatta was transferred from Unit II to Unit III as its head. In 1980, Dr.L.B.M Joseph's term of directorship was extended by another 7 years. At this stage, Dr. Joseph decided to recede gradually from active surgical career and Dr. Prakash Khanduri took on the mantle of leadership of Unit I from him.

In 1978 the number of postgraduate seats increased to **six**. With all the above vertical and horizontal movements of the faculty, the period from 1971 to 1980 witnessed frequent changes in the staff composition of the 3 units and in 1980 the department consisted of the following faculty staff:

Surgery I: (General Surgery)

- Dr. Prakash Khanduri - **Head**
Dr. S.R. Banerjee Jesudason

Surgery II: (General Surgery /Endocrine Surgery) - Dr. A.S Fenn -**Head**
Dr. G.P Christian
Dr. Keith Gammon

Surgery III: (General Surgery /Peripheral Vascular Surgery) - Dr. J.O. Devadatta - **Head**
Dr. Booshanam V. Moses

The period between 1981 to 1990 witnessed a positive trend in the HRD of the department, when the number of post-graduate alumni of the department opting to join the faculty of General Surgery on a long term basis increased. It also coincided with newer opportunities for the faculty to be trained abroad in specialized areas of surgery. In 1986, Dr. J.O. Devadatta resigned from the institution and Dr. Booshanam V. Moses became the Head of Unit III.

The above period also bid farewell to two stalwarts of the department, Dr.L.B.M. Joseph and Dr. A.S. Fenn, who superannuated in 1987 and 1988 respectively after more than three decades of dedicated service in the Institution. This necessitated transfer of Dr. Banerjee Jesudason from Unit I to Unit II as its head. Dr. Joseph and Dr. Fenn were the first Postgraduate alumni of the department who joined the department on completion of their training and remained there till their retirement. Both of them are remembered for the many progressive changes that were initiated by them in the department and also for their role as father figures to many undergraduate and postgraduate trainees in Surgery.

In 1986, separate ward facilities were established for each unit of the department – P1 ward for Unit III, P2 ward Unit 2, and P3 ward for Unit 1.

By the end of 1989, the staffing pattern in the department existed as follows:

Surgery – I - Dr. Prakash Khanduri – **Head**
Dr. V. Sitaram
Dr. George Mathew
Dr. Santosh Potdar

Surgery – II - Dr. S.R Banerjee Jesudason – **Head**
Dr. Aravindan Nair
Dr. Ravi K. George
Dr. Benjamin Perakath
Dr. John C. Muthusami
Dr. Varughese Mathai

Surgery – III - Dr. Booshanam V. Moses – **Head**
Dr. John Idikula
Dr. R. David Sadhu

Dr. Sunil Agarwal.

The Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) was established as a service unit of the Department of General Surgery in April 1989 under the leadership of Dr. Nandini Korula, Professor of Anesthesia. This facility became a boon to all patients undergoing complicated surgical procedures and those with associated morbidity.

In July 1992, the first laparoscopic surgery (cholecystectomy) was performed and by 1994, laparoscopic surgical facility was fully established with the department acquiring its own laparoscopic equipment set as a gift through ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) grant. Since then, laparoscopic surgery has progressed steadily and the expertise provided by the present faculty has diversified its application and developed it to the level of a state-of-the-art facility in the institution.

In 1997, Dr. Prakash Khanduri superannuated after 3 decades of dedicated service in the institution and Dr. Aravindan Nair became the head of Unit-I. Dr. Khanduri's special contribution to the department was in the field of surgery of the digestive system and he laid the foundation for the liver transplantation surgery in our Institution.

In 1999 the first orthotopic liver transplantation was successfully performed by the Department of General Surgery.

