cellence. Some necessary equipment such as electrocautery argon plasma, UPS etc. were procured from existing GMCANA funds.

The Neurology department under the leadership of Dr. Sundarachary made great strides establishing a NeuroICU and a Stroke Center.

Dr. Gokhale's team **completed 500 cardiac surgeries, including four heart transplants,** at GGH. That our GGH could accomplish this was unthinkable only a few short years ago. The achievement of GMCANA is not merely erecting a building, but the establishment of an unlimited opportunity for improved healthcare and training.

September 13, 2018 : The 16th Reunion at Atlanta.

Dr. Sreenivasa Reddy Alla (83) was installed as the President. Dr. Veeraiah Chowdary Perni (64) became the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Jayaprakash Narayan (72), IAS, alumnus and National Chairman of Lok Satta, and Sri Kona Sasidhar, IAS, District Collector, Guntur, provided the keynote addresses.

2018-2022

The world went through a major upheaval due to the COVID pandemic. GGH became the regional referral hospital where the heroic healthcare staff at GGH struggled hard providing excellent care even as the daily census at GGH often exceeded 1200 during the peak COVID periods. GMCANA rallied to support them fully, purchasing PPE kits locally, and then supplying over 70,000 masks, 60,000 pairs of gloves, 2000 quality PPE kits, face shields, head caps and protective goggles for the use of staff at all levels at the hospital and college. Several oxygen generators were also donated in collaboration with AAPI and other donors. **The generous donors of GMCANA gave more than $125,000 for COVID relief activities.**

During this period NATCO supported the Comprehensive Cancer Center and the GI Center of Excellence became operational. DM training programs were approved in Radiation Oncology and Neurology. GMCANA built a reverse isolation room for cardiac surgery patients and donated video and EEG equipment to the neurology department.

GMCANA Auditorium is completely refurbished with a new sound system, a new LCD projector and cosmetic improvements; all lighting was changed to the ecofriendly LED systems. A transformer was installed so that generators do not need to be used except in emergencies.

The old auditorium on top of the library was also completely renovated and airconditioned. Several lecture galleries were also renovated and airconditioned with the 1979 batch contributing to the renovation of the SPM Lecture Gallery.

Work on the **Maternal Child Health Center (MCH)** building did not progress much during this period. Unrelenting efforts by the GMCANA leadership resulted in a new memorandum of understanding was signed with the Govt. of AP on June 20, 2022, so that GMCANA can resume the building of a **7 story, 670 bed, stateoftheart hospital building at a budget of Rs. 85 crores.**

Dr. C. Padmavathi, Principal of GMC, and Dr. N. Prabhavathi, Superintendent of GGH and Additional Director for Medical Education, have been proactive in taking up infrastructure development activities at our *alma mater.*

Dr. K. Basavapunniah, who served GMCANA and GMC/GGH for several years, decided to retire from the position of the Chairman of GMCANA Trust in Guntur after 20 years. Dr. K. Kaladhar took on that responsibility now.

2022-2024

Construction of Kanuri Ramachandra Rao GMCANA MCH Center resumed after a long pause. Fundraising efforts were ramped up by the leadership. After a generous donation of $2.5 M by Dr. Uma Gavani, Sponsorships kept pouring in, thanks to the kind hearted alumni. The building committee under the leadership of Dr. Babureddy gained momentum and the structure is set to be completed by early 2025.

The 17th Biennial Reunion of GMC, RMC and SMC in Dallas, TX was very successful under the direction of Dr. Srinivasa Reddy Alla. The gala event was a great platform to realize substantial donations to MCH Center. Dr. Lakshmi Prasad Vemulapalli (76) and Dr. Lakshmi Ganga (66) were installed as President of GMCANA and Chairperson of the BOT respectively.





