

ANDHRA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND KING GEORGE HOSPITAL
A HISTORICAL NOTE
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1960-65 MBBS 1966-69 MS

The Andhra Medical College was the seventh college, after Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Lucknow, and Delhi to have started in our country.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL COLLEGE, CALCUTTA	1838
MADRAS MEDICAL SCHOOL	
(STANLEY MEDICAL COLLEGE, MADRAS)	1838
GRANT MEDICAL COLLEGE, BOMBAY	1845
KING GEORGE MEDICAL COLLEGE LUCKNOW	1911
LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI	1916
RG KAR MEDICAL COLLEGE CALCUTTA	1916
VIZAGPATEM MEDICAL SCHOOL	
(ANDHRA MEDICAL COLLEGE, VISAKHAPATNAM)	1923

In 1902, Sri Goday Narayana Gajapathi and Mrs Chitti Janikamma of Anakapalli have initiated the establishment of The Victoria Diamond Medical School in Visakhapatnam offering L.M & S diploma. The Medical school is said to be located in what is the present Queen Mary's school compound. Efforts to make it a full-fledged college started in 1913 but this got delayed due to the First World War. Sri. A V Bhanoji Rao, the then member of the Legislative Assembly of Madras Province and The Maharajah of Vizianagaram have played a pivotal role and helped the sanction of the medical college. Although Col. Simons the then head of Medical Services of Madras State was not very keen on it, The Chief Minister Rajah of Panagal took a decision to sanction the college and Col Anderson took over as the first Principal of the Vizagpatem Medical College.

The GO No: 1017 P.H Mis.; dated 25th June 1923 of Government of Madras, Local Self Government Department sanctioned a medical college and finally on 19th July 1923, Sri Ramanarayana of The Rajah of Panagal, and the then Chief Minister of Madras Province inaugurated the Vizagpatem Medical College, Visakhapatnam recruiting 32 students for the first batch leading to the MBBS degree. Dr M V Krishna Rao and Dr. P Manikyala Raju, students of the first batch had a unique distinction of being a student and a teacher simultaneously, for Biology and Physics respectively and teach their own class fellows. The first batch students obtained their degrees in 1928. Only two of them had passed the course in first attempt. A sanction of Rs.59,000/- was made for equipment. The pay for the principal was Rs.650 – 2100. It is interesting to note the fee for the students as per the GO was Rs.125 (including the Registration fee of Rs.5/-) and the women students are to pay registration fee only and no tuition fee. The tuition fee was Rs.288/- in 60s when we were students, 500/- in the 90s, sharply increased later to 5000/- in late 90s. A separate entrance test for selection was introduced in the 80s. Later a combined entrance test for Medical Engineering selections EAMCET was introduced. Private Colleges were permitted on a large scale and different categories: category A B and C and fee structure was introduced in the present century.

The college was affiliated to the Madras University and the students were to go to the Stanley Medical College, Madras to take the examinations. Dr M V Krishna Rao, Dr

Sunderarama Murty and the Head Clerk Sri V Srinivasa Rao were credited to be responsible for the college to have achieved independent status in 1940. Its affiliation was transferred to the Andhra University. Sir C R Reddy, the 2nd Vice Chancellor of the Andhra University christened the College 'Andhra Medical College' in 1941. The Medical Council gave the recognition in 1942 retrospectively. It continued under the Andhra University until all Medical Institutions in the state of Andhra Pradesh were brought under the umbrella of Dr N T R University of Health Sciences in 1986. The college with 32 seats in 1923 was taking 50 in 1930, 55 in 33, and 125 in 1956. The seats were increased to 150 in 1963 but were reduced to 125 in 1978. They were restored to 150 in 1993. The Medical Council threatened reduction in 1997 to 126 but this was averted.

It was surprising that not many Andhras were taking up Medicine in earlier days and students from Madras and Kerala were taking the seats in Visakhapatnam. It was a different story later when most seats in the private colleges in Karnataka were from Andhra.