The positive trend in the HRD, as mentioned earlier, continued and in the beginning of the new millennium in 2000, the staffing pattern and specialty interests of the 3 units were as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Surgery – I | - | Dr. Aravindan Nair - Head |
| (General Surgery / Endocrine Surgery) | - | Dr. V. Sitaram |
| | - | Dr. George Mathew |
| | - | Dr. Benjamin Perakath |
| | - | Dr. Sudhakar Chandran |
|
 | | |
| Surgery – II | - | Dr. S.R Banerjee Jesudasan – Head |
| (General Surgery / Head and | - | Dr. John C. Muthusami |
| Neck Surgery) | - | Dr. Varughese Mathai |
| | - | Dr. Sanjay Govil |
| | - | Dr. Fredrick L. Vyas |
| | - | Dr. Paul M.J |
|
 | | |
| Surgery – III | - | Dr. Booshanam V. Moses - Head |
| (General Surgery / Peripheral | - | Dr. R. David Sadhu |
| Vascular Surgery) | - | Dr. Sunil Agarwal |
| | - | Dr. Sukria Nayak |
| | - | Dr. Philip Joseph |
| | - | Dr. Mark Ranjan Jesudason |

Dr. Booshanam Moses retired in 2001 after 28 years of service and Dr. David Sadhu succeeded him as the head of Unit III. Dr. Booshanam Moses is fondly remembered as a dedicated teacher. He developed the specialty of Peripheral Vascular Surgery in a systematic way without compromising his commitment to General Surgery. His commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate training and passion for peripheral outreach activities were particularly evident during the period from 1992 to 1996 when he was holding dual responsibilities of Principal of the Medical College and Head of the Department of General Surgery. The up-gradation of operating room facilities in the hospitals attached to the Community Health And Development (CHAD) and Rural and Urban Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA) departments and provision of surgical expertise to them, as a routine, happened during the above period.

The day care surgical facility was established adjacent to the main operation theatre complex and was inaugurated on 2nd April 2002. This helped to decongest the surgical wards and increase the time available for more major and complex cases in the main operating rooms. The day care surgical facility also contributed to augmenting the out-patient services to the patients and surgical training.

The year 2000 was the Centenary year for Christian Medical College and Hospital as an Institution and the Golden Jubilee year of Postgraduate training in General Surgery for the Department of General Surgery. The celebration of the occasion by the department in the month of August included an Alumni Reunion and Continuing Medical Education (CME). The occasion helped the department to evaluate its performance of the past and project itself into the new millennium. The gathering included stalwarts of yesteryears representing every era and every year. There were Dr. Paul W Brand and Dr. Jacob Chandy belonging to the era of founding fathers, Dr. A.J. Selvapandian, Dr. Arnold F. Desmond, Dr. N. Gopinath, Dr. Geoffrey Allen, Dr. K.V Mathai, Dr.L.B.M. Joseph and Dr. Jacob Abraham belonging to the earliest batches of postgraduate trainees and many former and all the present faculty of the department. Besides, there were also many national and international faculty for the commemorative CME. The discussions during the alumni reunion and the CME program focused on topics related to improving the postgraduate training in General Surgery and enhancing the quality of patient care in surgery. It was generally observed that the spectrum of surgical patients was changing and there was a vast difference between the challenges that the faculty and trainees faced in 1950s and those in the present time. Further, the advances in instrumentation and information technology had added a new dimension to patient care and surgical training and in turn, imposed a need to change our approach to undergraduate and post graduate training in General Surgery. The discussions highlighted important issues like HRD, academic commitments (undergraduate and postgraduate training and research) and development of special expertise to offer the highest quality of patient-care, relevant to the spectrum of surgical diseases that we encounter today. It was generally felt by all that there was an urgent need for a realistic and meaningful projection of the department into the future and this needed a special commitment to identifying and developing subspecialties within a strong parent department of General Surgery.

