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Dear Readers,

Aravind News Team deeply mourns the sad demise of Dr. Carl Kupfer who has been an ardent supporter of the organisation and also who paved the way for developing our research capacity.

Dr. P.Namperumalsamy's contributions to the field of ophthalmology was again recognised internationally as he was awarded the prestigious Vision Award 2011 at Berlin. Aravind won the NASSCOM- KPMG Healthcare IT Award for its Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation Software.

A seminar on Proteomics was jointly organised by Aravind Medical Research Foundation and PSI Madurai (Proteomics Society, India- Madurai) and sponsored by Tamil Nadu Council for Science and Technology and MS based companies. This was the first PSI regional meeting conducted in Madurai.

HR department at various centres organised several employee welfare programmes like awareness lectures and tour programmes.

The Hospital Administrators course at LAICO was started on April 15 with a total of nine participants from different countries.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Aravind News Team Archives

Hit Counter 5

Quote

Believe you can and you're halfway there.
- Theodore Roosevelt

ARAVIND PAYS HOMAGE TO DR. CARL KUPFER



We sadly announce the demise of Dr. Carl Kupfer on the morning of 7th April 2011 at the age of 83.

Dr. Carl Kupfer was the first director of National Eye Institute, Bethesda, USA. He stepped down from his position as director on July 15, 2000 at 72 years of age. Upon his retirement Dr. Kupfer said, "As a scientist, clinician, and administrator, I have been wonderfully blessed with experiences that have brought me to the cutting edge of vision research. One of my most satisfying achievements has been helping to shape the direction of this research during the past 30 years".

Through his championing of controlled clinical trials, Dr. Kupfer has left a lasting legacy of successes in ameliorating vision loss from a number of major eye diseases, including diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma and retinopathy of prematurity.

He sowed the seeds of research at Aravind, developed our capacity and it is that which has led us to the establishment of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute.

"The coming together of quality eye care, exceptional teaching opportunities and strong research capability will continue to be an inspiration for all who have been a small part of the first twenty – five years and for those yet to experience the Aravind miracle". - Dr. Carl Kupfer

Excerpts from his message on the occasion of Aravind's silver jubilee celebrations in 2001.

"Carl was a good friend and a strong supporter of Aravind. As an institution we owe a lot to him. He sowed the initial seeds of research and built our initial capacity in it". – Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj

"He was able to see clearly the means of starting something new. Especially for me, he said I should attend ARVO and I should be spending a few days in NEI, to learn how to write the research grant proposal on Eales' Disease. That was the training I still remember and make use of this in AMRF even now". – Dr. VR. Muthukaruppan.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Best Poster Award

New Delhi, April 3 - 5



This is to certify that Dr./Mr./Ms. *M. Valarnila, Aravind Medical Research Foundation, Madurai* received the best poster award in The Indian Proteomics Conference (IPCON 2011), organized by The Proteomics Society (India) in collaboration with Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility, Jawaharlal Nehru University, April 03-Apr 05, 2011.

Organizing Secretary, IPCON 2011
Champion, IPCON 2011
President, Proteomics Society (India)

Ms. M. Valarnila from Aravind Medical Research Foundation won the best poster award at the Indian Proteomics Conference organised by The Proteomics Society India in collaboration with Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.



Dr. SR. Rathinam recognised as Ph.D guide

Dr.SR.Rathinam, Head of Uveitis Services has been recognized by Madurai Kamaraj University as a Ph.D guide in Biomedical Sciences for students working in Aravind Medical Research Foundation.



Vision Award 2011

Berlin, Germany, April 8



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus – Aravind Eye Care System has been conferred with the Vision Award 2011 by the Genesis Institute for Social Business and Impact Strategies, Berlin at the Vision Summit 2011. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was honoured for his contributions and he presented Aravind's work at the award ceremony held at Berlin. He also delivered a key note address on "Inspiring Innovations / Expanding Horizons".



Aravind again wins NASSCOM Healthcare Award

Hyderabad, April 22

Aravind wins the NASSCOM Healthcare Award 2011 for the Best IT solution for Healthcare Inclusion for its Diabetic Retinopathy Evaluation Software. The award was instituted by National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) in collaboration with KPMG, one of the leading providers of risk, financial and business advisory, internal audit, corporate governance, and tax and regulatory services. The awards are aimed at giving



centre stage to various initiatives and projects that have successfully demonstrated the growing role of technology in transforming healthcare service delivery in India.

