



CANCER INSTITUTE (WIA)TM

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NEWSLETTER

JULY '26 | ISSUE

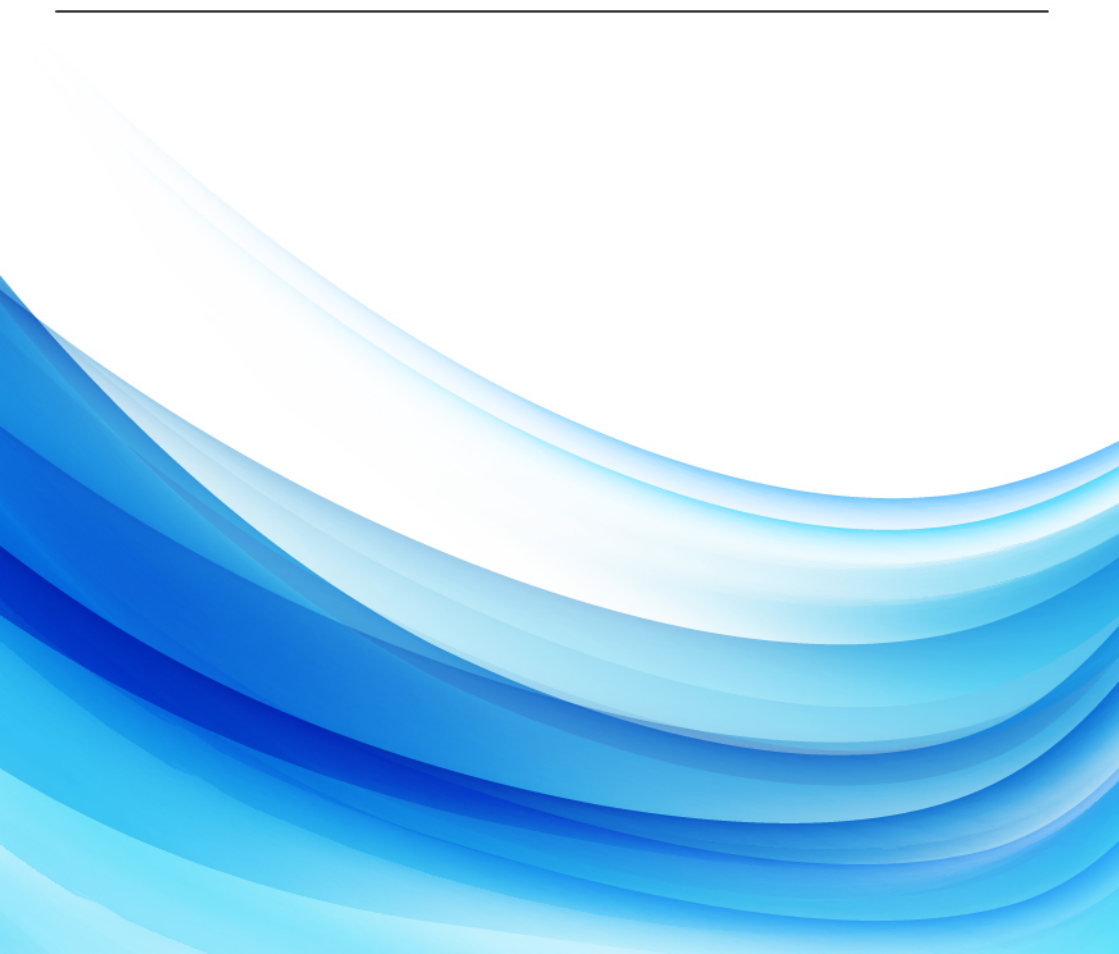


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COVER STORY

CANCER CARE CONTINUUM: JOURNEY OF INDIAN CANCER SOCIETY FROM CHALLENGE TO CHANGE OVER 75 YEARS

Dr. V. Shanta Memorial Oration — A Legacy of Compassion & Care

The Cancer Institute (WIA) recently hosted the 5th Dr. V. Shanta Memorial Oration, themed *"Cancer Care Continuum: Journey of Indian Cancer Society from Challenge to Change over 75 Years,"* honouring the enduring legacy of a clinician who believed that every patient, regardless of financial means, deserved access to the highest standard of cancer care. In her welcome address, **Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, CEO and Medical Director of Cancer Institute (WIA),** reflected on Dr. Shanta's vision of equitable and compassionate cancer care, and her core values that include service, social responsibility, and improving access to healthcare.



Dignitaries during the 5th Dr. V. Shanta Memorial Oration hosted by Cancer Institute (WIA).



