

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam with a patient in the SWASAM ward during its inauguration



“There are no great acts, only small acts done with great love”

- Mother Teresa



Ganga Hospital has been sensitive to its obligations to the society and has been an enthusiastic partner in many social service projects. The ongoing projects of both the orthopaedic and plastic departments were consolidated and new ones initiated under one umbrella of 'Project SWASAM' which was inaugurated by Former President Shri APJ Abdul Kalam on 3rd May 2008. The project has literally brought a 'breath of new life' to hundreds of patients leading cutting-edge technology but who could not afford it.

10 Projects under 'SWASAM'

- Project Helpline - Free deformity correction surgeries
- "Help for the Hands in Need" Project
- UYIR – People's Movement against road accidents.
- Road Safety & First aid awareness programmes for School Children and college students
- Ganga Hospital Accident Helpline Centres
- Ganga Free First Aid Centre with St John's Ambulance, Tirupur
- Project 'Smile train'
- Ganga Hand Injury Support Group
- Educational activities under Ganga Orthopaedic Research & Education Foundation
- Rural Health programmes.



“Visiting your hospital and seeing your Helpline project made me believe in God (for a person who is a non-believer). God resides not in our imaginations, but in the good intentions of people like you”.

- Suhashini



A People's Movement Against Road Accidents

Unfortunately more Indians between the age of 25-40 die on the roads than by any disease. A study by the hospital revealed that 60% of the accidents were caused by rash driving and non-adherence to road safety rules. UYIR is a collaboration of Ganga Hospital with Rotary Clubs of Dist 3200 to increase public awareness and compliance to road safety rules. Many meetings are held with public transport drivers, policemen, school and college students about road safety rules and on first aid measures.

- 1,10,000 death per year on Indian roads
- One death every 6 minutes
- By 2020, every 3 minutes

You cannot create life,
you can save one



Chief Minister's Below Poverty Line Scheme.

Total Number of Cases Upto 31 Dec 2010		
1.	Total Knee Replacement	849
2.	Total Hip Replacement	220
3.	ACL Reconstruction	280
4.	Long Bone Trauma	2571
5.	DHS	335
6.	Bipolar Hemiarthroplasty	337
7.	Spinal Fusion	434
8.	Discectomy	443
9.	Laminectomy	142
10.	Scoliosis	049
11.	Tb Spine	026
12.	Kyphosis	011
13.	Spinal Tumor	018
14.	Fracture Spine	093
15.	Hand And Plastic Surgery	1203
16.	Others	678
Total		7011

Accidents and life threatening diseases pose a major crisis especially to people who are below poverty line. The Tamilnadu Government Chief Minister's Below Poverty Line Scheme is a great boon to these patients. From the time of its inception, the orthopaedic unit has willingly participated in the scheme in spirit and action and to date has performed more than 7000 major orthopaedic spine and joint replacement procedures making it the largest service provider of a single speciality in the country. The approximate cost of the surgery performed is about Rs..... per year.

- Total cost of surgical procedures Rs. 24,25,28,821
- Total Government reimbursement Rs.
- Total Hospital Subsidy - Rs.

Ganga Hospital Accident Helpline Centres



The Accident Helpline Center in Palghat

Ganga Hospital in association with Rotary District 3200 has started Accident Help line centres at eight areas including Mavuthampathy, Kanjikode, Madhukarai by-pass and Palghat. The aim of these centres is to provide immediate aid to highway accident victims and transport them to the nearest hospital. Ambulances are stationed at all these centres, manned by the paramedical staff of Ganga Hospital. To date, 650 high-way road traffic accident victims have been resuscitated by these centres and transported for immediate specialist care.



The Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sardar S. S. Barnal felicitates the Dr. J. G. Shanmuganathan, Chairman, Ganga Hospital

Ganga Free First Aid Centre with St John's Ambulance, Tirupur

Ganga Hospital along with St John's Ambulance Services started a Centre for free First aid care at Tirupur on 27th May 2001. The center aims at providing emergency care and ambulance services to transport traumatized patients to the nearest parent centre at the earliest. Since its inception, 41,593 patients had benefited, with 20,804 patients treated in 2004-05.

Freedom from Pain

Joint pain and back pain disable more than 170 million Indians, incapacitating them from normal professional and leisure activities. Medical advances such as joint replacement surgery has been a boon to such patients providing them a second lease of life with freedom from pain.

The arthroplasty unit of Ganga Hospital has played a lead role in increasing the awareness of these cure among the public and carrying the benefits of surgery to the poor and needy. Every year, a walkathon programme is conducted where patients who have undergone total joint replacement participate in a walk and games competition signifying the conquest of pain.



Patients who underwent joint replacement participating in a walking race during Walkathon 2010



Ganga Spine Microsurgery Course



Photograph taken during the inauguration of the Ganga Spine Microsurgery Training Centre in January 2008.

Delegates in the past two years..

