



# 9th Annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration



## *IDA S: AN APPRECIATION*

*On the 150th Anniversary  
of her birth*

*Delivered by*

**JAMES H. TAYLOR, MD**

Oncologist, Philanthropist  
Board Member, Scudder Association Foundation and  
the Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation

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**DECEMBER 9, 2020**  
**9:00 AM EST | 7:30 PM IST**

# 9th Annual Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration



## PROGRAM

### **INVOCATION - "BE THOU MY VISION"**

College Vellore Senior Administrators

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Dr. Arul Dhas, Chaplain, Christian Medical College Vellore

### **WELCOME**

Dr. John Victor Peter, Director, Christian Medical College Vellore

### **CITATION**

Mrs. Usha Jesudasan, Author and Member of the Board of Directors,  
Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation

### **INTRODUCTION OF THIS YEAR'S HONOREE**

Mr. John A. Riehl, President, Vellore Christian Medical College  
Foundation

### **DR. IDA S. SCUDDER HUMANITARIAN ORATION**

James H. Taylor, MD, Philanthropist and 2020 Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian  
Oration Honoree

### **VOTE OF THANKS**

Dr. Anna Pulimood, Principal, Christian Medical College Vellore

### **"SEVENFOLD AMEN"**

Backtrack Vocals

### **COLLEGE SONG**

College Choir



## CITATION FOR THE DR. IDA S. SCUDDER HUMANITARIAN ORATION 2020

In 2012, the Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the United States-based organization, Vellore CMC Foundation, joined hands to establish the Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration. The objective of this partnership was to perpetuate the legacy of Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder by honoring individuals who exemplify her courage, compassion, integrity, and character, in order to inspire future generations to emulate her dedication to the well-being of humanity.

Dr. Ida S. Scudder, CMC's founder, was born on December 9, 1870, into a family of American medical missionaries. It was assumed that Ida would study medicine and follow in their footsteps. However, Ida's childhood experiences of famine, poverty, and suffering in India, made her want an easier life than that of a missionary doctor.

One night while she was visiting her parents, three men knocked on Ida's door, one after the other, requesting her to help their young wives through difficult childbirth. Though Ida's father was a doctor, they refused his help, since their religion and culture would not allow a male physician to attend a lady. Untrained in any medical procedures, the teenaged Ida had to turn them away. Three women and three babies died that night for lack of medical care. This tragic night changed the course of Ida's life and set her on a path that led to her establishing a small clinic for women and children first, and ultimately to the creation of the unique institution that today is known worldwide as Christian Medical College Vellore.

Ida's favorite part of the Bible was 1 Corinthians Chapter 13: Verses 4-7, which reads, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres". Ida read these verses every day and tried, with God's help, to live this way. Her example of compassionate, loving service for those who were suffering, inspired colleagues, students, staff, and subsequent generations to follow in her footsteps.

On the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Ida S. Scudder, we are delighted and honored to welcome Dr. James Hamilton Taylor, to deliver this very special year's Oration. As a member of the Scudder family, and as the great-great grandson of Dr. Silas Scudder, the founder of Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet, Dr. Taylor has given a lifetime of compassionate service as a radiation oncologist. Dr. Taylor has encouraged research and is the author of many publications which have further helped in the advancement of knowledge in radiation oncology. Dr. Taylor has also supported CMC very generously for many years resulting in notable improvements in the quality of care delivered through CMC's Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU), its Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA), and the Department of Radiology within the Main Hospital. In 2020, Dr. Taylor and his family responded very generously and immediately to CMC's request for financial assistance during the institution's preparation for the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently to CMC's plan to renovate the Heritage Center.

In recognition of Dr. James Hamilton Taylor's tireless and compassionate work for patients diagnosed with cancer, and for his gracious acts of charity, he is most eminently worthy to be linked with the name of our beloved founder, through the award of the 2020 Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration.



## DR. IDA SOPHIA SCUDDER (1870-1960)



CMC's founder, Dr. Ida S. Scudder, was an American physician who devoted her life and career to bringing modern health care and medical education to the people of India. The daughter of Christian missionaries, she was born in Tamil Nadu but educated in the US. Memories of India were coloured by the clamouring needs she experienced as a small girl that ultimately caused her to turn away from the family's missionary tradition and plan for a career and family life in the United States.