This year's oration holds special significance as it falls in Dr. V. Shanta's centenary year. A pioneer in oncology, she joined the Cancer Institute (WIA) in 1954 and went on to establish India's first multi-modality cancer care unit, combining surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy under one roof. Her leadership ensured that a majority of patients received free or subsidised treatment without compromising on quality, cementing her belief that cancer care was a right and not a privilege. This legacy of equitable, compassionate care continues to guide the Institute today, as reflected in the contributions of its long-standing partners.

Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, CEO and Medical Director, Cancer Institute (WIA) addressing the gathering during the Oration

COVER STORY, CONTINUED

Thiru N.L. Rajah, Chairman of Cancer Institute (WIA), acknowledged the Indian Cancer Society's sustained financial contributions to patient care at the Institute, its role in cancer awareness and screening, and its support for survivorship initiatives such as the **Yugam childhood cancer survivor group**. He also recognised ICS's contributions to evidence-based care through the **Indian Journal of Cancer** and **national cancer registries**.



Chairman Thiru N.L. Rajah highlights decades of collective efforts to improve access to cancer care.

The partnership between the two organisations has grown steadily over the years, with the Cancer Institute joining ICS's initiatives around 2012, enabling patients to directly benefit from schemes such as the Cancer Cure Fund and diagnostic support programmes - a collaboration that continues to strengthen patient access to financial assistance, survivorship support, and holistic rehabilitation services at the Institute.

The oration was delivered by **Dr. Purna Kurkure**, representing the Indian Cancer Society, who traced the 75-year journey of the ICS, India's oldest national non-profit in the cancer space, founded in 1951 by Dr. D.J. Jussawalla and Mr. Naval Tata. Dr. Kurkure underscored the importance of a comprehensive cancer care continuum, spanning awareness and early detection through to survivorship and rehabilitation.

She highlighted large-scale public health initiatives including nationwide screening programmes, mobile detection units, and community outreach campaigns that have collectively reached millions across the country.

A particular focus was placed on the Cancer Cure Fund, which supports patients from low-income families by funding treatment at empanelled hospitals, and Project PICASSO, a survivorship programme offering long-term follow-up, educational support, and psychosocial rehabilitation for childhood cancer survivors.

Dr. Kurkure concluded by calling for stronger collaboration between institutions, NGOs, and healthcare professionals, along the lines of the National Cancer Grid, stressing that awareness, screening, affordable treatment, research, and rehabilitation must work in concert to strengthen India's cancer care ecosystem.

COVER STORY, CONTINUED

During the event Long Service awards were presented to staff members in recognition of their years of dedicated service. Mrs. Chitra Mahesh, wife of the late music composer Mahesh Mahadevan, in whose memory the Mahesh Memorial Paediatric Oncology Ward was established, was felicitated. Students who secured top ranks in the University of Madras examinations were also honoured.

DONATION HIGHLIGHTS CREATING IMPACT THROUGH COMPASSIONATE PARTNERSHIPS

Correspondent: Ms. Kalyani M S, Data Manager, Tumour Registry

The CSR Department of Cancer Institute (WIA) continues to strengthen accessible, affordable, and compassionate cancer care through meaningful collaborations with corporates, philanthropic organisations, and individual donors.

Recently, the Institute had the privilege of engaging with organisations including HUDCO, LIC Housing Finance, LIC Golden Jubilee Foundation, Siemens, KLA, Sundaram Finance, Sundaram Fasteners, and West Pharma to support the procurement of critical cancer-care equipment and patient-support services.

These valued partners play an important role in helping the Institute uphold its commitment to providing quality cancer care irrespective of patients' socio-economic backgrounds.

Through hospital visits, awareness interactions, patient-support activities, and collaborative discussions, our partners witnessed firsthand the Institute's unwavering dedication to delivering equitable and compassionate cancer care.

Cancer Institute (WIA) remains deeply grateful to all CSR partners for their trust, commitment, and shared vision of building a future where quality cancer care is accessible to all.

Author: Mr. Rajasekar R, General Manager, CSR and Special Projects

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS – CORNERSTONE OF THE INSTITUTE

Biomedical engineers play a vital role in modern healthcare by ensuring that medical technologies remain safe, reliable, and efficient. Working closely with healthcare professionals, they contribute significantly to patient outcomes while supporting the seamless functioning of hospital services.

Their responsibilities extend beyond equipment maintenance to include documentation management, service logs, calibration records, and safety certifications, all of which undergo regular audits.

Established in 2015, the Department of Biomedical Engineering currently maintains 1,631 equipment units across the Dr. S. Krishnamurthy and Dr. V. Shanta campuses. The department benefits from the experience and dedication of long-serving team members, including Mrs. Vasanthavalli and Mr. Balan.