The awards were given out by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh – Mr. Kiran Reddy and NASSCOM Chairman – Mr. Harsh Manglik across diverse categories that showcase use of technology in healthcare for cost reduction and transformation, technology solutions for healthcare inclusion and most innovative use of technology in a government hospital. The winners were selected after a rigorous screening by an esteemed panel of judges from amongst fifty plus entries received across India. Mr. V. Vijayakumar received the award on behalf of Aravind. In 2009, Aravind had won the IT User Award instituted by NASSCOM.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Classical dance programme for awareness creation

Aravind-Pondicherry, April 17



A classical dance programme for creating awareness on eye donation, "Vidiyal" jointly organised by Puducherry Rotary Mid Town and Aravind Eye Hospital was held at Kamban Kalaiarangam. Welcome address was given by Mr. Premnathan, President, Puducherry Rotary Mid Town and the programme was felicitated by Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry. Chief guest Mr. Shivalingam spoke about the importance of eye donation. Classical dance was performed by Bangalore Ramana Maharishi Academy Blind Children.



Silver Jubilee of Melody Friday

LAICO, April 8



The 25th episode of Melody Friday was celebrated as silver jubilee with a medley of enchanting numbers from the past episodes. The participants including Mr. Sanil Joseph, Mr. K.V.S. Lakshmanan, Dr. Aditi Poojari, Dr. Dhivya Karthik, Dr. Christy, Ms. Anjana and Mr. Anshuman delighted the audience with their musical talents in different languages like Hindi, Marathi, English and Tamil. The highlight of the programme was an excellent acapella number by a specially invited choir group called Noel Opus. The theme of the next event is declared as "Flowers".



Website launch

Aravind – Madurai, April 14



The Aravind Communications team launched the revamped Aravind Website on the auspicious Tamil New Year day. This redesigned portal with new look and added features was launched by Mr. Mike Myers, a volunteer at Aravind since 1983. He has guided the website team to work systematically and has been a constant support and motivator in redesigning the site. The launch was held at LAICO Auditorium. Dr.R.D.Ravindran, Chairman, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director –

LAICO and other senior Aravind leaders felicitated on this occasion. Ms. Anuja welcomed the gathering and Ms. Mahalakshmi made a presentation on the website.



CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

Training programme for the staff of audio visual department

LAICO, April 7 - 8



A two day workshop was conducted for the photographers and videographers of all Aravind Eye Hospitals. On the inaugural day, Dr. R. Kim gave an introduction to the workshop. Mr. K. Ramraj from DTP explained in detail the need for an audio visual department at Aravind. Dr. Shukla (Retina) and Dr. Jeena (Cornea) explained the photography needs of their respective department. Mr. Raj Kumar and Mr. Mike Myers handled the sessions and explained the basic techniques involved in photography.



Seminar on proteomics – principles, methods and applications

LAICO, April 15 – 16



The two day conference was conducted to disseminate knowledge and awareness amongst all interest-groups related to proteomics in India. The seminar was jointly organised by Aravind Medical Research Foundation and PSI Madurai (Proteomics Society, India-Madurai) and sponsored by Tamil Nadu Council for Science and Technology and MS based companies. This was the first PSI regional meeting conducted in Madurai. The meeting was attended by young and prominent scientists, students and technicians. The participants were from various institutions such as Madurai Kamaraj University- Madurai, Vellore Institute of Technology-Vellore, Indian Institute of Science-

Bangalore, Alagappa University-Karaikudi, Kerala Biotechnology Commission-Trivandrum, Bharatidasan University-Trichy and also from various places. This seminar focused on various aspects of proteomics including basic principles, sample preparation and instruments usage, trouble shooting etc., and this involved much of basic research carried out in the laboratory.

In addition to Aravind faculty this seminar had eminent speakers from institutions such as Sankara Nethralaya-Chennai, Indian Institute of Science- Bangalore, SAHA institute of nuclear physics-Kolkata, Indian Institute of Chromatography and Mass spectrometry – Chennai. Dr.K.Dharmalingam, Adjunct professor, AMRF and Dr.N.V.Prajna, clinician scientist organised the meeting.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Guest lecture at The Pondicherry University School of Management

Pondicherry, March 17

Mr. Poobalan, Manager-Administration, Aravind - Pondicherry delivered a guest lecture on "Enhancing employees emotional attachment towards organisation" at the one - day seminar organized by The Pondicherry University School of Management. The topic of the seminar was "The Role of HR in Ensuring Product Quality".



