

# KOTAGIRI MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP HOSPITAL

## Opportunities for involvement in the work at KMF

A brief history and background of the medical work has been included before the presentation of the financial needs. The hospital seeks to fulfil the need for a reliable medical facility in the Nilgiris. This is an opportunity to be involved in the growing medical work.

Kotagiri Medical Fellowship hospital (KMF) is a 50-bedded hospital in the town of Kotagiri, located in the hilly Nilgiris district of Tamilnadu, India. The hospital was started by a couple of intrepid women missionaries from England, Ms. Monica Sutton and Ms. Vera Nowell. Convinced of the need for medical work among the people in the hills, the two women moved to Kotagiri in 1937. They repaired an abandoned cowshed on the plot of land they had bought, and with the help of a couple of locals converted it into a dispensary with an operating table.

In the same year, Dr. Pauline Jeffrey who trained in Ophthalmology at CMC Vellore was sent by Dr. Ida Scudder to recuperate in Kotagiri after contracting tuberculosis. While here, she responded to the need for medical work in the Nilgiris and these three pioneers joined to consider organizing a regular medical work. In 1942, Dr. Lydia Herlufsen, a general practitioner from Denmark joined KMF while she was stranded in India during the war and the hospital grew steadily from then.

The hospital had grown since 1941 from a cowshed to have several blocks of buildings. However, in the early part of the last decade there was a gradual decline in the functioning of the institution due to several reasons and the management of the Trust approached Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore to help revive the institution. After a formal take-over in August 2017, CMC has been striving to revive the hospital and its activities in the community around it.

### *Why do we need to revive the hospital?*

KMF hospital has a history of serving people, not just from Kotagiri but from all over the Nilgiris District. Today, despite the presence of several small general practice clinics, there is still no reliable hospital facility in the entire district where one can go in a time of serious sickness or emergency. An informal survey showed that most people, regardless of their financial ability, are forced to travel 2 hours or more to Coimbatore for almost every kind of



serious illness. Many, especially those with cardiac problems, stroke and other critical illnesses worsen or perish along the way. This is especially true with those who are economically disadvantaged. Therefore, there is no doubt that there is, even today, a great need for a reliable hospital facility that can cater to the medical needs of the entire district.

### ***Current situation***

With CMC's involvement, the hospital has shown signs of recovery, with a gradual but steady increase in patient numbers. At present, there are 8 full-time doctors at the hospital include a physician, obstetrician, clinical pathologist, ophthalmologist, orthopedic surgeon and neurosurgeon. We see patients with major illnesses like myocardial infarction, stroke, major fractures etc. and the Emergency room is open 24x7. Specialists from CMC come to visit and regular medical consultations are being held. There are regular visiting consultants in the field of Pulmonary medicine, ENT, Diabetes, Geriatrics and other specialties, from CMC Vellore and elsewhere. CMC Vellore also provides training to staff to upgrade their skills and knowledge.

KMF is a charitable hospital which is currently managed with the help of CMC Vellore. We manage our running costs but are dependent on contributions to upgrade our equipment and services.



### ***COVID support – essential equipment needs***

The Covid pandemic has brought about new challenges. The second wave of COVID is hitting the Nilgiris hard and it appears that the second wave will see more patients than the first. An inspection was done by the government authorities and they have requested us to admit and take care of COVID cases. In the meantime, the team is preparing for this and two floors of the hospital have been identified as an isolation center for this purpose. In KMF we are also testing patients on a daily basis - both in-patients, and out-patients and providing vaccination.

We have identified the following essential needs according to priority to meet the medical needs of the local population.

1. **Oxygen supply to the wards** - Procuring oxygen is difficult and time consuming in Kotagiri since we are dependent on centers in Coimbatore. This also makes oxygen expensive for patients because of transport costs. There is also the looming prospect of an oxygen scarcity because of the huge demand, which will make oxygen availability a major problem when the second wave hits us in full force.
2. **Diagnostic services – CT scan** – CT scan has become an essential tool in the diagnosis of COVID. It is estimated that around 15% of cases are reported to be negative from the RT-PCR tests but CT changes indicate the presence of the illness. CT also helps in monitoring the progress of the illness.

At present there is only one CT machine available in Kotagiri in the Government Hospital. However, its services are available only for 4 hours in a day. It is not always reliable and during the weekends, all evenings and holidays, we are forced to refer patients to places 3 hours away, something that can make a difference between life and death in an emergency situation.

Details of these requirements, along with approximate costs are given below.

**The highest priority item is the oxygen generator plant.**

<b>KMF Hospital - Need for COVID equipment / support</b>			
<b>Equipment / Need</b>	<b>Number of units</b>	<b>Cost (INR)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>Oxygen concentrator/ generator plant (80 lit/mt)</b>	1	<b>20,63,400</b>	An oxygen concentrator plant takes oxygen from the atmosphere and concentrates it for use to the patient. The oxygen is then sent into the pipelines to reach patient in the ward. This will ensure that trips to Coimbatore are minimized and a reliable supply of oxygen is available at all times. <b>Advantages:</b> 1. Reduces dependence on oxygen cylinders which take almost 24 hours to refill. 2. Reduces cost to patient significantly (by more than 50%). 3. Ensures continuous and reliable availability of oxygen as it is obtained from the atmosphere.
Civil and electrical work for oxygen plant		<b>3,00,000</b>	Building modification and electrical supply for installing the oxygen plant.
Portable oxygen concentrator (5 lit /min)	4	<b>75,000 per unit</b>	Portable source of oxygen for low-flow oxygen needs in patients who are not very sick but need oxygen.
<b>CT Scan</b>			
CT machine (16 slice) Philips / Seimens	1	<b>160,00,000</b> (inclusive of taxes, transport, installation, generator)	Diagnosis of COVID and estimation of the condition of the lungs. It also helps in understanding the progress in response to treatment. Currently we do not have a reliable CT service in Kotagiri. A CT scan will also help in diagnosis and treatment of serious illnesses like stroke, head injury, abdominal and chest illnesses, fractures etc.
<b>Personal protective equipment</b>			
Sterile gloves (No. 6.5)	2000	<b>2000</b>	Protection of staff and patients during the pandemic. This is a continuing need and the price is an approximation for 2 months.
Sterile gloves (No. 7)	2000		
Sterile gloves (No. 7.5)	1000		
Nitrile gloves disposable (small size)	2000		
N95 mask	4000		
Hand sanitizer (500ml)	200		
PPE Overall (with head cover, shoes)	400		

## **Bank details and other information**

The following details are for donations from within India. Donations to KMF hospital are eligible for 80G tax exemption - they may be made by cheque or DD payable to “Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital”, or directly into the hospital bank account.

Account Name - KOTAGIRI MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP HOSPITAL  
Account Number - 1958914021  
IFSC Code - CBIN0281010  
MICR Code - 643016302  
Name of the Bank - CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA, Branch - KOTAGIRI  
Type of account- Savings account

Thank you for your interest in this worthwhile project. Please contact me if you would like any further details.  
Yours sincerely,

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