The PG studies: The regulations for the PG studies changed over the time. Any person with 5 years in general medical practice or three years in hospital could register for MD/MS of the Andhra University through The AMC. Dr S Venkateswara Rao, who was in general practice was the first to take MD in 1943, the first MS was in 1945. One who passed MBBS in First Class was allowed to take the examination after one year. Dr K R Prasada Rao, who had a first class in MBBS, was the first to take M.S from this college appearing for the exam soon after his internship. A two-year study at the college after MBBS was made compulsory in 1950s. In 1966 the MD/MS was made three-year courses. The author belongs to the first batch of the three-year study. the first M. Ch in was started in 1988 and DM in 1991. The DM / M. Ch courses were for two years to start but were made three years in 2000.

The Doctorate degrees were rare in medical Science unlike in other faculties. Originally any person with an outstanding contribution in medical science, and published papers could submit a thesis to the University and he would be awarded the D. Sc if three experts from outside the country accepted the work. Dr M V Radhakrishna Rao, a first batch student obtained the first Ph.D. (ICMR Fellow-Pathology) by research in 1935. Later an MD/MS were required as basic degrees for a Doctoral degree. Drs. Ramalinga Swamy, (Pathology) S. Sriramachari (Pathology), PSRK Haranath (Pharmacology), Veera Raghavan (Microbiology), Raja Rammohana Reddy (Pathology) obtained D.Sc for original research work. Prof B. Naganna (Biochemistry), Prof D Narayana rao (Biochemistry), Prof. T. Desi Raju (Neuro Physiology) were the non-medical scientists who obtained Doctorates by research while working in this college. Prof. P. Brahmayya Sastry (Physiology) obtained Ph.D from McGill University. Dr Brahmayya Sastry's work in Neurophysiology and Acetyl Choline had an international recognition and he had a Rockefeller Foundation grant for his work in the department of Physiology. Neurophysiology was a strong point of AMC. Dr Haranath of Pharmacology worked on Blood Brain CSF Barrier. Dr K Krishna Murty worked on the sickle cell anemia, a problem of the tribal population of the region. The work on the "Chutta Cancer" and the precancerous lesion due to the habit of smoking the cigar with the fire end in the mouth in this region by DR Raja Rammohan Reddy and Dr Ramulu also was an indication of the alumni involved in the problems of the region. Dr Dasaratha Ram, an alumnus obtained a Ph.D in USA

working on Thyroid disease. The experimental laboratory attached to the department of surgery was always busy with postgraduates students working on something or other.

The development of the institute had been progressively intensive.

The chronology of events being:

- 19th July 1923 Inauguration of the Vizagpatem Medical School
- 1923 - First batch of 32 Students admitted
- 1927 - Inauguration of Basic sciences block (physiology) & Pathology block
- 1930 - Boy's Hostel was constructed (the present ladies hostel on the hill)
- 1932 - Inauguration of Pharmacology block
- 1940 - Naming the college as Andhra Medical College
- 1941 - Affiliation to Andhra University
- 1942 - Recognition of degree by MCI
- 1948 - Extension of pathology block named as Dr. Bhaskara Menon's School of pathology
- 1948 - Silver Jubilee of the college
- 1955 - Inauguration of Panagal block (extension of pharmacology block) and Location of administrative block
- 1952 - New boys hostel near the college grounds
- 1956 - Student admissions increased to 125
- 1960 - Inauguration of mortuary
- 1961 - New Anatomy building, named as Dr. R Krishna Rao Dept of Anatomy
- 1966 - Admissions increased 150
- 1975 - Golden Jubilee of the college
- 1986 - Affiliated shifted to Dr.N.T.R. University of Health Sciences
- 1989 - Inauguration of Dr.B.R. Ambedkar auditorium
- 1997 - Platinum Jubilee of the College
- 2001 - Inauguration of new mortuary
- 2003 - Super specialties block started
- 2003 - New Library building
- 2006 - Renovated Physiology building.

A Medical Education cell was established in 1995. A Cultural Society 'Rasamayi' was started in 1998. Research Forum was inaugurated in 2000.