In 1890, with her schooling complete, Ida made a short visit to her parents in India. There God called on her to change direction and dedicate her life to providing health care for women and children in India. On one fateful evening, the lives of three young women struggling in childbirth were placed before her. Their husbands pleaded for her assistance, but for religious and cultural reasons,

refused the help of her physician father. They would never allow a man to attend their wives. With no medical training, Ida could offer nothing. She realized that Indian women had no one to turn to in a medical crisis. She learned the next day that all three women and their babies had died for want of trained female assistance.

Ida Scudder returned to the US with a new ambition: to respond to the cries of the women of India. She studied medicine and graduated in 1899 from Cornell Medical College in New York - amongst the first batch that included women. She began her life's work in 1900 from a one-bedded clinic in her parents' bungalow in Vellore. In 1902 she opened the Mary Taber Schell Memorial Hospital and soon branched out, reaching remote villages with "roadside clinics." Within a few years she began training nurses and compounders and in 1918 launched the Licensed Medical Practitioner (LMP) course for women medical doctors.

In the 1940's the Christian Medical College became co-educational in order to attract the resources needed to meet rising standards of medical education. The LMP course was upgraded to a full MBBS degree. Dr. Scudder led the institution through this difficult transition and laid the foundation for the next sixty years of medical and nursing education in an independent India.

Ida Scudder continued to provide inspiration and moral support for those who assumed leadership of the school and hospital after her retirement in 1945. She encouraged the emergence of a cadre of Indian professionals who were committed to the highest standards of medical practice and education. Her funeral in 1960 in Vellore was an all-community event with thousands of people of many faiths lining the streets. The Government of India issued a commemorative stamp on 12th August 2000 in her honour.

Dr. Ida S. Scudder's legacy is embodied in the Christian Medical College and its hospitals at Vellore, Tamil Nadu, an institution with 1,900 physicians and 3,200 nurses, providing health care for over two million people a year. CMC has maintained a well-earned reputation for quality and honesty in diagnosis and care. It is the top-ranked private medical college and hospital in India and known worldwide as an example of excellence in Community Health.



## JAMES HAMILTON TAYLOR, MD



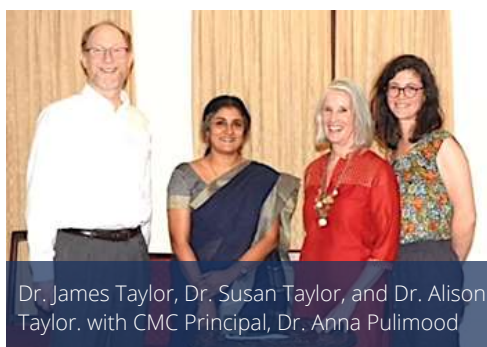
Dr. James Hamilton Taylor, the great-great-grandson of Dr. Silas Downer Scudder – founder of Scudder Memorial Hospital located in Ranipet, India – is both a mission-focused philanthropist and prominent member of the Scudder Association Foundation. Professionally, until earlier this year, Dr. Taylor served as the Medical Director in Radiation Oncology at Ascension Cancer Care – All Saints in Racine, WI. He studied Medicine at the University of Virginia (in Charlottesville) and completed his residency at Ohio State University Medical Center. Alongside his clinical practice, Dr. Taylor has been active in conducting clinical research. He Chaired the Ascension Southeast Wisconsin Regional Cancer Committee. He served on the Executive Committee of his hospital and as president of his medical group.



Dr. Silas Downer Scudder

Dr. Taylor joined the Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation Board in 2016 and has generously supported CMC for the past four years resulting in notable improvements in the quality of care delivered through CMC's Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU), its Rural Unit for Health and Social Affairs (RUHSA), and the Department of Radiation Oncology within the Main Hospital. In 2020, Dr. Taylor and his family responded expeditiously to CMC's request for assistance during the preparation period that preceded the COVID-19 outbreak in Vellore. In the fall of 2020, the Taylor family provided the seed funding needed to assist CMC with the execution of its plan to renovate the Ida S. Scudder/CMC Heritage Center. His wife, Dr. Susan Taylor, has been active, promoting collaborations between CMC and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Jim and Susan love to travel and ride bicycles. They have both visited Vellore on multiple occasions; Dr. James Taylor has been attending CMC Council meetings the past 6 years as the Scudder family's delegate.