The team's key responsibilities include:

- Comprehensive asset management and equipment maintenance
- In-house repair for low- and moderate-risk equipment
- Preventive maintenance of 1,033 equipment units
- In-house calibration of 53 equipment units
- External calibration of 860 equipment units
- AMC and CMC coordination for 308 equipment units
- Support for high-value equipment, including robotic surgery, LINAC, blood irradiator, OTs, ICU, Gastroenterology, Radiology, Cath Lab, BMT Unit and Emergency
- Management of UPS systems and EPABX network (326 telephone lines)
- Vendor coordination for equipment installation and commissioning
- Procurement and maintenance of 101 CSR-supported equipment units



Additional responsibilities include maintaining 230 high-risk equipment units, overseeing the pneumatic tube system with 20 stations to improve turnaround times, and coordinating equipment condemnation and lifecycle management.

Through their expertise and commitment, the Biomedical Engineering team ensures the uninterrupted functioning of critical healthcare services across the Institute.

Correspondent and Author: Dr. Y. Swapna, Medical Officer, Blood Centre

EVENTS

CELEBRATING MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK 2026

Correspondent: Mrs. R. Harini, Scientific Assistant, Dept of Microbiology



Medical Laboratory Professionals Week celebrations at Cancer Institute (WIA)

The Institute celebrated Medical Laboratory Professionals Week on 9 May 2026. The official theme for Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2026 was "Lab Story: To Infinity and Beyond for Our Patients." This theme celebrated the dedication, precision, and vital role laboratory scientists and technicians play in pushing the boundaries of diagnostics and patient care.

Medical Laboratory Professionals are an indispensable part of the healthcare ecosystem. Working behind the scenes, they generate critical diagnostic information that guides treatment decisions, monitors patient progress, and supports safe and effective cancer care.

To commemorate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2026, the Departments of Clinical Biochemistry and Microbiology organized a series of academic and interactive activities highlighting the vital contributions of laboratory professionals to patient care.

The Department of Clinical Biochemistry hosted a guest lecture on "Interpretation of Coagulation Enigmas in Cancer Patients" delivered by Dr. Revathy Raj, Senior Consultant and Paediatric Hemato-Oncologist, Apollo Cancer Centre. The session explored the importance of clinical history-taking, advances in haemophilia management, and challenging haemostasis disorders through an engaging case-based discussion and quiz.

CELEBRATING MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS WEEK 2026, CONTINUED



The Department of Microbiology marked the occasion through creative and skill-based activities, including an Agar Art Competition and a Mixed Culture Competition. These events provided an opportunity for laboratory scientists and technicians to showcase both their technical expertise and creativity while reinforcing essential microbiological skills.

The celebrations also coincided with a significant institutional achievement, with the diagnostic departments receiving NABL accreditation as per ISO 15189:2022 standards for more than 168 parameters.

Author: Dr. Packia Nancy, Assistant Professor and Head, Dept. of Microbiology and Dr. Thuthi Mohan, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry

EVENTS

B.R.E.A.T.H.E. 2026 – LET THE OXYGEN FLOW IN



Participants engaged in hands-on airway management simulations during B.R.E.A.T.H.E. 2026.

As part of the Dr. V. Shanta Centenary Celebrations, the Department of Anaesthesiology and Pain Management conducted "B.R.E.A.T.H.E. – Let the Oxygen Flow In" on 21 June 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai.

The workshop focused on advanced airway management techniques including video laryngoscopy, fiberoptic bronchoscopy, lung isolation devices, emergency airway access, and simulation-based training.

B.R.E.A.T.H.E. 2026 – LET THE OXYGEN FLOW IN, CONTINUED

Featuring eminent national faculty, the programme combined lectures, demonstrations, and immersive hands-on sessions, providing valuable learning opportunities for postgraduate trainees and consultants.

Correspondent and Author: Dr. Nivedhyaa, Associate Professor, Dept. of Anaesthesia and Pain Management

EVENTS**BUILDING TRUST THROUGH TOUCH AND TECH
CAHOCON 2026 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Correspondent: Ms D Anitha, Senior Physiotherapist, Dept of Physiotherapy



Multidisciplinary experts participating in the CAHOCON 2026 Pre-Conference Workshop.

Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai, successfully hosted the CAHOCON 2026 Pre-Conference Workshop titled “Essentials of Oncology – From Handshake to Handheld: Building Trust Through Touch and Tech.”

Aligned with the conference theme “Tech, Touch and Trust,” the workshop explored the evolving role of technology in oncology while reinforcing the importance of compassion in cancer care.