The King George Hospital (KGH), the attached teaching hospital is no less prestigious. It started as a 30-bedded infirmary under the East India Company in 1845. There are no specific records of its bed strength at the beginning and a mention of purchase of 30 iron cots in 1866 indicates its strength. A number of inspections made during 1866 to 1900 by the Surgeon General, Madras, the District collector, the Director General of IMS have shown a bed occupancy of 11, 17, 48 and an outpatient attendance of 50, 150, 200. etc. 40-50 surgical procedures were recorded probably in a month in 1889. A hospital building at a cost of Rs.17,200/- was constructed in 1857. The government paid Rs 6,975 as its share and the rest was from donors. The Establishment was not willing to share the burden of running the hospital and was willing to provide only the skilled professionals. At one stage the hospital faced closure unless the locals supported it. It was then The Maharajah Of Vizianagaram gave a donation of Rs 20,000/-. The Maharajah of Vizianagaram, some local Zamindars and

Sri A V Jagga Rao took active interest in the hospital. It was located near the present Anatomy block. The students cloak room near the Anatomy Physiology was the only remnant of that structure. The Maharajah of Vizianagaram was the sole patron from 1867 to 1875 when the Municipality and Local Fund Institutions sanctioned Rs. 200 to the hospital. The interest from the endowment given by the Maharajah and from sale of drugs was the only source for the hospital. When the Vizagapatam Medical School was established in 1923, the Rajah of Panagal opened the new hospital on the sandy hills and named it as King George Hospital. It had developed into premier multi specialty hospital on the east coast of India. It was for a long time the only health care institute in the 1000 km long stretch between Madras and Calcutta.

Table 1: Beds in KGH

1845	---	30	1936	---	348	1955	----	945
1913	---	83	1941	----	432	1956	----	983
1923	---	192	1946	----	700	1958	----	1033
1933	---	342	1953	----	793	1995	----	1037
			2001	----	1037			

The progress of the hospital was slow but steady.

1918-1923:	Administrative block (old), Surgical wards (S1, S2, S3 & S4)		
	Men's Medical Wards (Bobbili Ward),		
	Women Medical (present M3) Women Surgical (S3 ward),		
	Operation Theatres (Radiology), Outpatient Block (present Record room),		
	Septic Ward (S5 ward), kitchen and dispensary (Students cloak room)		
1928	Maternity ward	1932	ENT- Ophthalmology Block
1940	Out Patient Block (Ebden Block),	1940	Children's ward (present OG dept.)
1948-51	New (present) Administrative block	1950	Bhavanagar Ward
1955	Rajendra Prasad Ward	1956	Pediatric Ward
1975	Cardiology block	1993	Nuclear Medicine
1993	Traumatology	1999	New Orthopedic OT

There used to be two units in Surgery and Medicine. In the pre independent days the Superintendent and The Principal used to be the same Major Shepherd was holding both posts as well as professor of Surgery. It was not uncommon that one held two or more posts. Major Ebden was the Principal Professor of Surgery and Anatomy. The Hospital was more for the British Service Personnel. All service personnel of Officer rank and all service personnel of British origin were admitted to first unit and others to the second unit.

Dr Lt.Col. M V Ramana Murthy as Superintendent had the unique honor of hoisting the National Flag at the King George Hospital at mid night on August 15th, 1947. The general hospital soon started higher specialty services. Neurosurgery was the first to start in 1956, the Cardio Thoracic dept was established about the same time. Pediatric surgery came up in 1962. Plastic Surgery in 1978, Nuclear Medicine in 1982, Radio therapy 1983, Gastroenterology 1984 Nephrology in 1985, Neurology 1986, Endocrinology in 1986. Traumatology units were created with an intention of centralized care for poly trauma but these units over a period have essentially become orthopedic units in spite of separate traumatology blocks and theatres being added in

1993. A Super Specialty block is under construction. The proposal was on the cards for more than 15 years. The work started only two years ago and is progressing satisfactorily.

The Jubilees: The silver Jubilee of the college was celebrated in 1948. The Golden Jubilee and the Platinum Jubilees were later celebrated in 1975 and 1997. The Golden Jubilee Pylon in front of the Panagal building and The AMCOSA guest house in the doctors' colony are the landmarks. The Platinum jubilee committee had donated funds for doctors' sick room and IRCU in the KGH.

The Sister Hospitals: The fame and the name of a medical college depend on the associated teaching hospitals. Apart from the King George Hospital, a number of other institutions contributed to the glory of the AMC. The Oldest among them was the Government hospital for mental care. The Victoria (Maternity) Hospital (Ghosha hospital) followed later. A hospital for Tuberculosis, Infectious Diseases, Regional Eye Hospital, Rani Chandamani Hospital for Children and Rehabilitation were added.