"Alone we can do so little...
together we can do so much."
- HELEN KELLER

May 2425. 14th Reunion in New Orleans. Dr. Venkateswara Rao Dharmavarapu ('80) was installed as the President and Ramaraja Yalavarthi as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

2015-2016

GMCANA has been very actively and continuously involved in improving the facilities and patient care at the newly built Podila PrasadGMCANA Superspeciality & Trauma Centre. Within a short period of time, this state of the art facility became the setting for **the first openheart surgery, and shortly after, the first heart transplant** in the new state of AP, performed by a dedicated alumnus Dr. Alla G. Gokhale and his team. Several kidney transplants and dozens of Total Knee Replacements have been performed in the Modular Operating Theaters. It also houses the first of a kind Stroke Center and advanced cardiac services. With the help of Rotary club, GMCANA has provided several ventilators, monitoring units and physiotherapy equipment to the Neurology department.

September 25, 2016: The 15th Reunion in San Antonio, TX. Dr. Sambasivarao Sukhavasi (72) was installed as the President. Three Padma Sri Award receiving alumni of Guntur Medical College Drs.
Nayudamma Yarlagadda, Gopichand Mannam and Gokhale
Alla were honored at the reunion. Following an impassioned presentation by Dr. Pratap Mouli Venigalla (98), a secondgeneration alumnus, a decision was made to start a GI Center of Excellence at the GGH and funds were raised.

2016-2018

GMCANA sponsored the **first "White Coat Ceremony"** at GMC for incoming freshers, the first of its kind in India, in 2016. Dr. Ravikumar Tripuraneni with the help of Telikicherla Foundation organized the event with all the incoming freshmen being cloaked with White Coats in presence of their families. This has now become an annual event. Our past president, Lokesh Edara, took this idea to AAPI, and now all 450medical colleges in India are organizing this event pioneered by GMCANA and GMC.

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Center: Ever mindful of the needs of the people of the Guntur region, GMCANA decided to embark on its most ambitious project yet the multistoried MCH Center, with 600 beds at the cost of Rs. 60 crores, in partnership with the state government of Andhra Pradesh.



With the help of the Rotary Project of Stockton and Guntur Rotary Club, we have donated ventilators and physiotherapy equipment to the Department of Neurology and ventilators, monitors and xray machine to the Trauma Center at a cost of about Rs one crore. Drs P. Babureddy and Ravikumar Tripuraneni helped coordinate these projects. We also donated special equipment to the Departments of Urological and Cardiac Surgery.

We are excited to partner with the NATCO Trust, founded by Sri N.V. Chowdary of NATCO Pharma, in making more services available to the people at the Government General Hospital. NATCO trust has already donated various equipment, facilities and shelters to GGH. Building of a **70 bed Comprehensive Cancer Center** was started at GGH at a cost of Rs 40 crores with stateoftheart equipment including Linear Accelerators and a Special Oncology Unit for Chemotherapy. NATCO Trust has adopted the entire Department of Pediatrics and completely renovated the old pediatric wards and NICU and built a new 43 bedded airconditioned general ward. The Trust donated sleep lab equipment to the Department of Neurology and is planning to help improve the Laminar Flow Operating Room for the Department of Orthopedics to perform total joint surgeries at GGH along with building and equipping a Surgical ICU.

Work also began on establishing the GI Center of Ex-

construction plans for the Podila Prasad GMCANA Superspeciality & Trauma Centre, the official fundraising campaign was launched during this reunion and the attendees responded overwhelmingly.

2009

February: Gymnasium and Recreation Center for Students were inaugurated in the memory of our beloved teacher Dr. Nuthakki Venkateswara Rao.

GMCANA equipped all lecture galleries with modern audiovisual facilities, renovated the library, and began providing electronic library services. Dr. Sriharidas Kanuru came through again with the Pediatric Water Project ensuring running water supply to the pediatric unit.

The Rotary Club of Stockton continued to support GMC/GGH with sophisticated equipment worth Rs. 4 million.

2010

September 46: St. Louis played host again for the 12th Reunion. Dr. P. Babureddy Sagireddy (83) was installed as the President and Dr. Bhaskara Murthy Ponnuru continued as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Once again the alumni came through with generous donations for the Podila Prasad GMCANA Super Speciality & Trauma Centre.

2011

The state government increased its commitment for the Podila Project to a total of 10 crores and GMCANA matched the amount. Construction on the project proceeded briskly.