CAHOCON 2026 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, CONTINUED

Through engaging sessions on robotic surgery, pediatric oncology, radiation therapy, onco-nursing, nutrition, physiotherapy, psycho oncology, healthcare quality, and pain and palliative care, participants explored how trust is built across every stage of the patient journey. The event emphasized a holistic, patient-centred approach to oncology care, where innovation, empathy, and interdisciplinary teamwork come together to improve outcomes and enhance the cancer care experience.

Author: Sivapriya S. N., Assistant Manager, CSR Department

EVENTS

MOLECULAR HPV TESTING AND SCREENING WORKSHOP

Participants during the Molecular HPV Testing and Screening Workshop held as part of ISSCPCON 2026.

The Department of Cancer Biology and Molecular Diagnostics organized a one-day workshop on “Molecular HPV Testing and Screening” during the 18th ISSCPCON National Conference held from 27–29 March 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai.

The workshop focused on recent advances in HPV-based molecular diagnostics, cervical cancer screening strategies, and their implementation in clinical practice. The event attracted clinicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals from across the country, fostering discussion on emerging approaches to cervical cancer prevention and early detection.

Author: Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramshankar, Professor and Head,
Department of Cancer Biology and Molecular Diagnostics

EVENTS

GOA 2026 – CONCEPTS OF ENDOSCOPIC SUBMUCOSAL DISSECTION (ESD)

Correspondent: Dr. Nivedhyaa, Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesia and Pain Management



Live demonstration session during GOA 2026.



As part of the Dr. V. Shanta Centenary Year Celebrations, the Department of Medical Gastroenterology organized GOA 2026, a conference focused on Concepts of Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD), on 25 April 2026.

ESD is an advanced endoscopic technique used to remove early gastrointestinal cancers and large precancerous lesions while preserving organ function. The conference brought together gastroenterologists, surgical oncologists, endoscopists, trainees, and healthcare professionals from across Chennai.

Highlights beyond expert lectures included live ESD case demonstrations, and hands-on training using animal models. The programme emphasized early cancer detection, advanced therapeutic endoscopy, and skill development in gastrointestinal oncology. It was the first-of-its-kind single-theme conference organised in Tamil Nadu on ESD.

**Author: Dr. (Sqn Ldr) Thirumoorthi N., Associate Professor,
Department of Medical Gastroenterology**

EVENTS

WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY 2026



Awareness activities conducted during World Hand Hygiene Day 2026.



The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team observed World Hand Hygiene Day on 5 May 2026 under the global theme “Action Saves Lives.”

To mark the occasion, awareness activities were conducted for doctors, nurses, patients, attenders, and housekeeping staff. Through demonstrations, educational models, games, posters, and interactive sessions, participants were educated on proper hand hygiene practices and their importance in preventing healthcare-associated infections.

The initiative reinforced the Institute's commitment to patient safety and infection prevention.

Author: IPC Team, Cancer Institute (WIA)

EVENTS

**ISCCPCON 2026 – CALL FOR ACTION:
CONCEPT TO COMMUNITY**

Correspondent: Dr. Y. Swapna, Medical Officer, Blood Centre



Delegates attending ISCCPCON 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA).

The Cancer Institute (WIA) hosted the 18th National Conference of the Indian Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (ISCCPCON 2026) from 27–29 March 2026 under the theme “Call for Action – Concept to Community.”

The conference focused on strengthening cervical cancer elimination efforts aligned with the WHO’s 90-70-90 targets.

The academic programme featured workshops on colposcopy, molecular HPV testing, and cytology, alongside a dedicated Community Champions Workshop that empowered nurses and healthcare workers to advocate for screening within their communities. An education initiative designed to strengthen the “third arm” of the WHO strategy was inaugurated at ISCCPCON 2026, towards the goal of ensuring that at least 90% of all women diagnosed with preinvasive disease or cervical cancer receive appropriate, timely, and high-quality treatment. A role play performed by the Institute’s community screening team vividly illustrated real-world barriers to screening, from myths to social stigma, offering a direct understanding of the challenges that must be overcome together.

Bringing together clinicians, researchers, public health professionals, donors, and community stakeholders, ISCCPCON 2026 reinforced the Institute’s commitment to transforming evidence-based cancer prevention strategies into meaningful community action.

Author: Dr. Ujwala Prakash W., Associate Professor and Head, Dept. of Gynecological Oncology

EVENTS

REGULATORY T-CELLS: GUARDIANS OF IMMUNE BALANCE - IMMUNOLOGY DAY 2026

Participants of the International Day of Immunology 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA).

