



Volunteer surgeon Ram Chandru enjoys giving back to the community.

Surgeon Ram Chandru's work is to treat hand and upper limb problems. As a surgeon at a private practice, Ram donates a day every week to the charity hospital to perform a range of hand and wrist surgeries including carpal tunnel, Dupuytren's Contracture and tendonitis.

He says that the concept of the Canterbury Charity Hospital is very important and he enjoys using his skills to give back to the community rather than simply donating money.

The Charity Hospital, he says, is a great place to work and Cantabrians are very lucky that they have the opportunity to have their treatment there.

"Many of our patients have been in pain for a long time. With us, they see me for a consultation and then the following week I perform their surgery if required. It's all very quick," says Ram.

"Along with all the other surgeons, nurses and other volunteers we are catering to a genuine need and I'm happy

to continue volunteering my time for as long as that need is there. Working at the Charity Hospital gives me the opportunity to connect with the community, a different environment to work in and a break away from the normal weekly routine.

"The most important thing is that the patients leave so happy and grateful and that's a great feeling," he says.

*S*YLVESTER RAISING FUNDS FOR HOSPITAL

Most of our patients have already met Sylvester – he is usually found lying in the sun in the Canterbury Charity Hospital's waiting room or sitting at the front door until some kind person lets him in.

Local poet Julie Hutton, a friend of the hospital, wrote a poem about Sylvester and, with wonderful illustrations donated by Garrick Tremain, Sylvester now features in his own children's book helping out the hospital in a different way by raising funds.

Copies of Sylvester, The Charity Hospital Cat cost a minimum donation of \$7.50 and can be bought from the Canterbury Charity Hospital at 349 Harewood Road in Christchurch or online at www.charityhospital.org.nz. A sequel is afoot and will be published soon.



Sylvester,
The Charity
Hospital Cat

*W*elcome to your new look Canterbury Charity Hospital newsletter, Healing Hands, for health professionals.

There is so much happening at the Canterbury Charity Hospital that we have decided in order to keep you up to date we would publish a larger format seasonal magazine.

We hope you find it informative and helps you to keep up with our service availability and general news.

*I*T'S ALL CHANGE AT THE CHARITY HOSPITAL'S NEW COMMUNITY HEALTH VILLAGE

In December the hospital's newest development will be complete.

The new two storey building will be known as Warner Mauger House and will house the new oral surgery and dental unit. In addition to this a community wellbeing centre has been developed for use by community focussed health, training and social wellbeing providers.

The existing dental unit will be moved to the new building creating a much needed larger endoscopy facility. This building has been renamed Patricia Mauger House. The additional space will enable us to undertake larger endoscopy lists and make our patients more comfortable. As well as continuing to see symptomatic patients we will be expanding our screening programme for those who qualify (using the website guidelines).



MAKING DENTAL JOURNEY MORE COMFORTABLE

Jennifer Teh and Elizabeth are one of the dental teams at the Canterbury Charity Hospital and are loving every minute of generously volunteering their time and expertise.

Dentist Jennifer says she enjoys helping people. "It comes with the profession. I also want to help overcome people's phobia about going to the dentist and make their dental journey as comfortable as possible," said Jennifer. "I also take pride when my patients develop the confidence to come back again - I find that very rewarding."

Elizabeth is also a dentist who is undergoing re-registration in New Zealand after returning from overseas.

"I thoroughly enjoy working at the hospital – it represents such a wonderful place filled to the brim with compassionate care. It is a real honour and privilege to be working alongside such an enthusiastic and selfless group of people," Elizabeth said.



Jennifer Teh (seated) and Elizabeth Hadfield enjoy volunteering at the Canterbury Charity Hospital.

"Volunteering has always been an important part of my dental career. I have fond memories of my dental charity work in India. Both Jennifer and I share this philanthropic passion for helping others. Dentistry is more than just about fixing teeth. For me, it is about creating an authentic connection with people and positively empowering them to feel confident about themselves."

The new oral surgery, which will provide more complicated oral surgery including wisdom teeth extractions will open later this year.

CHANGING LIVES

"I just wanted to say a tremendous and heart felt 'thank you' for the wonderful treatment I experienced at the hands of your team. From the initial appointment, through to discharge, I was treated with so much kindness and understanding not at all like a solo parent or low income earner. The work that you do is incredible, and I am certain that you have changed many lives in the process, mine included. I couldn't have asked to be placed in better hands if I tried, so huge thanks to you all and in time I would love to repay the favour through some sort of volunteering role once my children are a bit bigger" O.G.

Keep up-to-date

For the latest list of the Charity Hospital's day surgery, dental services, counselling and other treatments that we provide, please visit www.charityhospital.org.nz.

Thank you.

VARICOSE VEINS NOW ON THE LIST

The Canterbury Charity Hospital has added varicose veins to its day surgery list, thanks to volunteer surgeon and vascular specialist Peter Laws.

"As a volunteer surgeon at the hospital, I hope to be able to provide a service for those patients that are not eligible for treatment in the public sector yet are suffering daily but can't afford to go privately for treatment," says Peter.

"It's been amazing working with Carl (manager), Virginia and Maureen (clinical nurses) who have really made it easy for me to get the service up and running."

HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN

The hospital will be closed between December 23 2016 and January 16 2017.

Referrals during this time can be sent through as normal though may take slightly longer to process.



Vascular surgeon and volunteer, Peter Laws.

**CANTERBURY
CHARITY HOSPITAL
TRUST**



CHARITY HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS CABARET

Friday 2 December 2016 - Mangers Innovation Park, Templeton

● DINNER ● CABARET ● DANCE

To find out more email rosie@charityhospital.org.nz

Event Professionals**\$160 per guest**