Dr. James Taylor, Dr. Susan Taylor, and Dr. Alison Taylor with CMC Principal, Dr. Anna Pulimood



## CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE

Dr. Ida S. Scudder passed away in 1960 but she lives on through the Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC), which has evolved into a large multi-specialty teaching hospital. CMC has nearly 3,000 beds across five campuses, and on an average day caters to over 9,500 outpatients coming from all over India, neighboring countries, and more distant places like Africa. The mission continues: to serve the nation through education, clinical service and research, with a special concern for the disabled, disadvantaged, marginalized and vulnerable. Outreach and services to the community, pioneered by Ida Scudder, remain at its core, even as the hospital embraces ever-increasing levels of specialization.

CMC is regularly ranked in the top three medical colleges in India, and the top (and cheapest) private medical college. In 2020, CMC was ranked "2nd best Medical College in India" in the annual India Today survey and ranked 3rd in the National Institutional Ranking Framework of the Government's Ministry of Human Resource Development. All its programs blend knowledge, professional skills and competency, social relevance and evidence-based ethical practice. The clinical training in the large, busy multi-specialty hospital is complemented by placements in villages, mission hospitals and secondary care settings. Through the Distance Education Department we enable health care workers, many from the public sector, to upgrade their skills, and equip lay leaders to provide basic community health services in places where medical facilities are limited or non-existent. The aim is to nurture and mentor the students, encouraging holistic growth, an awareness of the needs of the marginalized, and a commitment to serve in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Research is integral to CMC, particularly where it has direct relevance to the unique health needs of India. Over the past century, CMC has contributed significantly to generating and advancing knowledge which has impacted curative and preventive medical services throughout India and the world. CMC is involved in basic, clinical, and translational research in many areas, including diabetes, hepatitis, gastro-enteric diseases, malnutrition, stem cells, early detection, and treatment of cancer and more.

Extensive community-based health services are supported by CMC's secondary level hospitals CHAD and RUHSA. Additional programs, including the Low-Cost Effective Care Unit and the College of Nursing's Community Health Service, provide localized care to people living in the urban slum areas of Vellore. All these initiatives have contributed to major improvements in critical health indicators in the region.

The institution has recently expanded to two locations to cope with the pressures of acute overcrowding and outdated facilities. The first is a 130-bedded hospital in Chittoor District of neighboring Andhra Pradesh. Its accident and emergency service, wards and outpatient services are backed up by state-of-the-art operating theatres and a modern diagnostic facility. Secondly, final construction is underway for a new multi-specialty hospital and state-of-the-art trauma center at Kannigapuram, about 12 km from the main hospital on the Chennai highway. In June 2020, Kannigapuram opened its completed wards to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMC Vellore's roots as a Christian organization draw on the example of Jesus Christ, and seek to model the values, priorities, and activities of His healing ministry. Patients of all faiths are welcomed and treated without regard to their beliefs or socio-economic status.



## VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Vellore Christian Medical College Foundation, based in New York, USA, has enjoyed a unique and close partnership with CMC since 1948. The Foundation, as it exists today, evolved from the U.S. Vellore Board, which consisted of individuals and church denominations that provided early support for Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder. The mission of the Foundation is to support CMC in its drive for excellence in healthcare, education and research. The Foundation also celebrates and ensures the legacy of Dr. Ida Scudder's work through fund-raising and friend-raising.

The Foundation works closely with the leadership of CMC to promote its operational and charitable priorities. A representative of the administrative team serves on the Foundation's board. The Foundation liaises with Friends of Vellore organizations throughout the world to advocate for CMC.

Since 2012, the Foundation has partnered with CMC to organize the annual Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration to celebrate individuals who embody the same set of compassionate, empathetic and selfless values that brought Dr. Ida to Vellore so many years ago.

### Previous Recipients of the Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration

The late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (former President of India)

Mrs. Sudha Murty (Chair, Infosys Foundation)

The late Dr. Paul W. Brand, delivered by Philip Yancey (friend & biographer of Paul Brand)

Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty (Founder and Chair, Narayana Health)

Dr. K. Srinath Reddy (President, Public Health Foundation of India)

Dr. Roger Glass (Director of the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health, U.S.A.)

The late Dr. Ida Belle Scudder delivered Dr. Robert Fish (her nephew, on behalf of the Scudder family)

Mr. Harsh Mander, Director for the Center of Equity Studies, New Delhi

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Dr. Honorine Ward

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Dr. Robert H. Carman

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Rebekah Mani (1936-2020)

Anish Mathai

Edwina Scudder-Youth