

OnChronicle

AN EXCLUSIVE NEWSLETTER OF ALAMELU CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, SUPPORTED BY TATA TRUSTS



Welcome Note

Dear Reader,

This month, we are happy to bring you Volume II of the OnChronicle newsletter. This issue brings you updates and news of how we are progressing on our journey to “transform cancer care in India”.

We introduce you to DIAV – one of our donor partners in Tirupati. The pandemic notwithstanding, we have added a few more feathers to our cap – launch of the Radiation Block at the Assam Medical College Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh, installation of high-end medical equipment at the Barpeta Cancer Centre, Assam, the launch of the HMIS software at

SCI, Guwahati and the Dibrugarh Daycare Centre as well as the launch of the screening kiosks at Diphu and Silchar.

In the “Byline” section, we bring you an inspiring poem penned by Mr. Mohan Kulkarni who retired as Vice President from Tata Motors and was our colleague at ACF as a Technical Advisor until March 2021.

The past few months have also seen the recruitment of core personnel for the upcoming hospitals in Barpeta, Tezpur and Tirupati.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic still swinging its tentacles, we are marching forward, many steps at a time.

Please do share your feedback and thoughts on this issue and help us improve.

Stay safe, take care & keep reading!

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Donor Contribution: Dakshina India Arya Vysva Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Dharma ParipalanaSamstha (DIAV) Samstha collaborating with the Cancer Care Programme at Tirupati

The Cancer Care Programme has been working towards transforming cancer care in India and to this effect, has been receiving support from well-known organizations that have established social welfare initiatives in place. Their support has been crucial in all our endeavours.



The DIAV Samstha is a Trust involved in various philanthropic activities in Chennai, Tirupati and key religious locations. As part of their corporate social responsibility initiative, DIAV has collaborated with the cancer care implementation arm of the Tata Trusts, Alamelu Charitable Foundation (ACF) since February 2021, to support the operations of our upcoming cancer care

hospital in Tirupati, called Sri Venkateswara Institute of Cancer Care & Advanced Research (SVICCAR).

DIAV have supported us through the donation of a dharamshala that will be used as accommodation for patients, their caregivers as well as for the support staff of the hospital. They have also been

instrumental in the renovation and refurbishment of the dharamshala. In addition, the donation of a tempo traveller vehicle will be used to transport patients and support staff from their accommodation to the hospital, which will greatly reduce the burden on the hospital to arrange accommodation for patients and staff.

We value DIAV's support to the initiative that we are doing in cancer care and look forward to equally beneficial partnerships with DIAV and others who may come on-board in future.



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Opportunistic Screening Kiosks at Diphu and Silchar in Assam

Health Screening and Awareness Centres called 'Swasth Kiosks' are being set-up in collaboration with Government Medical College Hospitals / District Hospitals. The 'Swasth Kiosks' have been introduced as a proactive step towards down-staging cancer, through opportunistic screening and education of OPD (out-patient department) and IPD (in-patient department) patients' attendants and visitors. During the past quarter, Assam launched 2 more Swasth Assam kiosks – one at the Diphu Medical College and Hospital and one at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH). The Swasth Assam kiosk in Silchar was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Babul Bezbaruah – Principal cum Superintendent of the SMCH, Dr. Bhaskar Gupta – Vice Principal, SMCH and Dr. Sajal Sen – Chief Operating Officer, ACCF in the presence of dignitaries from SMCH and ACCF.

Currently a total of 9 Swasth Kiosks are operational across Assam, Tirupati, Chandrapur and Ranchi, with a few more in the pipeline.

The screening and awareness services provided at the kiosks will enable the early detection of cancers and NCDs and also raise awareness regarding risk factors like tobacco. Timely and adequate follow-ups can also lead to early detection, thereby reducing mortality rates.



