

Dr David Chase, an alumnus of CMC Vellore (MBBS 1988, MD General Medicine 1994, DM Cardiology 1998) worked for eight years in mission hospitals both in Andhra Pradesh (for the most part as a non-interventional cardiologist catering to semi-urban patients) and for a short while in Karnataka, for fulfilling his service obligation, as well as in the private sector



for about two years as a Cardiology consultant. Subsequently, from the year 2004 to 2009, he pursued cardiac electrophysiology fellowships in Australia for specialized training in Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing over a period of three and half years of the five years spent there, in Adelaide (1.5 years, Flinders Medical Centre with Dr Cameron Singleton) and in Melbourne (Monash Medical Centre with Dr Jeff Alison and The Austin with Dr David o'Donnell). This provided the foundation in basic and progressively advanced cardiac pacing and electrophysiology practice which included being trained in 'state-of-the-art' cardiac implantable electronic device implantation, cardiac arrhythmia as well as syncope evaluation and management. This prolonged training period in addition to progressively increasing proficiency in the above permitted exposure to 'the science and practice of cardiac electrophysiology in the first world' through conferences and international cardiac society meetings as well as training in the use of cryo-ablation for ablation procedures which included the Arctic Front Cryo-balloon ablation for Atrial Fibrillation which at that time were just being practised or initiated by just a couple of practitioners in Australia. Further, it provided the rare and unique opportunity to observe device explantations by the only authorised expert at that time.

Armed with this training, he commenced practice in 2009 at CMC Vellore as a Cardiac Electrophysiology and Pacing Consultant being the first one to do so with appropriate comprehensive training overseas at a time when Cardiac Electrophysiology as a service all over India was still in its infancy except for some high-end medical institutions with training facilities and a handful of operators in the private sector. Although by that time the Cardiology department at CMC Vellore was a well-recognised centre for decades with regard to CIED implantation, Cardiac Electrophysiology was only being offered as a service with the help of external operators and facilitators who helped vastly in the establishment of infrastructure and in-house training of personnel. Working in a teaching institution provided the compulsion for setting aside ego and personal glory to slowly collaborate and work towards building a team by training the younger generation while simultaneously others in the team empowered themselves with their own training overseas with the result that a strong stand-alone team was built, credit being due to the Cardiology Department which provided the environment for growth with all its limitations, which included financial constraints. For Dr David Chase, functioning in a pure EP and pacing role provided the opportunity to become the first Professor to accomplish that while the Pacing and EP service continued to establish itself both in continuing training and further equipping personnel with sound ethical practices in medical research as well as in the practice of cardiac electrophysiology. From the very outset, the service prided itself in the ability to maintain a strong database working as a team, which is the backbone of any research-activity.

Today, Dr David Chase participates in the care of adults suspected to have heart rhythm disturbances as part of their medical condition. This could present with symptoms of rapid heart-beating / blacking out sensation or fainting / chest-pain / personal or family history of cardiac arrest or sudden death / breathlessness on exercising etc. Initial evaluation is followed in certain cases by performing a procedure (which quite often is complex, carrying with it certain risks) to diagnose / provide a cure, or, control the symptoms, and in others, with implantation of a device such as pacemakers / defibrillators / cardiac monitors etc., to help the patients. Some others require medications that must be taken keeping various precautions in mind, not so rarely life-long. Any implanted device will need to be followed up for troubleshooting and taking corrective steps if required. Familiarity with the available options for any planned procedure tempered with experience, always weighing the pros and cons come in very handy in a centre of CMC's calibre. He has wide-ranged medical interests, management, and evaluation of Cardiac Sarcoidosis patients, CIED troubleshooting, Physiological pacing, to name a few, to stay ahead in the routine practice of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology. He has a strong interest in the wholesome training of younger individuals interested in pursuing a career in the field.

Dr David Chase is a firm believer in the God who enabled all things to be possible through the strength He imparts, and the accountability of all individuals who have been specially gifted to give it back to the community. This is in line with CMC's founder's vision of starting the medical college for building the kingdom of God, interpreted as the mission of being responsible citizens of India, under God, with a calling to serve without discrimination.