Dr. S.R Banerjee Jesudason, who was the head of the department then and also the organizing secretary of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, compiled all the information generated during the occasion and presented it to the department in May 2001. The department, in turn, deliberated over the matter at multiple meetings chaired and guided by Dr. Jesudason. Dr. Aravindan Nair, who had taken over the headship from him in April 2001, processed the decisions which evolved at the meetings, for administrative implementation. This introspective exercise resulted in the evolution and establishment of the concept of specialty oriented general surgery and the division of the department into 6 units, each with a commitment to developing a subspecialty under its umbrella. It was envisaged that specialties would grow optimally only if it remained rooted to general surgery; this, in turn, would ensure development of state-of-the-art expertise and facilities to cater to the specific needs of both general surgery and specialty surgery. In this context, all surgical procedures under the department were categorized into general surgical and specialty surgical procedures with a view to laying the foundation for future development of specialty surgical training (M.Ch / DNB) in a complementary milieu of basic general surgical training (MS / DNB). The discussions and decisions progressed in a sequential manner, keeping the historical perspective of subspecialty development, which was alluded to earlier, at the division of the department into 3 units in 1948, as the guiding principle. The administrative support and encouragement given by Dr. George Chandy as the Medical Superintendent initially and later as the Director provided a favorable environment for the department to move progressively towards their perceived goal.

The details of the deliberations and the stages and sequences through which the discussions progressed to the realization of the goal have been chronicled in form of a booklet titled "Department of General Surgery-Our Vision for the future at the Threshold of a New Century" by Dr. Banerjee Jesudason. The booklet is a narration of a journey undertaken by the department with a clear perception of their destination ahead.

The formation of six units was inaugurated on 30th August, 2003 and the new system became functional from 1st September, 2003, with the following administrative format:

Surgery Unit I – General Surgery /Surgery of Head and Neck

Head : Dr. John C. Muthusami

Outpatient Days: **Monday*** /Thursday

Surgery Unit II– General Surgery/ Peripheral Vascular Surgery

Head: Dr. R. David Sadhu

Outpatient Days: **Tuesday*** /Friday

Surgery Unit III –General Surgery/Oesophago-gastro-duodenal surgery

Head: Dr. George Mathew

Outpatient Days: **Wednesday*** /Saturday

Surgery Unit IV –General Surgery/Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery

Head: Dr. V. Sitaram

Outpatient Days: Monday/**Thursday***

Surgery Unit V– General Surgery/Colorectal and Anal canal Surgery

Head: Dr. Benjamin Perakath

Outpatient Days: Tuesday/**Friday***

Surgery Unit VI – General Surgery/Endocrine Surgery

Head: Dr. Aravindan Nair

Outpatient Days: Wednesday/**Saturday***

*Main outpatient days-other days are primarily for follow-up patients.

Simultaneously, the Division of Surgery of the Digestive system, comprising of Units III, IV and V was formed under the leadership of Dr. Banerjee Jesudason. Dr. Jesudason worked on the policies and laid the foundation for higher specialty training in Surgery of the Digestive system. Based on the report processed by him, the National Board of Examinations (NBE) granted recognition for the specialty training in 2006. However the DNB (Diplomate of National Board) course was discontinued in 2008, since the selection of candidates for the DNB courses became centralized at the NBE office in New Delhi, which was not in tune with the CMC selection policy, as laid down by its constitution.

Further, the following decisions were made in the context of a comprehensive patient care and integrated academic commitments of the department in the six unit system:

1. Considering the fact that minimally invasive surgery was only an approach to surgical procedures and hence would not be common to all units, each unit would develop minimally invasive surgical facility and expertise relevant to its own specialty.
2. Transplant surgery, which for the present is confined only to liver transplant, attached to the Unit IV, would eventually develop and diversify to include pancreas (exocrine / endocrine), parathyroid and small bowel with active involvement and participation of other units as well.
3. SICU would be a service unit of the Department of General Surgery, but as an independent unit (Unit VII) with the following faculty:
 1. Dr. Nagamani Sen – Head
 2. Dr. John Prakash S. Raj

Dr. Banerjee Jesudason superannuated in June 2005, after more than 26 years of service and Dr. George Mathew became the Head of the Division of Surgery of the Digestive System. Dr. Banerjee Jesudason is specially remembered for his administrative dynamism and guidance in the establishment of 6 specialty oriented units for the department of general surgery. The concept of specialty oriented general surgery has indeed been a major step forward and recognized as a unique achievement of the Department. Dr. Jesudason is also remembered for his passion for bed side clinical teaching and organizing CME as a regular annual activity of the department.