The Department of Molecular Oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA), commemorated the International Day of Immunology 2026 on 27 April 2026 under the aegis of the Indian Immunology Society as part of the Dr. V. Shanta Centenary Celebrations.

Centred on the theme “Regulatory T-Cells: Guardians of Immune Balance,” the programme highlighted the critical role of regulatory T-cells in maintaining immune homeostasis and preventing immune dysregulation.

The event brought together more than 50 participants, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, PhD scholars, and faculty members. Activities included an expert lecture, digital poster presentations, and an interactive quiz competition.

A key highlight was the lecture delivered by Dr. Madhan Kumar, Scientist D, ICMR-NIRT, Chennai, who discussed the role of regulatory T-cells in tuberculosis treatment monitoring and outcome prediction. Participants gained valuable insights into immune regulation, biomarker development, and translational research applications.

The programme successfully promoted scientific exchange while encouraging young researchers to explore the growing role of immunology in cancer, infectious diseases, and autoimmune disorders.

Correspondent and Author: Dr. Sridevi Duggirala, Assistant Professor, Molecular Oncology

EVENTS

HANDS-ON HPLC TRAINING WORKSHOP



HPLC demonstration and training workshop for students and young researchers

A hands-on HPLC Training Workshop aimed at strengthening practical chromatographic skills among young students and researchers was conducted by the Department of Molecular Oncology on 21 and 22 May 2026. Fourteen students from various colleges with pharmacy, chemistry, biotechnology, and life-science backgrounds attended the programme.

The workshop combined theoretical learning with practical training, covering chromatography fundamentals, HPLC instrumentation, method development, sample preparation, data analysis, and troubleshooting.

Participants gained hands-on experience in operating HPLC systems, performing sample analysis, and interpreting chromatographic data. The programme received positive feedback for its practical orientation and interactive learning environment.

Correspondent and Author: Dr. Sridevi Duggirala, Assistant Professor, Molecular Oncology

WORLD PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY DAY 2026

Correspondent: Ms. Revathy Sudhakar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psycho-Oncology

In observance of World Psycho-Oncology Day 2026, the Department of Psycho-Oncology hosted the "Psycho-Oncology Forum: Stories, Science and Support," bringing together more than 75 patients, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

WORLD PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY DAY 2026, CONTINUED



Patients, survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals participating in the Psycho-Oncology Forum.

The forum provided a meaningful platform for open dialogue, where lived experiences intersected with clinical insights. Through interactive discussions led by oncologists, psycho-oncologists, and patients, participants explored the importance of emotional well-being throughout the cancer care continuum.

Key discussions focused on coping with emotional distress, building resilience, and strengthening support systems for both patients and caregivers. The event also featured a multidisciplinary panel discussion that highlighted collaborative approaches to integrating psychosocial care into routine oncology practice.

EVENTS

ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH MULTISECTORAL ACTION: WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2026

A State-Level Consultation on Article 5.3 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) was held on 29 May 2026, bringing together public health leaders, policymakers, clinicians, and civil society representatives. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. V. Surendran, Professor and Head, Department of Psycho-Oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA), followed by remarks from Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Deputy Medical Director, Cancer Institute (WIA), on cancer prevention and patient-centred care.

MULTISECTORAL ACTION: WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY 2026, CONTINUED



Delegates participating in the State-Level Consultation on Tobacco Control.

Sessions by Dr. K. Krishnaraj, Joint Director (NCD), Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Dr. T. Pravin, Programme Officer (NCD), Dr. Arun Suraj, Sivasankari, Dr. Arun Suraj, Secretary, Indian Dental Association, Dr. M. A. Elangovan, and Mr. Cyril Alexander, Director, Mary Annie Charitable Trust, highlighted tobacco control initiatives, oral health promotion, tobacco cessation, healthcare system strengthening, and the role of civil society in community outreach and cancer awareness.

The consultation focused on strengthening tobacco control policies, addressing emerging nicotine products, documenting industry interference, and enhancing public awareness initiatives. Discussions also emphasised school-based education, capacity building, and strategies to protect children and adolescents from tobacco exposure. The programme concluded with recommendations to strengthen tobacco control measures through coordinated multisectoral action.

ANTI-TOBACCO AWARENESS RALLY “UNMASKING THE APPEAL”

As part of World No Tobacco Day 2026, the Department of Psycho-Oncology organized an Anti-Tobacco Awareness Rally themed “Unmasking the Appeal” on 30 May 2026 at Elliot’s Beach, Chennai.