Ganga Spine Microsurgery Training Centre was inaugurated by Prof. Gunnar Andersson, Chairman, Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Rush University Medical Centre, USA in January 2008. To transfer the knowledge and experience of the unit, the spine department of Ganga Hospital in collaboration with Carl Zeiss started a unique microsurgical training centre equipped with a permanent wet lab utilizing the latest Zeiss operating microscopes and high quality surgical instruments, which will be first of its kind in the world.

The purpose of the course is to establish and strengthen the foundation of microsurgical skills in spine surgery. The course has two modules. In the clinical training module, the trainee spends two days in the operating theatre assisting and observing spinal microsurgeries along with other spinal instrumentation surgeries. In the lab module, the trainee is given hands-on training in the wet lab. The course is designed to benefit practising orthopaedic surgeons, spine surgeons and neurosurgeons by teaching them the nuances and techniques of basic microsurgical procedures like lumbar microdiscectomy, micro decompression, anterior cervical microdiscectomy, intra dural surgeries and repair of dural tears.

International

Dr Abdul Halim Yusof, Malaysia
 Dr Ahmed Tajuddin, Abdullah, Malaysia
 Dr Lim Phaik Gan, Malaysia
 Dr Abu Baker, Bangladesh
 Dr Khoo Eng Hooi, Malaysia
 Dr Kishore Kumar M, Muscat

National

Dr Pankaj G Gujar, Maharashtra
 Dr Rajiv Shah, Vadodara
 Dr Muthuraj, Nagercoil
 Dr Ajay Krishnan, Surat
 Dr Arul Durai Arasu, Dindigul
 Dr Thiraviam T, Nagercoil
 Dr Ashok D, Trivandrum
 Dr Sachithanandam V, Erode
 Dr Saheel Maajid, J & K
 Dr Renjit Kumar J, Kerala
 Dr Ashok M Ghodke, Mumbai
 Dr Ravi K, Kerala
 Dr Rashid A S, Kerala
 Dr Abdul Jaleel T K, Kerala
 Dr Sunil Kumar H, Bangalore
 Dr Ramanand Mishra, Gorakhpur
 Dr Mallikarjuna Reddy, Karnataka
 Dr B V R N Varma, Vizag
 Dr Sundararajan N D, Gopichettipalayam
 Dr Natesh J, Bangalore
 Dr V.Surya Prakash Rao, Hyderabad

Dr Mathew P Daniel, Kerala
 Dr Sudheer U, Kerala
 Dr Antony Joseph Thoppil, Kerala
 Dr Gowrishankar Swamy LG, Bangalore
 Dr Karthikeyan R, Coimbatore
 Dr Rajesh Khanna G, Chennai
 Dr Jim F Vellara, Thrissur
 Dr Rahul Singh, Saharanpur
 Dr Shanmugasundaram P, Chennai
 Dr Gautam Prasad, Mumbai
 Dr Venugopal S, Bangalore
 Dr Veushj Sharma, Punjab



Dr Ajoy Shetty guiding trainees at the spine microsurgery wet lab

Ganga Hospital Tissue Bank

There is a huge demand for bone graft at our hospital due to the enormous number of polytrauma and tumor patients who need complex reconstructive procedures..

The Tissue Bank at the Department of Orthopedics at the Ganga Hospital was launched with the technical assistance from Tissue Bank at the Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai. Located within the hospital premises, it is a self-funded, non-profit tissue bank aimed at providing class leading service. It is only the third tissue bank in India to use Gamma irradiation as a method of sterilization . The bank follows International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) standards followed by most of the Tissue banks in the world.

The bank is currently using well processed and gamma irradiated cortico cancellous bone allografts from tibial slices and femoral heads, bones from amputated stumps in various clinical conditions like comminuted fractures and Non-unions with bone loss of both upper & lower limbs, revision joint replacement surgeries, tumor and spinal fusion surgeries. The grafts are screened for HIV, HCV, HBV and syphilis to eliminate risk of disease transmission.

Dr. P. Dhanasekara Raja has received the Degree of Diploma in Tissue banking from National University of Singapore. Dr. Devendra is the Scientific Officer in charge of preparation, processing, storage and transportation of the allografts. He has received training in the Tata Memorial Bone Bank in Mumbai and has also undergone training in the National University, Singapore.

What are the advantages of Tissue Bank?

- Avoids the disadvantages of surgical procedure for harvesting autograft like blood loss, pain, increased operating time.
- Avoids sacrifice of the patient's normal structures.
- Provides unlimited quantity and morphology of allografts.

Allografts Processed at Tissue Bank

Type of Graft	2008	2009	2010
Femoral heads	67	117	78
Tibial slices	45	144	37
Strut Grafts	15	20	10



Dr. Devendra using the Wet Laboratory with ultrasonic cleanser, Incubator & Water Shaker bath



Dr. P. Dhanasekara Raja receiving the Diploma in Tissue Banking Certificate from Prof Aziz Nather, Director of Tissue Bank, National University of Singapore.



Fresh frozen allografts: Long bones with triple wrap and bone slices packed in PE boxes are stored after gamma irradiation



Grade IIIB Open comminuted fracture of distal femur with 13cm bone loss treated by single stage reconstruction with fibular strut graft and autografts.