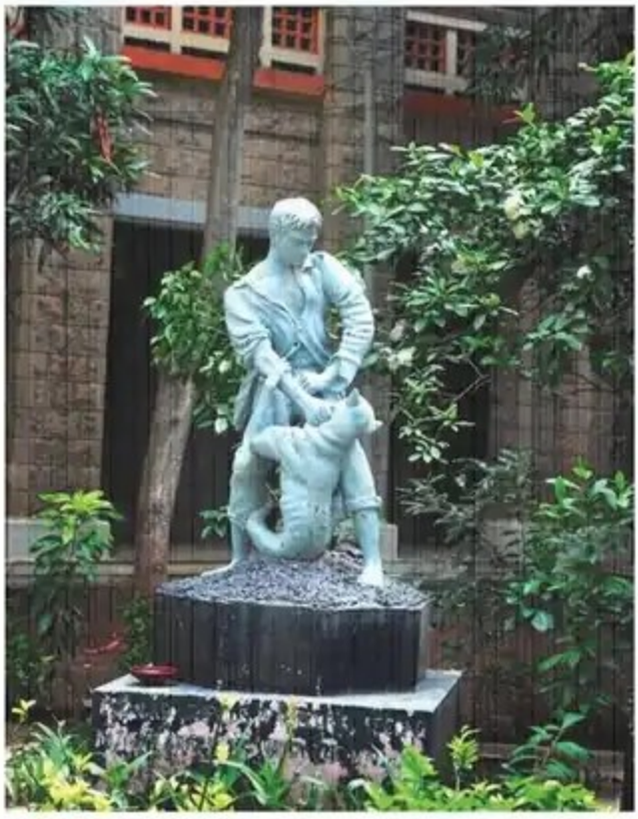
2012

April: GMCANA conducted a workshop and trained 182 physicians and students in BLS and ACLS.

July: Classes of 62 and 72 contributed to airconditioning the GMC Library, lecture galleries and the reading room in Men's Hostel.

GMCANA Trust in India received FCRA clearance.

September 13 : Chicago is the place once more for the 13th Reunion. Dr. Lokeswara Rao Edara (76) and Dr. Venkata Subbarao Uppuluri were installed as the President and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees respectively. Updated GMCANA web site was inaugurated. The Principal of GMC and the Superintendent of GGH attended the Reunion. More Funds were raised for the SuperSpeciality Center



2013

Dr. Oruganti Kirshnamurthy (72) was appointed as the Database Coordinator for GMCANA. We now have information on about 1800 alumni in North America, and the number keeps increasing.

The auditorium got an infrastructure upgrade, with installation of an elevator and new flooring on the Dias and added more capacity to the airconditioning and the generator systems.

2014

January 1719. GMCANA, along with the other alumni organizations, students and staff of GMC and GGH celebrated the Second Global Alumni Homecoming on the occasion of the longawaited opening of the Podila PrasadGMCANA Super Speciality & Trauma Centre.

On January 18, 2014, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Sri ESL Narasimhan inaugurated the new building amidst an excited gathering of alumni, staff, trainees of GMC/GGH and the citizens and civic leaders of Guntur. A gleaming four storied structure with more than 1 lakh square feet of integrated and welldesigned floor space proudly proclaimed the contributions of a committed alumni body to their alma mater and the people of the region that nurtured them.

The Homecoming, a Grand Celebration over three days, attracted a large number of alumni. The festivities included the inauguration of the new GMCANA Auditorium, our loving gift to our alma mater and the city of Guntur. The students celebrated the occasion by holding the first College Day function in almost a decade. It was a weekend of memories for all the attendees.

July: Dr. Nagarjuna Reddy Ponugoti (72) was installed as President at the General body
Meeting in Detroit.

2006

September 24 : The Silver Jubilee Reunion of GMCANA at Orlando, Florida. Dr. Umadevi Gavani (65) was installed as the President of GMCANA as was Dr. Nageswararao Latchamsetty (60) as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, This Tenth Reunion was significant for the leadership roles taken by another new generation of GMC alumni. Dr. I.V. Subbarao, Secretary of Health, AP, addressed the meeting, discussing the role of publicprivate partnership in maintaining the government institutions in the new millennium.

Access to the auditorium was improved with the demolition of the infamous Deyyaala Meda, and construction of a new access road directly to the auditorium with more convenient parking.