The rally brought together 308 participants, including healthcare professionals, students, volunteers, and members of the public, united by a common commitment to tobacco control and cancer prevention. The rally was flagged off by Dr. K. Krishnaraj, Joint Director (NCD), Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu; Mr. Venugopal Vaidyanathan, Chief Financial Officer, Cancer Institute (WIA); and Dr. V. Surendran, Professor and Head, Department of Psycho-oncology, Cancer Institute (WIA).

ANTI-TOBACCO AWARENESS, CONTINUED



Participants during the Anti-Tobacco Awareness Rally at Elliot's Beach, Chennai.

The event also marked the launch of the E-IEC Awareness Campaign and the Quit Tobacco Campaign, both aimed at promoting tobacco cessation and increasing public awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use.

EVENTS

YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR CANCER CONTROL (YACC)

The Orientation and Sensitization Programme for Youth Ambassadors for Cancer Control (YACC) was conducted on 26 March 2026 to empower students to become advocates for cancer awareness and tobacco control within their institutions and communities.



Students participating in the YACC Orientation Programme.

The programme addressed topics including cancer prevention, early detection, cancer trends in Tamil Nadu, lifestyle-related risk factors, and the harmful effects of tobacco use. A total of 110 students participated in the initiative.

By equipping young people with knowledge and leadership skills, the programme contributes to the broader goal of building healthier, tobacco-free communities.

EVENTS

TOBACCO CESSATION INTERVENTION WORKSHOP



Experts and participants at the Tobacco Cessation Intervention Workshop.

The Tobacco Cessation Intervention Workshop was conducted on 31 March 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai, bringing together experts from clinical, public health, academic, and policy backgrounds. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K. Krishnaraj, Joint Director (NCD), Directorate of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Government of Tamil Nadu, and Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, CEO and Medical Director, Cancer Institute (WIA).

A total of 127 students and healthcare professionals from 11 dental colleges and 4 medical colleges participated in the programme. Sessions covered tobacco-related cancers, global tobacco control frameworks, behavioural interventions, nicotine addiction, pharmacotherapy, and emerging approaches including AI-assisted cessation support. Discussions were led by experts from Cancer Institute (WIA), the World Health Organization, NIMHANS, Vital Strategies, the Indian Cancer Society, and the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The workshop served as an important platform for advancing tobacco cessation efforts, strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, and promoting evidence-based approaches to cancer prevention and tobacco control.

Author: Dr. V. Surendran, Professor and Head, Department of Psycho-Oncology

EVENTS

CELEBRATING THE HEART OF HEALTHCARE: INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2026

Correspondent: Ms. Revathy Sudhakar, Assistant Professor, Department of Psycho-oncology



International Nurses Day was celebrated on 12 May 2026 at Cancer Institute (WIA) to honour the invaluable contributions of nurses to patient care and healthcare delivery.

Observed globally on the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the 2026 campaign was guided by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) theme: "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives."

The programme commenced with the Institute Song, followed by a keynote address by Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, CEO and Medical Director, who highlighted the critical role nurses play in patient recovery, safety, and quality care.

The celebration featured cultural performances by nursing staff and concluded with the presentation of Best Nurse and Long Service Awards to recognise outstanding dedication and service.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY 2026 **CELEBRATIONS** AT CANCER INSTITUTE (WIA).



Author: Capt. Mrs Muthuram G, Nursing Superintendent

EVENTS

ANALYTICS FOR ACTION AGAINST CANCER: TAMIL NADU CANCER REGISTRY STATISTICS (TN-CReSt)

Correspondent: Ms. Kalyani M S, Data Manager, Tumour Registry

As part of the Dr. V. Shanta Centenary Year commemorations, Cancer Institute (WIA) launched Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Statistics (TN-CReSt), an innovative online analytics platform developed to support evidence-based cancer control planning and policy decisions.

The tool was launched by Dr. P Senthilkumar IAS, Secretary of the Department of Health and National Health Mission Director Dr A Arun Thamburaj IAS, was also present. TN-CReSt is built on data generated through the Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Programme (TNCRP), a collaborative initiative between Cancer Institute (WIA) and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu.



Launch of TN-CReSt during the Dr. V. Shanta Centenary Year.

The platform enables users to analyse cancer incidence data by age, gender, district, year of diagnosis, and cancer site through three major domains:

- Recent Cancer Statistics
- Cancer Trends
- Cancer Projections

Users can generate tables, graphs, district fact sheets, and analytical reports with export capabilities.

The underlying TNCRP data has been recognised internationally and featured in publications of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (NCDIR)

TN-CReSt represents a significant step towards data-driven cancer control and public health planning in Tamil Nadu.

Author: Dr. P. Sampath, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Cancer Registry

EVENTS

**RESEARCH RISING-INTERNATIONAL
CLINICAL TRIALS DAY**

Correspondent: Ms. Kalyani M S, Data Manager, Tumour Registry



Faculty, researchers, and staff commemorating International Clinical Trials Day 2026 under the theme "Research Rising".