Launch of the new Radiation Block in Assam Medical College Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh, Assam



On 16th February, 2021, the new Radiation Block of about 6,000 sq. ft. was launched at the Assam Medical College Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh in Assam, after months of on-ground work and delays caused due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Centre is equipped with facilities for Radiotherapy and houses high-end medical equipment like a True Beam Linear Accelerator (LINAC) and CT Simulator. Having such high-end medical equipment will considerably reduce travel and accommodation costs for people who were earlier compelled to travel far distances to access such facilities. The commissioning of the facility has also reduced patient waiting time for treatment, as patients from nearby healthcare establishments can be referred directly for radiation therapy. It is also hoped that the students of the existing Medical College will benefit from this Radiation Block.

High-end medical equipment installed at the Barpeta Cancer Centre, Assam.

The Linac model installed at Barpeta is a high precision and integrated machine that can speedily and accurately treat patients. Advanced imaging techniques like Respiration synchronised MV / KV radiographs, 4D CBCT (Cone Beam Computed Tomography), Iterative CBCT are available in this latest version of Linac. The first treatment in TrueBeamLinac is expected around June, 2021.

“Discovery RT” is the model of the CT Simulator machine that has been installed at Barpeta. This is an advanced modality CT Simulator that enables flexible patient comfort positioning, software to address challenges presented by patient motion and precise treatment planning, leading to an efficient workflow and is designed to improve patient experience with no compromise to accuracy and precision.



Advanced technology cancer treatment requires very complex machinery and highly skilled personnel to be deployed at all cancer care centres. The cancer care program is in the process of augmenting the Centres with high-end medical equipment.

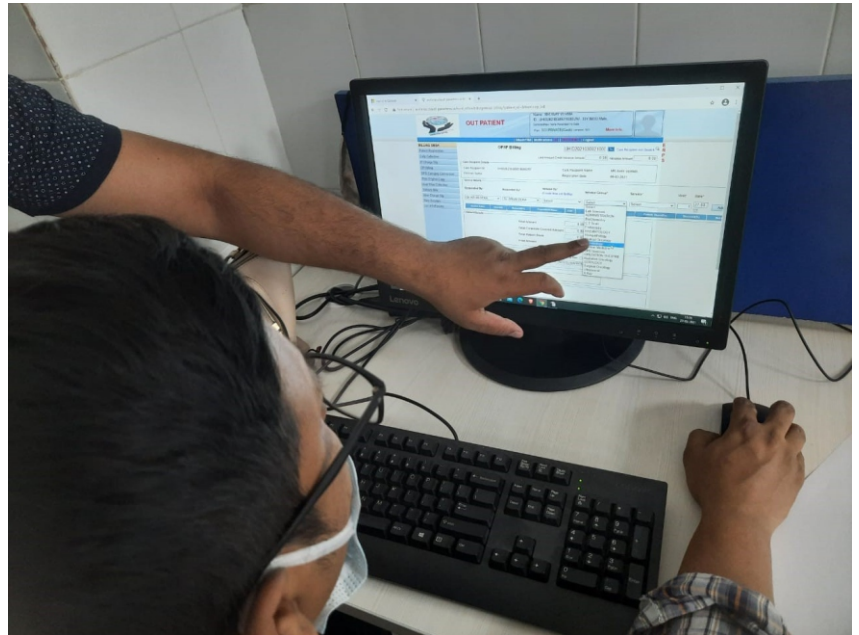
The Radiation Oncology Department of the Barpeta Cancer Centre in Assam recently installed two high-end radiotherapy machines, namely, Linac True Beam and CT Simulator Discovery RT.



On the road to Healthcare IT Transformation - Rollout of the PARAS application at SCI Guwahati and the Dibrugarh Daycare Centre

It is our endeavour to improve the efficiency of the overall hospitals system through automation, which in turn can better manage the operations, performance, quality, planning, decision-making and reporting for projects. Health Management Information System (HMIS) is implemented in a hospital for managing patient care and related administrative functions. It is a system whereby health data are recorded, stored, retrieved and processed to improve decision-making.

Through the untiring efforts our IT, procurement, legal and operations teams, we have successfully on-boarded Srishti Software Applications Pvt. Ltd. as the IT partner for various IT functions / services of HIS, EMR, ERP, Outreach and portals like clinician, patient, vendor portal, ESS, etc. as part of their product offering called PARAS. PARAS is a patient-centric comprehensive and integrated healthcare delivery platform conforming to the best clinical and administrative practices. PARAS covers the complete spectrum of patient care and provides a fully integrated enterprise solution. This helps in creating a totally paperless hospital.