2007

July: A major achievement during this period was **laying the groundwork for the Podila Prasad GMCANA Superspecialty and Trauma Center.** The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Hospital Development Committee were planning to construct a new Millennium Block at GGH and sought GMCANA's involvement in developing the superspecialty units. Dr. Podila Venkata Prasad (81) came forward to generously donate Rs. 5 crores for this purpose. Sri K. Rosaiah, then Health Minister, agreed to provide a matching grant of Rs. 5 crores. After announcing this at the General body meeting at 14th TANA conference, the then Health Education minister of AP, Mrs. Galla Aruna Kumari, and GMCANA signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

December 3: The **foundation stone for the Podila project was laid.**

Ten lecture galleries at GMC were renovated and modernized. Four new Endowments were established in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, Internal Medicine and Physiology.



2008

February: The collaboration between GMCANA and the Rotary Club of Stockton resulted in a donation of equipment worth Rs. 16,81,000 to GGH. The equipment includes a Colonovideoscope, a Multichannel Monitor, EKG Machines, a Colonoscope, a Biological Microscope and a Drill system for Orthopedics.

May: GMCANA donated 15 beds to pediatrics, 50 beds to the newly constructed Obstetrics Building and 30 beds, a BiPap machine and nebulizers to the Fever hospital.

GMCANA took an active role in the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the *alma mater*, sponsoring the publication of the souvenir and hosting a celebratory dinner for students and staff. A laptop computer and an LCD projector were donated on this occasion for the Sushrutha Hall at GGH.

August 30-September 1: Eleventh Reunion at Dallas. Dr. Satyanarayana Nelluri (81) and Dr. Bhaskara Murthy Ponnuru (63) were installed as the President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. After unveiling the

the parent institutions. Efforts began to renovate the Government Fever Hospital and donations of various other equipment.



2001

Dr. Uppuluri and the GMCANA leadership developed a **Comprehensive Proposal for Improvement of Medical Education and Teaching Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh** and presented the proposal to the Chief Minister in December 2001. The Chief Minister agreed to implement some of the changes recommended in the proposal including opening the hospital for paying patients. **GMCANA initiated a new campaign,** "WE CARE!" to rally the necessary support for the development of our parent institutions in Guntur. This slogan has now come to embody the attitude of all concerned alumni and staff and is instilling a sense of pride and achievement.

2002

April: **Groundbreaking Ceremony conducted for the GMCANA Auditorium.** This project (formerly Alumni Building Project) finally got off the ground with a combination of funds from GMCANA and the state government and construction began.

August 31 – September 2: Chicago hosts another Grand Reunion (Eighth). Dr. Ravikumar Tripuraneni and Dr. Veeraiah Chowdary Perni (64) were installed as the President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Following a wellorganized presentation by the Executive Committee about the progress over the past two years including the groundbreaking of the GMCANA Auditorium, the Chief Guest, Dr. Anji Reddy, made an emotional presentation about the efforts to improve the conditions at GGH and GMC. The properly impressed alumni responded generously with large donations to ensure the completion of the auditorium project.

November: K. Ramakrishna Rao, Collector of Guntur District, took charge as the Chairman of the newly constituted **Hospital Development Society** and met with the GMCANA leadership during a tour of the USA. Impressed by the vision and commitment of GMCANA, he made serious efforts to transform GGH into a topclass facility. Under his leadership, the hospital was rapidly computerized.

2003

GMCANA sponsored courses in basic and advanced life support at GMC/GGH and provided equipment to the newly started Intensive Care Unit and helped expand services in the Pediatrics, Physiotherapy, Postoperative Recovery and OB/Gyn units. A new Iridium Brachytherapy Unit, an additional wing at the Government Fever Hospital Building and the ENB Sarma Subspecialty OR sponsored by GMCANA were dedicated.

2004

September 46: Ninth Reunion at Anaheim, California. Dr. Gowtham Mulpur (75) and Dr. Sriharidas Kanuru (60) were installed as the President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit was opened at GGH; monitoring equipment worth more than Rs. 20 lakhs has been shipped from US; the CME Center was upgraded; and a corpus fund for the maintenance of the auditorium and sponsoring of
continuing educational programs was established.

