

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

4th February - World Cancer Day

Visit to Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai for rendering Volunteer Services

On 31st January 2015, a team comprising of 13 volunteers representing Youth Red Cross of our college had reported for visiting the Cancer Institute (WIA), Chennai and receiving introductory training on the functioning of the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Cancer Registry; with a view to render volunteer services for the patient follow ups and vital status research harnessing.

Under the guidance of Dr. Swaminathan Rajaram, the Assist Director and Head of the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Cancer Registry; Dr. Rama cordially welcomed the entire team of YRC volunteers and introduced her deputy Mrs. Dhanalakshmi before walking us through a brief presentation.



**Prof. Chris, Coordinator - Shift II, along with the students
in the Cancer Institute (WIA)**

Dr. Rama, briefed the YRC volunteers about the founding of the Cancer Institute in 1954, by the first lady physician of India Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy. Later, she went on explaining the two streams of treatment provided - Special Ward and General ward; with the General ward catering to the treatment needs of the patients from economically disadvantaged section of the society. YRC volunteers were adequately explained about the process involved in treating the Cancer patients - starting from the OPD Registration and Assessment. After the final assessment, the treatment protocols are being arrived at. We were informed that most of the patients are assessed to be in need of Multimodal treatment procedures covering surgery and Radiotherapy / Chemotherapy / Hormone therapy; with each of the Multimodal treatment spanning up to 25 sessions.

It is in the context, following up with a patient who has undergone a few session of therapy along with a surgery or without a surgery, who would not show up for the scheduled sessions; becomes critical. Also, patients are advised to subject themselves for future review; in order to measurably factor in their vital status and general health condition.

Towards the end of the training session, the coordinator of Youth Red Cross; profusely thanked the Dr. Rama, and Dr. Swaminathan, on behalf of the college and YRC, for the opportunity provided. Dr. Rama appreciated the entire Youth Red Cross team for taking such an initiative, wondering in surprise as to how the volunteers could already know pretty much about the services rendered and functioning of their department referring to the proposal letter submitted to them.

A tie up of Youth Red Cross - Loyola College and the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Cancer Registry for the volunteer services has been deliberated and agreed upon. Dr. Rama gladly accepted to provide a certificate / endorsement in recognition of the volunteer services provided by Youth Red Cross members, Loyola College.

Youth Red Cross has successfully launched an awareness campaign covering the types, causes, treatment protocols, Diet and live-style aspects of combating and conquering cancer; through collages, posters, and action oriented pictorial affirmations.