

The *Paul Harrison Award* was instituted 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.*' The recipient for this year, by his exemplary life, embodies the very word '*service*', having spent his life redrawing the health contours of Arunachal Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh - that strategic eastern corner bordering Bhutan and China, that shimmering land, named for the sun's rays that first embrace this part of India. It was still North-East Frontier Agency (NEFA), when Dr. Moji Jini was born in a small village close to the Chinese border. His childhood, though carefree, was not easy, given that Arunachal Pradesh was then forbidden, isolated and impoverished. The narrative of his school days testifies to the difficulties of obtaining basic education in a remote village. The turning point of his life was the passing away of his beloved grandfather, his mentor and confidant. The rasping sotto voce of the dying old man urged Moji to become a doctor, and that desire became the young lad's goal. Thus, despite tremendous difficulties of language, facilities - even obtaining writing paper- Moji secured the first rank in the state in the Higher Secondary examinations. He then set his eyes on the two best medical colleges he had heard of- AIIMS, New Delhi and CMC, Vellore.

He obtained the CMC Vellore prospectus under fortuitous circumstances, and much to his amazement was both called for the interview and selected to the MBBS course in 1977. This, Moji reflectively says, was the working of the Divine. It was in CMC that he found himself, thriving in the academic environment and co-curricular activities, cementing his place as a much loved classmate and a mellifluous singer. Following internship, he joined AIIMS, New Delhi for post graduation in General Surgery. In 1988, he joined the Arunachal Pradesh State Health Service, and was posted to two backward districts, Tezu and Ziro. The two years he spent there was a revelation to the pathetic fact that for most people of his state, health was both inaccessible and unavailable. He did his very best, fording rivers and trekking deep into the jungle, often at great personal risk, to reach his patients, providing care and services that were unheard of. Adept as he was in all kinds of surgeries, he felt he lacked the skill to treat young children and babies.

He came back to CMC Vellore in 1992 and trained as a Paediatric Surgeon. And then a world lay before him. The trajectory of his life could have been very different, for offers from India and abroad abounded. But he chose to return to Arunachal Pradesh with the firm conviction that '*if there is a place in the world where my service is most needed, it is here.*' As the first super-specialist of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, he set about making changes and using his influence to *be* the change. Clinically, he notched up a series of records and firsts in procedures and surgeries. But a decade into service, he realised that one pair of hands, however skilled, was not enough. And like Dr. Ida Scudder's epiphany a century earlier, Dr. Moji Jini realised that education was the way forward. His goal was to set up a modern hospital and a medical college. The herculean task of modernising infrastructure, upgrading the main hospital, land acquisition for the medical college, the construction of the college, obtaining the necessary permissions, finding resources- and all the while attending to his clinical responsibilities- might have deterred a lesser mortal. But not Moji. He used his position

as the highest ranking health official of the state to not only set up the Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, but six nursing schools, the Arunachal Pradesh Medical Council, a day-care Cancer Centre and formalised the Arunachal Pradesh Health Cadre Rules and Regulations. He initiated an NGO, the Siang Health Mission that conducts health camps in remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh and the neighbouring Assam. The first batch of MBBS students joined the Medical College in 2018, and Moji says he will be fulfilled when they graduate.

Despite these accomplishments, Moji has not stopped dreaming and planning, for the challenges he faced have led him to envision new horizons- peripheral hospitals, outreach programmes, telemedicine, a nursing college, possibly a second medical college. And knowing Moji, it is not a matter of 'how', but 'when'. Helping and supporting him has been his wife, Dr. Tumbi, a dental surgeon and their children. It is significant that CMC Vellore honours Dr Moji Jini in this, the Centenary Year of Medical Education. His life and work, he humbly says, are his way of *'repaying in small measure what I owe to society.'* But beyond repaying a debt, Moji Jini has in no small way played his part in making the rough places plain and the crooked places straight, in hewing out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope that has brought new life to the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to medical services to India in general and Arunachal Pradesh in particular, in the spirit of its motto, *'Not to be ministered unto, but to minister'*, Christian Medical College is proud to bestow the Paul Harrison Award for 2018 upon its illustrious son, Dr. Moji Jini.