

CERTIFICATE FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE – 2019

DR RAJIV CHOUDHRIE, joined Christian Medical College, Vellore for his undergraduate MBBS training in 1982. He was born and brought up at the Padar Hospital, the place where his father, Dr. Victor Choudhrie worked.

After completing his training in CMC, he joined Padhar Hospital as a Junior Medical Officer in 1988. He married Dr Deepa Thomas, also from the batch of 1982. He subsequently underwent post graduate training in MS General Surgery in CMC Vellore 1992. Upon completion of his training, he returned to Padhar Hospital in 1995 along with Dr. Deepa who had specialized in Radiology. Dr. Rajiv took over as head of the Department of Surgery. Seeing the immense need for reconstructive work for the large number of patients with head and neck cancer, he was motivated to undergo further training as Plastic surgeon and went to CMC Ludhiana in 1999 to pursue his MCh in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He returned to Padhar after his super speciality training and developed the department of Plastic and reconstructive surgery catering to many a needy patient with a variety of problems such as burns contractures, trauma congenital deformities to mention a few. Access to this type of specialized care in a rural setting was a big boon for the local Gondi tribal population who were from very remote and backward areas with very poor economic resources and difficult access to health care facilities.

Dr Rajiv Choudrie is a versatile surgeon and often lends a helping hand to difficult procedures involving other specialities like General surgery, Urology, Orthopaedics and Gynaecology. Under his able leadership the 'SMILE TRAIN' an initiative by an international Non- profit charity organization for corrective surgery for cleft lip and palate was initiated at Padhar in November 2002. He has performed 4500 cleft lip and palate surgeries since the partnership with this organization. In 2012, he was instrumental in bringing together a team of highly specialized doctors from across the globe belonging to his MBBS batch to perform the first successful conjoint twin separation surgery in rural India.

In 2014 for his commendable services in a rural mission hospital, he was honoured by Christian Medical College, Vellore with the Emmanuel Sundaraj Memorial Award.

Since 2008 he has been Director/Medical Superintendent of this 200-bedded hospital. He believes firmly that a lack of funds or availability should not be a deterrent to providing medical care to the unreached and unreachable.

In addition to his surgical and administrative duties, Dr. Deepa and Dr. Rajiv were aware of the needs for community development activities around Padhar. This has led them to establish a school of nursing as well as improving and upgrading the Happy Valley English Medium School, run by Padhar Hospital.

Under his leadership, Padhar Hospital has a flourishing Mental health Program, the Shifa Project, providing quality mental health care to the far-flung villages of the district.

A keen sportsman, and winner of the Reeve H. Betts award for Best outgoing Sportsman from CMC Vellore, he continues to encourage sports and games activities among his staff. He is also active in Church affairs, playing the guitar and drums at the Sunday English service which he helped start in 2009.

He has thus been an example of living the motto, vision and mission of his Alma Mata. He has used his talents and abilities for the glory of God, by following the mandate of CMC Vellore to work in the mission field and living up to the motto of his Alma Mater, "Not to be ministered unto but to minister". CMC is proud to award him the award for 25 years of Meritorious Service for the year 2019.

DIRECTOR

Vellore

PRINCIPAL

09.11.2019