2005

January 2123: **Inauguration of the Auditorium and Global Alumni Homecoming in Guntur** was organized by GMCANA together with GMCOSA (Guntur Medical College Old Students Association at Guntur) and with Guntur Medical College Graduates of UK.

cine, Maternal and Fetal Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Orthopedics, and Health Education. A copy machine was purchased for use at GMC.

1994-95

August 1214, 1994. Fourth Reunion in St. Louis. Dr. Mangaraju Vanapalli (58) was installed as President. Books and journals supplied to the GMC Library. The Alumni Building Project got stalled due to bureaucratic hurdles.

1996

August 911. Fifth Reunion in Atlanta. Dr. V. Chowdary Jampala was installed as President and Dr. Mani Akkineni (96) as the Chair of Board of Trustees

GMCANA entered the electronic age with its own web site at www.gmcana.org with the initiative of Dr. Ravikumar Tripuraneni (71), Chairman of Communications Committee. The web site has become a major communication tool for the organization. A bust of Dr. D Jagannatha (DJ) Reddy was installed by GMCANA at GMC.

1997

Development of Strategic Plan : Sri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, Member of Parliament, Guntur, brought a request from the Superintendent of the Government General Hospital (GGH) asking for help to rejuvenate the hospital and help with the training resources. Drs. Venkata Subbarao Uppuluri (63) and Aruna Prasad Kancherla (60) visited GMC and GGH in 1997 on fact-finding missions and consulted with the leaders of the two institutions as well as local alumni. Dr. Jampala and the Executive Committee developed a strategic plan for the rejuvenation of the institutions.

Andhra Pradesh State Government approved Dr. Jampala's request to appoint a Special Officer for development of GMC and GGH.

1998

August 1416: Sixth Reunion in Pittsburgh. Dr. Aruna Prasad Kancherla (60) and Dr. Ammani Dasari (57) were installed as President and Chair of the Board of Trustees.

November 11: Executive Committee refines the strategic plan with a focus group meeting in Chicago. **The organization defined its mission:** *"To help develop Guntur Medical College and Government General HospitalGuntur, as premier modern Medical Education facilities for undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, staff, and medical community at large".*



1999

Active fundraising was conducted in many cities. In a period of twelve months, GMCANA, with large donations from the alumni, provided GGH an Xray unit, a fetal ultrasound monitor, a chemistry analyzer, a modern threeroom operating theater, and a large number of textbooks to the library. A Research Endowment Fund and a Scholarship Fund were established at GMC. A Continuing Medical Education Center with three computers, multimedia software and internet access was established along with an additional reading room with a capacity for 60 students. In addition, an electronic teaching microscope with TV attachment for the department of pathology, a bronchoscope and PFT machine for the Govt. Fever hospital and an image intensifier for the Xray department were also donated.

2000

August 46 : Seventh Reunion in New York. Dr. Venkata Subbarao Uppuluri (63) was installed as President and Dr. Ramarao Kaza as the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Active communication among GMCANA, GMC, GGH and Government of AP helps build trust to improve



Thanks!

Several people in Guntur have been helpful to GMCANA in achieving the above. Besides the administrations of GGH and GMC, many local alumni and faculty from Guntur have been instrumental in these projects. Late Dr. Nuthakki Venkateswara Rao, with his impeccable credentials, vision, charm, and persistence, tirelessly promoted the development of the Hospital and Medical College as the Local Coordinator of GMCANA and helped the organization steer clear of the bureaucratic and interpersonal roadblocks. With his passing away, GMCANA lost an important ally. Since our last reunion, we lost another main strength of GMCANA, Dr. K. Vasudeva Rao (58), who took on this leadership mantle from Dr. Nuthakki.

Drs. Fayaz Ahmed YVS Prabhakar (69), Venigalla Balabhaskara Rao (71), K. Basavapunnaiah, Gade Krishnamurthy (71), and PV Hanumantha Rao (72) have been of immense help over the years as liaisons between GMCANA and GMC/GGH, spending countless hours. Dr. Anji Reddy, first as the superintendent of GGH and later as the Director General of Medical and Health Services for AP, provided the important administrative leadership to create the necessary atmosphere to bring back GGH's eminence as a premier medical center. Dr. Gopichand Mannam (73), past President of GMCOSA, has been an important ally in the ongoing development projects, helping us every step of the way.