In 2006 the SICU moved out of the department of General Surgery to function as an independent unit under the Division of Critical Care.

Dr. Sunil Agarwal became the head of Unit 2 in April 2006 and Dr. David Sadhu retired in May 2007. Dr. David Sadhu worked hard to refine and upgrade the peripheral Vascular Surgical work in the unit further. He is also remembered for his enthusiasm for helping peripheral mission hospitals.

The clinical work and the departmental activities progressed leaps and bounds to an unprecedentedly high level since the formation of the six unit system. The patient care statistics shows a consistently upward trend as depicted below:

On 31st August 2010, the Department of General Surgery completed 7 years of its existence as a specialty oriented department. The year 2010 is also Diamond Jubilee year of Postgraduate Training in General Surgery at the Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The faculty and all the staff of the department have remained committed to developing skills and expertise in patient care and academic and research endeavors. The specialties have developed optimally in a complementary milieu of General Surgery. This is evident from the patient statistics and the academic activities of the department as follows:

OUT PATIENT STATISTICS

YEAR	UNIT- I	UNIT- II	UNIT-III	UNIT-IV	UNIT-V	UNIT-VI	TOTAL
2000	16104	16408	16141				48,653
2001	16559	16888	16152				49,599
2002	17256	18377	16529				52,162
Jan-Aug 2003	11088	11861	10621	-	-	-	52,108
Sept-Dec	3556	3221	2764	2810	2737	3450	
2004	10379	10241	9879	9665	9829	12456	62,449
2005	10187	10511	9262	8836	9508	11553	59,857
2006	12006	11732	10589	9854	10662	12513	67,356
2007	12882	13630	11751	10825	11721	12105	72,914
2008	13124	14844	12292	11395	12928	13893	78,476
2009	13475	16002	11786	12551	14397	16277	84,488
2010	15270	16848	12979	13693	14610	15958	89,358

INPATIENT STATISTICS

YEAR	UNIT- I	UNIT- II	UNIT-III	UNIT-IV	UNIT-V	UNIT-VI	TOTAL
2000	1337	1347	1298				3982
2001	1320	1379	1382				4081
2002	1358	1264	1614				4236
Jan-Aug 2003 Sep-Dec	879	900	1127	210	236	324	4565
	268	354	267				
2004	771	1019	710	819	844	1085	5248
2005	824	1141	857	878	937	1182	5819
2006	879	1309	929	873	1065	1180	6235
2007	952	1440	994	995	1060	1096	6542
2008	1002	1455	976	988	1009	1312	6942
2009	1049	1524	960	1089	1452	1601	7675
2010	979	1573	1020	1058	1374	1371	7375

- **Publications** - General Surgery – 36; Specialty surgery - 107
- **Papers presented at conferences:** National: 118; International: 32;
- **Research Projects:** 87
- **CMEs / conferences conducted:** CME: 227; Conferences 29

In the latter part of 2010, a need was felt to reorganize the department to comply with the Medical Council of India (MCI) regulations for enhancement of MBBS seats to 100 and MS to 12. Further, it was also felt that, it was feasible to initiate higher training courses - Master of Chirurgery (MCh) - in 3 of the 6 specialties that had been identified in 2003 (Peripheral Vascular Surgery/Endocrine Surgery/Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery) In view of this, it was decided to rename the Department of General Surgery as '**Division of Surgery**' with two clearly defined functional components as **Departments** – general surgery and specialty surgery. The new system was inaugurated and became functional on 1st September, 2011 with the following administrative format.