CTSU commemorated International Clinical Trials Day 2026 on 6 June 2026 under the theme "Research Rising," celebrating the growing impact of clinical research in advancing healthcare.

A key highlight of the event was the special guest lecture by Dr. C. Suthakaran, MD (Pharmacology) and IEC Member, who shared valuable insights from his extensive experience in clinical research and emphasized emerging opportunities and future directions in the field. His inspiring address encouraged researchers and healthcare professionals to contribute towards innovation and evidence-based patient care.

The celebration also featured a presentation on CTSU's achievements over the past five years, recognition of internship trainees, and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to strengthening clinical research and fostering a culture of research excellence.

Author: Mrs. Vidya Anand, Ethics Committee Coordinator Clinical Trial Services Unit

UPCOMING EVENTS

COPE CME 2026

5 and 6 September 2026

The Department of Medical Oncology will conduct the annual **Cancer Institute Orientation Programme for Exam-going DM/DrNB Medical Oncology Postgraduates (COPE CME)**. The programme is designed to support postgraduate trainees through focused academic sessions and examination-oriented learning.

State-of-the-Art Advanced Multi-Omics Training Programme

3 August to 4 September 2026

The Department of Molecular Oncology will conduct a five-week training programme on **State-of-the-Art Advanced Multi-Omics Techniques in Molecular Oncology**, sponsored by the **Department of Health Research, Human Resource Development (DHR-HRD)**. The programme will provide participants with advanced theoretical and practical training in contemporary molecular oncology techniques.

MILESTONES

500 ROBOTIC SURGERIES, ONE COMMITMENT: CANCER CARE FOR ALL

Chennai: After years of dedicated progress, the Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar has achieved a significant milestone by completing over 500 robotic-assisted cancer surgeries. Notably, nearly 60% of these procedures were performed under highly subsidised care, underscoring the Institute's longstanding commitment to making advanced cancer treatment accessible to patients from all sections of society.

The programme utilises the da Vinci Xi Surgical System to perform minimally invasive procedures across all major cancer types, including thoracic, head and neck, gastrointestinal, urological, and gynaecologic oncology. Every case undergoes rigorous multidisciplinary tumour board review to ensure robotic surgery is the most appropriate option for the patient. The technology is applied judiciously, only where it offers clear clinical advantages. For suitable patients, robotic-assisted surgery results in reduced blood loss, smaller incisions, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery.



Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Deputy Medical Director and Head of Surgical Oncology, expressed profound gratitude for the institutional support and generous donor contributions that have enabled many cancer patients, especially from lower and middle-income groups, to access robotic surgery at significantly subsidised rates.

Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar Crosses 500 Robotic Cancer Surgeries Milestone

"This milestone reflects the skill, dedication, and seamless teamwork of our entire ecosystem," he added. The Institute also extended heartfelt gratitude to its team of dedicated surgical oncologists, residents, anaesthetists, nurses, multi-disciplinary oncologists, and all allied healthcare professionals whose collective expertise and compassionate care have been central to this achievement.

The Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar remains committed to expanding access to cutting-edge cancer care and will continue to strengthen its robotic surgery programme in the years ahead, as resources and opportunities permit.

Author: Dr. Arvind Krishnamurthy, Deputy Medical Director, Professor and Head, Department of Surgical Oncology

TEACHER IN ME FROM CHALKBOARDS TO AI: MY JOURNEY AS A TEACHER

Reflections on Adapting, Inspiring, and Staying True to the Heart of Teaching

My journey as a teacher in a formal faculty role has been brief but deeply transformative. It has been filled with doubts, discoveries, and the challenge of holding the attention of adult learners for forty minutes at a stretch. For someone who comes from the days when the finest teachers needed only their voice, a blackboard, and chalk, this has been no small task. Back then, notes from revered teachers were treasured like heirlooms, passed down from seniors to juniors.

Then came the era of OHP transparencies—mercifully short-lived—followed by the first wave of PowerPoint slides. These allowed vast amounts of information to be delivered, though often at the risk of lulling even the sincerest student to sleep. Later versions added glitz and glamour, sometimes diluting the essence of teaching itself. And now, with AI-powered engines, dazzling presentations can be created at the click of a button.

Amidst this whirlwind of change, I have held on to a few non-negotiables. Teaching begins with showing up on time and protecting learning time. Adult learners thrive when their curiosity is sparked, not when they are bombarded with information. Participation is vital—it keeps minds engaged and phones at bay. Most importantly, students should leave empowered with at least one new insight, and they must feel respected in a classroom that is a safe sanctuary for questions.