On 31st March, 2021, the TCS application was decommissioned and the first new patient registration was successfully done in PARAS on 1st April, 2021 at SCI, Guwahati, with the rollout of the following functions / processes : appointment booking, patient registration, appointment confirmation desk, OP billing, admission (daycare, chemo, inpatients), ward management, discharge,

discharge summary and IPD bill finalization and settlement.

The teams ensured a smooth transition and we hope to have enterprise class healthcare IT transformation across all our cancer care hospitals with standards and uniformity in the processes and functions as we go along.

Human Resources & Training Programs

Human resource personnel play a critical role in ensuring high-quality healthcare for patients. Core HR personnel for our upcoming hospitals in Tirupati, Tezpur and Barpeta have been identified and are in the process of being on-boarded. Some of the core group personnel consist of Medical Superintendents, Nursing Heads, Procurement and Finance personnel, Bio-Medical Engineers, Radiotherapy Technicians and Medical Physicists.

Meanwhile, a Doctors Fellowship Program is underway, covering surgical oncology, onco-pathology and medical oncology. General Duty Medical Officers are being trained in Medical Oncology. Besides the above, training capsular programs in palliative care were conducted for social workers and volunteers.

Community outreach and capacity building



With a very clear focus on early detection and control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) including easily identifiable cancers, the Outreach teams at Assam, Tirupati, Cuttack, Ranchi and Chandrapur have been working relentlessly on various fronts, like

capacity building of frontline health workers by imparting training on screening and community mobilization, screenings for NCDs and cancers of oral, breast and cervix, training of the General Practitioners and AYUSH practitioners on the signs, symptoms and risk factors of oral, breast and cervical cancers.

A multitude of outreach activities were conducted during the months of January and February to mark Cervical Cancer month and World Cancer Day (4th February) respectively. Activities like awareness drives for community groups, screening camps, interactive sessions with student-teacher



groups, engaging self-help groups to spread awareness and to counsel women to come forth for breast and cervical screening, house to house visits sensitizing on the importance of screening for cancer, quiz competitions, walkathons and rallies were conducted. The teams continue relentlessly with the help of ASHAs, Jeevika Sakhis, volunteer groups in their efforts to reach out and build capacity, with the broader goal in mind that cancer is indeed a 'preventable killer'.

Byline - Tatas' pious mind- Mr. Mohan B. Kulkarni- (Retd.) Vice President, Tata Motors, Ex-Technical Advisor ACF

The many studies undertaken by Tata Trusts reveal that a huge percentage of cancer patients in India are from the North Eastern states. Their destiny is at stake as the required facilities are unavailable in these states.

So the Tatas arrived at a plan.

Tata Trusts is doing wonderful service to North Eastern states by planning a chain of modern cancer hospitals and implementing this plan, which is aligned with Jamshetji Tata's vision that the community is not just one of the stakeholders in the business, but is the very purpose of it. What comes from it, will go back multi-folds. This noble approach of the Tatas, is recognised as a benchmark by the Industrial world.

Jamshetji, JRD and R N Tata - the leadership of Tata Trusts - have had great vision and heart to understand the key stakeholders, their needs, their priorities and their true well-being.

Tata Trusts, after thorough studies, have undertaken to build state of the art hospitals to provide quality treatment to cater to the needs of cancer patients and to ease out the anxieties and tortures of patients and their families at affordable costs, closer to their homes and within easy access.

These hospitals will provide great solace to the North Eastern region and will immensely benefit the people in and around these regions. Although these people have their hearts full of gratitude for the Tatas, the



Tatas look at these projects, as a pleasure out of a sense of duty that they are getting an opportunity to serve the community in which they operate.

The Tatas have completed many different noble projects in the past and will keep doing so, as their duty to serve the society and communities, which is perfectly aligned to their business purpose.

The Tatas firmly believe that in value-based, thoughtful thorough planning and implementation lies the key to the creation of wealth for our nation.