



St. John's
National Academy of
Health Sciences

Department of Pediatric
Hematology Oncology & BMT
St. John's Medical College and Hospital,
Bengaluru



GOLD SEPTEMBER

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
2026

*Together
we turn
the world
Gold*



Awareness



Early
Detection



Better
Treatment



Brighter
Futures



Recognize



Diagnose



Change outcomes



**CHILDHOOD
CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH**



BALA YODHA VANI



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INAUGURATION OF NEW BMT UNIT

St. John's inaugurated its new state-of-the-art bone marrow transplant unit on 17th September 2026. The unit has 11 HEPA-filtered rooms with central air conditioning. The governing body of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India blessed and inaugurated the unit. The unit will cater to patients across age groups who require autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplants for hematological cancers such as leukemias, lymphomas, and neuroblastoma, and severe blood disorders such as thalassemia, aplastic anemia, and inborn errors of immunity. Recently, our youngest patient was discharged after successfully undergoing BMT for a rare condition called osteopetrosis at the age of 6 months!



EVENT OF THE MONTH

On 4th September we hosted a unique event as part of the Institute's Friday clinical meeting that was attended by medical students, doctors across specialties, and allied health staff. The word 'Anvesha' means search and was coined to represent how childhood cancer can present to various departments in a hospital and needs to be thought of as a differential for timely diagnosis and management. Doctors from the Departments of Pediatrics, PICU, Neonatology, and Pediatric Surgery showcased children presenting with various manifestations ranging from endocrinopathies to obvious tumors.



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ANVESHA
Child Care Academic Grand Rounds-II

Rare presentations • Hidden clues • Critical Diagnoses
Early diagnosis of cancer can improve outcomes.

CASE PRESENTATIONS BY CHILD CARE TEAMS

NAME OF PRESENTER	DEPARTMENT	TITLE
Dr Neethu James PG Student	Pediatrics, Unit 1	The Endocrine Masquerader
Dr Pankhuri Priya Assistant Professor	Pediatrics, Unit 2	Wolf in a Sheep's Clothing
Dr Priyal Shaji PG Student	Pediatrics, Unit 3	A Sweet Clue to a Seizure Mystery
Dr Amit Kumar DNB Resident	Pediatric critical care	The MASS-querade Ball
Dr Vinodhya DM Resident	Neurology	The Unexpected Blast – A Transient Myeloid Disorder in a Newborn
Dr Shalini Hegde Associate Professor	Pediatric surgery	The Ultimate Imposter

“Every clue matters.
Every diagnosis counts.
Every child deserves
a better tomorrow.”

Recognize. Diagnose. Change outcomes.

SESSION ON EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER



On 12th September Dr Shakambaree, our senior resident (Post FNB fellowship) conducted a session for doctors and nurses on the common signs in children that should lead to suspicion of cancer and early referral. The session consisted of a pre-test, case-based scenarios and discussion on the seven warning signs and a post-test. The global theme for 2026 is 'Demonstrating impact: from challenge to change,' which was at the heart of our activities for the month.





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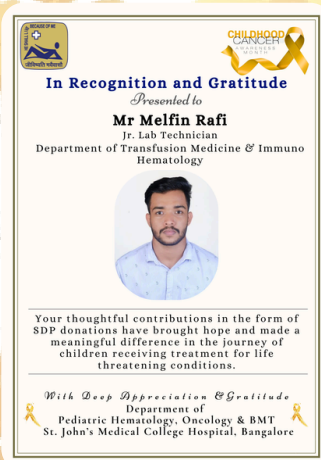
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STAR OF THE MONTH



Master Vignesh (name changed for confidentiality) was undergoing a bone marrow transplant at our centre for bone marrow failure. He developed a serious complication called platelet refractoriness, in which the platelet cells in his blood remained dangerously low despite receiving platelet blood transfusions. Our Department of Transfusion came to the rescue by testing healthy volunteers for compatibility with the patient. **Mr. Melfin** who was found to be compatible underwent the apheresis procedure not once but twice for Vignesh. Vignesh soon came out of the transplant with flying colours. We expressed our gratefulness to this selfless gesture by honoring Mr. Melfin during the Anvesha meeting.



BALA YODHA OF THE MONTH

Master Tilak (name changed for confidentiality) was treated for acute lymphoblastic leukemia in 2019 when he was 3 years old. He had a relapse of the cancer in 2022. After bringing the disease under control with chemotherapy, he underwent a haploidentical(half-matched) bone marrow transplant with his father as the donor. Now he is 4-years post transplant and doing very well! Bone marrow transplant is a ray of hope for many children with high-risk and relapsed cancers, particularly leukemias (blood cancers).





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St. John's

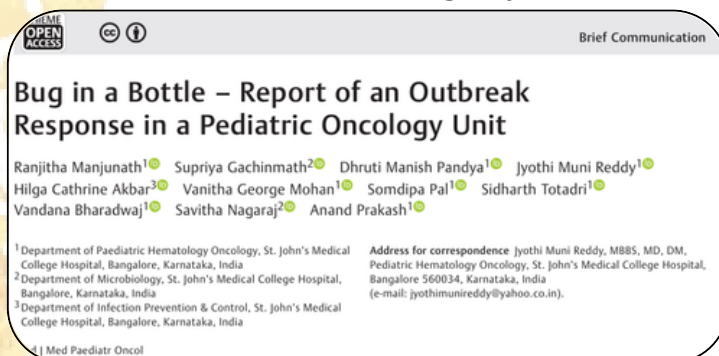
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THE RESEARCH CORNER !!!

Early diagnosis of childhood cancer and timely referral for treatment is certainly the stepping stone to successful outcomes. Additionally, patient safety is crucial in the treatment of childhood cancer, which often requires cytotoxic therapy and invasive procedures. A recent publication describes how we were able to quickly identify the source of an outbreak of bacterial infection in the unit with the help of the Department of Microbiology. A particular batch of medication that had bacterial contamination was called out and withdrawn, and patients exposed were treated with effective antibiotics, avoiding any infection-related mortality. Patient safety is a priority in our center.



Together
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the world
Gold

Thank You

To our children, families, caregivers, supporters, healthcare team and everyone who stands with us in this journey — Thank you for being a part of our story.

Together, we continue to raise awareness, create hope, and work towards a world where every child with cancer gets a fair chance to live, grow and thrive.

Because childhoods are stronger together.



AWARENESS
More conversations



SUPPORT
Stronger families



ACCESS
Better treatment



BRIGHTER FUTURES