

The College Motto award 2018

Drs. Ashita and Deepak Singh

Ashita Waghmare joined the Christian Medical College Vellore in the year 1993. Her motivation to do medicine and commitment to Christ was evident through her life and example. Blessed with a wonderful voice, she was a regular member of the college choir. She married Dr. Deepak Singh, who like her, had a heart to serve in needy areas of India. Pursuing their higher studies, Ashita did her MD in General Medicine while Deepak completed MS in General Surgery, both from CMC Ludhiana.

After completing their postgraduate studies in the year 2004, they moved to work in Baptist Christian Hospital, Tezpur, Assam. There was a great need for this hospital to be revived. Malnutrition, anemia, infectious diseases like tuberculosis and malaria were rampant in that region. Challenged and moved by the healthcare situation, they began their work with much prayer. Very soon people from near and far started flocking to the hospital. With excellent surgical skills, Deepak performed both open and laparoscopic surgical procedures. In the year 2006, there was a severe outbreak of cerebral malaria and seeing the enormous need for critical care, Ashita started an Intensive Care Unit.

During their time in Tezpur, the hospital grew leaps and bounds in terms of number of patients, manpower, services, infrastructure, equipment and research. Deepak ably led the hospital as the Medical Superintendent. Many people from surrounding districts and from Arunachal Pradesh came there for treatment. The lab services which were started as a one room facility became a full-fledged three-floor laboratory with services in clinical pathology, biochemistry and microbiology. As many patients presented with acute renal failure, they started peritoneal dialysis services for them. The hospital became well equipped with Ultrasound and CT scan machines.

Ashita was part of the team that was instrumental in alerting the government of an outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis. She has published research papers on Acute Undifferentiated Fever and Japanese encephalitis. She was instrumental in starting the DNB training program in Family Medicine in the hospital.

The time they spent in Tezpur from 2004 to 2011 was a testimony of their commitment, hard work and trust in God. During this period, they built a team to run the hospital. Amidst their busy schedule, they ensured they spent quality time with their lovely children Arnav and Tara. Integrating into the community, Arnav went to the local school in Tezpur.

In the year 2011, Ashita and Deepak moved to CMC Vellore as Deepak got an opportunity to pursue MCh in Paediatric Surgery, to better equip himself. Ashita worked as a faculty in Medical ICU and further enhanced her knowledge and skills, especially in ICU sonology.

The next phase of their life from the year 2014, took them to another rural mission hospital in Chinchpada, Maharashtra. The hospital had all but shut down as there was no full-time doctor there. There were just buildings with insufficient equipment. Ashita and Deepak started their work by praying with the local church leaders and staff.

Slowly as the word got around, people started coming to the hospital. Deepak again played the dual role of surgeon and Medical Superintendent, ensuring smooth running of the hospital and obtaining various hospital licenses from local regulatory bodies. Today, due to their sincere dedication and God's provision, the hospital has a well-equipped Intensive Care Unit, Operation Theatre and diagnostic laboratories. Seeing the desperate need to care for terminally ill patients, who were in pain and many times uncared for, they started the palliative care program, giving them dignity in death and a blessed hope. They partner with churches in the area to improve health education in the community. They are also involved in research and training programs in collaboration with CMC, Vellore.

Their trust in God for wisdom, provision and healing was strengthened in Chinchpada. They have inspired and kept the hospital community together by hosting fellowship meals at their home and regular potluck dinners for all sections of the staff. They formed a choir that sang three-part harmony at Chinchpada and Tezpur.

Even though geographically far from CMC, Vellore, they continue to influence and inspire students from their Alma Mater in a unique way whenever students from CMC visit the hospital. The students not only have an academic treat at Chinchpada, but also witness great role models in Ashita and Deepak.

Working in a remote place with minimal schooling facilities, they recently decided to send their children to a boarding school, a decision taken after much prayer and thought. Both the children have been influenced by their parents' work that whenever there is a family conversation of moving to a city, the children are very clear that their lives have to be spent in Chinchpada.

CMC's motto of 'not to be ministered unto but to minister' is being lived out daily by them. They have been steadfast to their calling and selfless in service. They have made a significant contribution to improve healthcare in the country. Through their life and service, they have been a blessing to so many lives, bringing honour and glory to God.

The CMC Alumni Association is proud to present the College Motto Award 2018 to Drs. Ashita and Deepak Singh.