A. Department of General Surgery,(each unit with a specialty attached):

1. **Surgery - I** - (General and **Head and Neck Surgery**)

Dr. John C Muthusami **Professor and Head**

Dr. Pranay Gaikwad

Dr. J. Rajinikanth

Dr. Amit Jiwan Tirkey

Dr. Cecil T. Thomas

Dr. Siddhartha Chakravarthy N.

Dr. Sujeev .P

Outpatient Days **Monday/Thursday**

2. **Surgery – II** - (General and **Colorectal and Anal Canal Surgery**)

Dr. Benjamin Perakath, **Professor (on leave)**
Dr. Mark Ranjan Jesudason, Professor / **Acting Head**
Dr. Rohin Mittal
Dr. Gigi Varghese
Dr. Rajat Raghunath

Out Patient Days **Tuesday/ Friday**

3. **Surgery – III** - (General and **Oesophago-Gastroduodenal Surgery**)

Dr. George Mathew **Professor and Head**
Dr. Sudhakar Chandran,
Dr. Inian Samarasam,
Dr. Vijay Abraham
Dr. Sam Varghese George,
Dr. Myla Yacob
Dr. Gayathri Deshpande,

Out Patient Days **Wednesday/ Saturday**

4. **Surgery – IV** - (General and **Surgery of Abdominal wall**)

Dr. Sukria Nayak – **Professor and Head**
Dr. Suchita Chase
Dr. Dhiraj John
Dr. Albert Kota

Out Patient Days **Monday/ Thursday**

B. **Department of Specialty Surgery**

1. **Peripheral Vascular Surgery**

Dr. Edwin Stephen - **Professor and Head**
Dr. Sunil Agarwal
Dr. Prabhu Premkumar
Dr. Deepak Selvaraj

Out Patient Days **Tuesday/ Friday**

2. **Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery**

Dr. V. Sitaram, **Professor and Head**
Dr. Philip Joseph
Dr. Fredercik L. Vyas
Dr. Ravish Sanghi Raju

Out Patient Days **Monday/ Thursday**

3. Endocrine Surgery.

Dr. M.J. Paul, **Professor and Head**

Dr. Deepak Thomas Abraham

Dr. Pooja Ramakanth

Dr. Jinu Kurien Thomas

Out Patient Days **Wednesday/ Saturday**

The number of MS seats was increased to **10** from the academic year 2011 -2012. During 2011 the department bade farewell to Dr. Aravindan Nair and Dr. George Mathew who retired after serving the institution for more than 30 years. Dr. Nair is specially remembered for his contribution to the development of Endocrine Surgery and Breast screening services and the establishment of M.Ch training in Endocrine Surgery. He is also remembered as a gifted teacher with humane approach to patients and colleagues. Dr. George Mathew is fondly remembered for his humility and sincerity and ability to bring about progressive developments in an unassuming way. The establishment oesophageal manometry laboratory and up-gradation of the surgical skills laboratory to impart laparoscopic and robotic skills in surgery are his special contributions to the Department of General Surgery.

The important mile stones in the history of the Department of General Surgery since its inception are listed in chronological order as follows:

1890: God's call to Miss Ida Sophia Scudder, for a lifelong commitment to serve India: while staying with her parents at Tindivanam, Tamilnadu.

1895: Miss. Ida Sophia Scudder, the Medical Student at the Women's Medical College Philadelphia, USA.

1898: Miss Ida S. Scudder at Cornell University Medical College New York.

1900: Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder started a single-bed dispensary, Mission Compound: Sainathapuram, Vellore.

1902: Mary Taber Schell Hospital for Women and Children, Arni Road, Vellore.