The Government hospital for Mental Care was established as a lunatic asylum in 1863 with 94 beds. Gradually the beds strength has increased to 300. Situated in a sprawling campus in Waltair, it had become the first associated teaching hospital for the medical college. DPM and MD in Psychiatry were started in 1978 and 1982 respectively. De Addiction Ward (1980) and Community outreach program (1992) Family wards (1994) were added. The hospital moved into a new building complex in 2001-02 and a part of the land originally of the Mental Hospital was given for the construction of ENT hospital, TB Hospital, Hospital for communicable diseases and Regional Laboratory.

The Victoria hospital was another hospital more than a century old. It was a condition when the hospital was handed over to the Government that it is exclusively for women, not only for patients but for the personnel as well. While male medical officers and interns are posted in the hospital, it remained a hospital for women patients though.

The RCD Hospital was a gift of The Rani of Chemudu Estate, Smt Chandramani for the handicapped children. It started in 1965. It was later taken over by the Government in 1967 with Pediatrics and Orthopedics as the main departments. A well-equipped surgical theatre was added in 1977

The REH a separate Ophthalmic hospital was constructed 1984-88, and the department was shifted to this premises in 1987. Named after Dr Rednam Surya Prasada Rao it was fully functional from 1990/ A major ophthalmic camp by the team in Andamans is feather in its cap.

ENT hospital was recently added to the list. In between, the land locating the old TB and ID hospital was sold away to private parties. The TB hospital was shifted to a new building near Mental Hospital. Simultaneously new buildings were constructed for the Govt Hospital for Mental Care.

The Alumni in the Army contributed significantly to the cause of the defense of the country as well. Many donned the colors in the Army Medical Corps. There were scores who served the armed forces as regulars and in short service commissions especially in the period of Chinese Aggression and the Pak Invasions.

To name a few:

LT GEN V V S PRATAPARAO, PVSM, PHS. Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services

(LATE) LT GEN P V RAMANAIH, PVSM. Director Of Medical Services (ARMY)

(LATE) LT GEN N R KRISHNAN, PVSM DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES
(ARMY)

AIR CMDRE K S RAO , AVSM DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF AVIATION
MEDICINE

Achievers amongst its alumni:

The Alumni of the college were always in the forefront in academics, research, service, The Nations Defense, social cause, art and culture. A comprehensive list of all those who held the AMC flag high is well nigh impossible. There are many who contributed heavily to the growth of the institutes as principals, superintendents, vice principals and other administrative cadres, faculty and formed great teams. A list of these can never be complete. There were about 8 D. Sc by research, 10 Honorary Doctorates, six Padma awardees, scores who held pivotal posts of Directors of National Institutes and Research Laboratories and Vice Chancellors of Universities. Its alumni excelled in the field of sports and culture as well. There were many unsung heroes who have contributed to the glory of the great twin institutions.

The AMCOSA: It was in 1967 the thought of an old student's association came up and soon Dr P Brahmayya Sastry and Dr C Vyaghrswarudu took the first step. The first AMCOSA meet was held in 1969. Ever since this association grew in strength. A Golden Jubilee Guest house and a Dr Brahmayya Sastry Kalyana Vedika were constructed in the Alapati Doctors' Housing Colony by the efforts of the old students. The pride of the AMCOSA is the addition of the Platinum Jubilee Auditorium in the same complex. Many old students in India and the AMCANA have contributed to this two-leveled auditorium.

AMCANA an association of old students at Andhra Medical college was formed in USA in 1981. It had been doing yeomen service to its alma mater, collecting funds, and centralizing the efforts the alumni. An association of the alumni was started in the UK, when a meeting of the alumni was held in the city of Birmingham in 1984. But later this unit has become a combined unit of medical colleges of Andhra Pradesh.

The GLOBAL MEET: It is in fitness of things the AMCOSA planned global meet of the Alumni of The Andhra Medical College. 85 batches of students went thru the portals of these twin institutions, the alumni, and the institutes, enhancing the glory of each other. There have been occasions where the individual batches of old students meeting, but this global meet is conceived to bring all the amcosans from various batches under one banner for them to rub shoulders with seniors and juniors, exchange and experience the Nostalgia.

The institutes have grown by leaps and bounds and provided to the nation and the world some of its best alumni whose main concern are the care and the cure the patient needs and the concern for ethics of the profession.

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