

Dr. Vinod Shah joined the MBBS course at the Christian Medical College, Vellore in 1964 as an open candidate. He excelled academically during the undergraduate programme, and during this period felt called to commit his life to Christ and to serve in the healing ministry, working in areas of need. He completed the MBBS course in 1969 and went on to obtain a Masters in General Surgery in 1976. He joined the faculty of the General Surgery Department of the Christian Medical College, Vellore for a short while before accepting an assignment with the Indian Evangelical Mission (IEM).

In preparation for this work he did a year of training at the Indian Missionary Training Institute at Nasik, Maharashtra, with Linguistics, Anthropology and the Biblical Basis of Missions as subjects. He then worked for five years at Danta in Gujarat, setting up the 15 bedded Jivan Jyothi Hospital in this remote area, peopled by the Bhil tribe. His experience during the five years he spent at Danta sensitized him to the need for specialists to take their expertise into these remote areas. He returned to Vellore and trained in Paediatric Surgery, completing the M.Ch.course in 1986.

After a brief period as Head of Surgery at the CSI Hospital Bangalore where he gained experience both as a surgeon and an administrator, he took up the position of Medical Secretary in the Indian Evangelical Mission. During the five years he spent in this position, he traveled widely and was instrumental in setting up four medical mission stations in inaccessible parts of the country. These are located in Dhammapeta in Andhra Pradesh, Semiri in Nepal, in the Bastar District of erstwhile Madhya Pradesh and Ganj in Kulu, Himachal Pradesh. He then spent a year at the Chinchpada Christian Hospital in Chinchpada, Maharashtra as Medical Superintendent. His varied experiences made him aware of the need for competent, compassionate and committed medical personnel with a special concern for the underserved people in north and northeast India.

He took up the position of Medical Secretary of the Emmanuel Hospitals Association in 1990 and continued in this position till 1996. This assignment enabled him to travel to the various hospitals of the EHA assisting in the clinical work and offering guidance to the young staff who often work in professional and social isolation. This involved identifying needs for further training as well as supporting and encouraging them through difficult times, resolving interpersonal problems and mentoring. He has visited various medical colleges including CMC, Vellore and CMC, Ludhiana, speaking to students and young doctors challenging them to enter the healing ministry.

In 1996, he was appointed Executive Director of the EHA, which now runs 19 mission hospitals and 27 community health programmes in north and northeast India. He is responsible for envisioning the programmes of the organization, for strategic planning and initiation of new programmes and for the recruitment and training of professional staff. He also oversees the networking of the organization both nationally and internationally.

Vinod is married to Shalini, an alumna of Christian Medical College, Vellore and has three children.

During his career of over three decades, and especially during his time with the EHA, Vinod has been a mentor and role model to several young Christian health professionals. He has played a great role in reviving several of the small mission hospitals by providing committed staff. He has served as a member of the Executive Committee and Council of the Christian Medical College, Vellore where his wisdom and maturity have been greatly appreciated. Vinod has been an active member of the Evangelical Medical Fellowship of India and the Christian Medical Association of India, and also the Editor of the CMAI Journal for a term.

In appreciation of his faith centred life, and years of selfless service in the healing ministry of Christ, the Christian Medical College, Vellore is proud to honour Dr. Vinod Shah with the Paul Harrison Award for the year 2003.

Director
Vellore
6 October 2003

Principal