



american leprosy missions

Christ's servants, freeing the world of leprosy

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Board Member Gigi J. Ebenezer, M.B., B.S. Promoted to Rank of Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University

Greenville, S.C. - American Leprosy Missions and the Leonard Wood Memorial are pleased to announce the promotion of LWM Board Member Dr. Gigi Ebenezer to the rank of Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Ebenezer received her medical training in India. From 1992 to 1996, she was a pathologist at the world-renowned Schieffelin Institute of Health Research & Training Centre in Karigiri, Tamil Nadu, India which she then directed from 1996 to 2004. Her diagnostic and research work includes reporting on approximately 1,000 skin and nerve biopsies annually from both India and abroad, 90% of which were leprosy, and investigations on Mycobacterium leprae-related drug resistance using the mouse footpad methodology.

Since 2004, Dr. Ebenezer has been a Research Associate in the Cutaneous Nerve Laboratory of the Department of Neurology in the School of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. There she has been a driving force in researching the armadillo model of leprosy neuropathy for testing new drugs and therapeutic interventions. In 2005, she received the Indian Council of Medical Research JALMA trust fund oration award for excellence in research in the pathology of leprosy.

Dr. Ebenezer has served on the Board of Directors of the Leonard Wood Memorial since 2008. Founded in 1928, LWM established a modern leprosy research laboratory on Cebu Island in the Philippines. It has coordinated significant leprosy research and training worldwide, most recently playing an integral role in the search for a leprosy vaccine. LWM is a key partner of American Leprosy Missions and its U.S. operations are housed at the ALM headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina.

"We are delighted at Dr. Ebenezer's promotion to Research Assistant at JHU, one of the best known universities in the United States", says Jim Oehrig, ALM Acting CEO and Chief Program Officer. "ALM and LWM are very fortunate to have Dr. Ebenezer on the Board to offer her wisdom and insight, particularly in the area of leprosy research."

ALM is a world leader in leprosy research and the development of a chemoprophylaxis vaccine to prevent the nearly 5,000 new cases of this debilitating disease that develop each week throughout the world.

About American Leprosy Missions

American Leprosy Missions, based in Greenville, South Carolina, is the oldest and largest Christian organization in the United States dedicated to touching, treating and transforming the lives of people affected by leprosy and related diseases. Through partnerships with other international organizations, ALM provides the medical cure for leprosy as well as prevention of disability training, reconstructive surgery, educational scholarships, micro-credit opportunities and much more. For more information about ALM's worldwide ministry, please visit www.leprosy.org.

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