1918: Establishment of Missionary Medical School for Women and the Department of General Surgery at the Mary Taber Schell Hospital for Women and Children. (LMP/DMS course)

1924: Department of General Surgery moved to the newly built hospital (Cole Dispensary) at Thottapalayam, Vellore.

1928: Weyerhaeuser Surgical block (with operation theatre complex and in- patient wards).

1932: Medical school moved to College Hill Campus.

1938: LMP/DMS courses discontinued in Madras Presidency.

1942: Department of Surgery was recognized for teaching MBBS course
Medical School upgraded to Medical College (MBBS course) – Missionary
Medical College for Women.

1944: Surgical outpatient and inpatient facilities for men.

1947: Surgical Wards A, B & H established – Men students admitted to the Medical College –
name changed to 'Christian Medical College, Vellore'. (CMC, Vellore)

1948: Department of General Surgery divided into **three** units, each with a specialty
(Urology /
Orthopedics / Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

1948: Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. } under the umbrella of
1949: Department of Neurosurgery and Neurology } Department of Surgery

1950: Independent departments of Cardiothoracic surgery and Neurosurgery

1950: Postgraduate training in General Surgery-Master of Surgery (M.S) course – **One**
seat per year

1952: First National Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) held in Christian
Medical College, Vellore, hosted by the Department of Surgery.

1953: M.S seat increased to **Three** per year

1957: Department of Orthopedics and Hand and Leprosy Reconstructive Surgery.

1960: The specialty of Pediatric Surgery identified within the department of General Surgery

1963: Department of Urology.

1967: Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

1970: The specialty of Peripheral Vascular Surgery identified within the department of
General
Surgery.

1972: MS seats increased to **four** seats

1974: New Operation Theatre Complex.

1977: Department of Pediatric Surgery.

1978: MS seats increased to **Six**.
The specialty of Endocrine Surgery identified within the Department of General Surgery.

1986: Unitary Wards P1, P2, P3.

1988:Peripheral Vascular Laboratory(upgraded as 'Dr.BooshanamV. Moses Vascular Lab' in 2008)

1989: Surgical Intensive Care Unit. (SICU)

1992: Laparoscopic Surgery.

1999: Esophageal motility laboratory

1999: Liver transplantation.(Cadaver donor)

2000:Golden Jubilee celebration of Post-graduate training in General Surgery. (Alumni reunion and commemorative CME - August). Discussion regarding future development initiated).

2002: Stoma therapy counseling and outpatient clinic

2003:Establishment of specialty oriented Department of General Surgery and division of the department into **six** units (Head and Neck surgery, Peripheral Vascular surgery, Oesophago-Gastroduodenal surgery, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary surgery, Colorectal and Anal canal surgery, Endocrine surgery) and Division of Surgery of the Digestive System

2003: Dr. A.S Fenn Surgical Skills Laboratory

2005: Live donor liver transplant.

2005: Anorectal Physiology Laboratory

2006: SICU as a department under the Division of Surgery of Critical Care.
Endoscopic evaluation facility for Head and Neck Surgery.
National Board of Examinations recognition for specialty training in
Surgical Gastroenterology

2007: Fellowship course (1 year) in Peripheral Vascular surgery

2010:Diamond Jubilee year of Post-graduate training in General Surgery and completion of seven years of existence as specialty-oriented department.

2011: MS seats increased to **ten** seats
Fellowship course (2 years) in Colorectal surgery.
M.Ch in Vascular Surgery and Endocrine Surgery.

Division of Surgery (Department of General Surgery - 4 units; each with subspecialities – Head and Neck Surgery, Colorectal and Anal canal surgery, Oesophago-Gastroduodenal Surgery and Department of Specialty Surgery – 3 Units; Peripheral Vascular Surgery, Endocrine surgery and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery)

2012: Diamond Jubilee celebration of Post graduate training in General Surgery (Feb)

Fellowship course (2 years) in Oesophago-Gastroduodenal and Bariatric surgery.