As someone once said, “A great teacher inspires, not merely informs.” The teachers who inspired me embodied this truth, and I remain grateful to them for shaping the teacher I am today.

Author: Dr. Meenakshi V V, Head, Department of Palliative Medicine

HALL OF FAME



Dr. Shirley S,
Professor and Head - Dept of Oncopathology
& Dean of Academics

was honoured with the Doctors' Day Award by the Tamil Nadu Medical Council, recognizing her unwavering commitment to compassionate care and medical excellence.

Dr. Y. Swapna,
Medical Officer, Blood Centre, holds the copyright
for the book MCQs in Apheresis Medicine, a publication
comprising approximately 585 high-yield multiple-choice
questions based on current guidelines in Apheresis
Medicine.



Dr. T. Pragadeesh,
received the Gold Medal in
Medical Oncology for the
University Examination held
in 2025.



Dr. V. Bhavani,
received the Gold Medal in
Radiation Oncology for the
University Examination held
in 2025.



Dr. R. Hanumitha,
received the Gold Medal in
Medical Oncology for the
University Examination held
in 2026.

HALL OF FAME, CONTINUED



Dr. Sowmya Prithiviraj,
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Radiation Oncology,
presented her work at the European Society for
Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) 2026 Congress
held in Stockholm, Sweden.



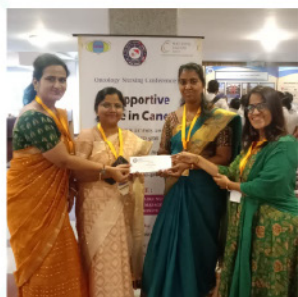
Dr. Pradeep Arumugam,
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Oncopathology
(Hematopathology),
received the First Prize for
Oral Presentation at THOT
CME 2026, Chennai.



Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramshankar,
represented Cancer Institute
(WIA) at the IARC 60th
Anniversary Scientific
Conference in Lyon, France,
presenting four scientific
studies.



Dr. Vijayalakshmi Ramshankar,
was an invited speaker at the
St. Jude Global South Asia
Regional Meeting in Mumbai,
presenting her work on
genomic profiling in
paediatric acute leukemias.



Ms. Prema Sheeja,
Staff Nurse, Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar,
won First Prize for Poster Presentation at
the ONAI-NCG Conference, Tata Memorial
Hospital, Mumbai.

HALL OF FAME, CONTINUED



Ms. Anitha D.,
Senior Physiotherapist,
won First Prize for Paper Presentation at ISCCPCON
2026, the 18th National Conference of the Indian
Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology.



**Dr. Evangelin Ezhilarasi
& Dr. Mukhilan Selvakumar,**
Dept. of Medical Oncology,
secured Third Place in the
State-Level Quiz Competition
conducted during TAMPOS
2026, Coimbatore.



Dr. Shreya Rath,
received the Best Poster
Award for her presentation
titled "When Morphology
Misleads – HGBCL"
at THOT Conference
2026.



Dr. P. R. Vengada Krishnan,
MDRT, Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Radiation Oncology,
secured 3rd Prize in Oral
Presentation at ISCCPCON
2026, the 18th National
Conference.

PREVENTIVE PEARLS

Skin Cancer

Although skin cancer accounts for less than 1% of all cancers in India, it remains an important health concern. The relatively low incidence is largely due to the protective effect of melanin in the skin. Among skin cancers, squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is the most common in India, followed by basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and melanoma.

Who is at Risk?

Risk factors include excessive exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, fair skin, numerous moles, a family history of skin cancer, precancerous skin lesions, immunosuppression, genetic predisposition, and exposure to certain chemicals such as arsenic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Protect Your Skin

Simple preventive measures can significantly reduce the risk of skin cancer:

- Avoid direct sun exposure between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- Seek shade whenever possible.
- Wear protective clothing, wide-brimmed hats, and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher generously, and reapply every two hours or after swimming or excessive sweating. Sunscreen should be used throughout the year.
- Avoid tanning beds and artificial tanning devices.

Early Detection Saves Lives

Regular self-examination of the skin can help detect suspicious lesions early. Watch for the ABCDE warning signs:

- **A** – Asymmetry
- **B** – Border irregularity
- **C** – Colour variation
- **D** – Diameter greater than 6 mm
- **E** – Evolution or change in size, shape, or appearance

If you notice any suspicious skin changes, consult a dermatologist promptly. Individuals at higher risk should also consider periodic professional skin examinations.

FEEDBACK

FEEDBACK & MESSAGES TO:

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