Also important was the leadership provided by the previous District Collector, Sri K. Ramakrishna Rao, under whose direction, the Hospital Development Society has become very proactive in securing and maintaining the necessary resources for GMC and GGH. The District Collectors continue to help the institutions. Successive Principals and Superintendents have been forceful in implementing positive changes as did many of the faculty.

Local civic leadership's support also has been crucial; Sri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao, MP, has been a staunch ally. Sri Sambasivarao and Sri Modugula Venugopala Reddy supported the Podila Project with generous allocations from MP LADS funds. During the last few years, the then health ministers Sri K. Rosaiah, Srimathi Galla Aruna Kumari and Dr. Kamineni Sreenivas have been extremely helpful in developing a real publicprivate partnership in developing GMC and GGH. The initiatives taken by the former Principal Secretaries of Health, Sri J. Satyanarayana , and Sri L. Subrahmanyam have been critical to the progress of the Podila PrasadGMCANA Superspeciality & Trauma Centre. The current Health Minister, Srimathi Vidadala Rajini and the Health Secretary Sri MT Krishnababu were instrumental in completing the MOU permitting the resumption of the construction of the MCH Center. We heartily thank each and every one of them. Thanks are due to the successive Principals, Superintendents, HDC Chairmen and the successive Health Secretaries and Ministers of Health.

All of this could not have happened without the generosity of the caring members of GMCANA, GMC of UK and GMCOSA. With new vigor, focus, and dedication, GMCANA, thanks to its large hearted donors and a strong volunteer force, continues its unrelenting Compassion and commiitment to attaining its goals.

WE CARE!

HISTORY OF GMCANA

V. Chowdary Jampala (72)

GMCANA, with its activities on many fronts to benefit the alumni, the alma mater, and the general public, has become the model to emulate for many other alumni organizations. Since its beginnings in an overcrowded classroom in Oak Park and River Forest High School 41 years ago, it had been, to say the least, an interesting and highly productive journey. I recount here the major milestones and achievements along the way.

1981

May 24: Alumni of Guntur Medical College gather at the Third TANA Conference in Oak Park, IL, and decide to form an organization of their own Guntur Medical College Alumni of North America (GMCANA) in order to meet the goals of raising resources to promote teaching and patient care needs at Guntur Medical College and its affiliated institutions and serving the needs of the alumni in North America.

Dr. Ramaiah Samala (54) was elected as the First President, Dr. Seetharama Rao Bobba (60) and Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad Dandamudi (64) as officers. Dr. Rama Rao Kaza (65) took the lead in drafting the constitution.

December 31: **GMCANA was incorporated as a NotforProfit Corporation in the State of Missouri.**

1989

September 24:

First **GMCANA Grand Reunion** and Convention was organized at the Rosemont Westin Hotel in Chicago under the leadership of Dr. Sri Krishna Murthy Nuthi (59), President, and Dr. Ramaraja Bhushanudu Yalavarthi (67) Convenor.

Decision made to have GMCANA Reunions on a regular basis and to draft a new constitution. **An Alumni Building Project was proposed** and $100,000 was raised for this purpose almost immediately.

1990

November 911: Second Reunion at Nashville. Dr. Ramaraja Bhushanudu Yalavarthi was installed as President; **New Constitution adopted.**

First endowment, CG Ramamurthy Memorial Fund in Obstetrics and Gynecology, was initiated.

1991

Publication of the newsletter, *Alumni News*, **began.** Dr. V. Chowdary Jampala (72) was the first Editor.



1992- 93

August 2123 : Third Reunion at Falls Church, VA. Rangaraya Medical College alumni decided to combine their reunion with the GMCANA reunion (RMC continues to have their reunions together with GMC since then. Kurnool Medical College, Andhra Medical College, and Siddhartha Medical College alumni also celebrated their reunions along with GMCANA at different times). Dr. Sriharidas Kanuru (60) was installed as

President and **Dr. Seetaramarao Bobba took office as the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees.**

New endowments were set up at GMC to provide continuing medical education in Cardiology, Internal Medi-