New financial year pooja

Aravind – Pondicherry, April 1

The staff held prayers obeisance to Goddess Lakshmi and Saraswathi. Accounts Manager Mr.Solaimuthu performed the Pooja. New account books were arranged with a picture of Goddess Saraswathi and Lakshmi in front. Various



offerings were also made to the deities. After the pooja, Ms.Kannamma Ravindran distributed the new account books to all the departments.



Dr. P.Namperumalsamy as guest speaker at ISB

Hyderabad, April 14

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus – Aravind Eye Care System delivered a guest lecture on the Aravind model at the prestigious Indian School of Business, Hyderabad.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Conference

Sydney, Australia, March 20 - 24



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

- *Challenges in management of diabetic retinopathy programmes*

Dr. Kowsalya

- *Ophthalmic manifestations of intracranial tumours*

- *Traumatic optic neuropathy -A clinical spectrum*

Dr. Kalpana Narendran

- *Does pseudophakia protect glaucoma after congenital cataract surgery?*

Dr. V. Narendran and Dr. Rodney Morris

- *Visual rehabilitation at the session on pearls and pitfalls in diagnosis*

and management of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Dr. Anand Rajendran

- *Macular hole coefficient-A novel OCT predictive parameter for macular hole closure type (poster)*

- *Flexible dosing strategies with intravitreal bevacizumab for non-AMD CNVMs poster)*



American society of cataract and refractive surgeons

San Diego, USA, March 25 - 29

Dr. Praveen subudhi

-*Combination of mobile van camps and vision centre for reaching the unreached in rural india.*

Dr.Sharmila

- *Safer modification of Subtenon's Anaesthesia in Glaucoma filtering surgeries (video)*

She also attended the American Glaucoma Society meeting at Danapoint, California from March 2nd - 6th.



International Hospital CEO Conference 2011

Paris, France, April 6 -7

Dr.S. Aravind was invited to deliver an address at the International Hospital CEO conference held at Paris.



Annual conference of Delhi Ophthalmological Society

New Delhi, April 15

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was the chairman for the session on Community Ophthalmology and gave lecture on *Diabetic Retinopathy – Challenges and solutions.*

- Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended a meeting at the conference.
- Dr. Naresh Babu
- *Gas dynamics*
- Dr. Anand Rajendran
- *The current place of PDT in anti-VEGF era*
- Dr. Manish Tandon
- *OCT findings post buckling*
- Dr. Mahesh Kumar
- *Misdiagnosis in Neuro-ophthalmology*
- *Acquired optic neuropathies*
- *Neuro-ophthalmological examination in ophthalmic practice*



I con - conference at Vaduwala Chairtable Eye Hospital

Vadodara, Gujarat, April 23 - 24

- Dr.P.Vijayalakshmi
- *Paediatric cataract:Evaluation, surgery and Post operative rehabilitation*
- *Oblique muscle surgeries:indications, technique*
- *Intermittent Exotropia*
- *Paralytic strabismus:investigations and diagnosis*



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Guest lectures

Aravind-Pondicherry



Mr.Ramachandran, Business Development Manager, Carl Zeiss Pvt Ltd delivered an inspiring and informative lecture on patient centred care to the MLOPs of Aravind – Pondicherry on March 5. At the end of the session, a role play was conducted.

At another programme held on April 12, MJF Lion M.B. Josphine, Mind Trainer and Life Coach from Mind Power Guruji, Pondicherry gave a lecture on mind power and how to train the subconscious mind and develop positive thinking. She also provided some guidelines to overcome fear. An interactive session was held at the end of the programme. The lecture was very inspiring, informative and motivating and all the MLOPs took active participation in the programme.



Aravind – Tirunelveli

April 9



Mr.R.Ganesan, Manager – DCW was invited as guest speaker to deliver a guest lecture on Patient satisfaction. Staff members of optical sales and technicians, counselling department, housekeeping department, MLOP supervisors and tutors, camp organisers, nursing superintendents and a few MLOPs attended this session. The lecture was very useful, highly informative and motivating also. Mr. Ganesan discussed the different types of patients and demonstrated how to handle and make them satisfied.



Graduation day ceremony

Aravind – Madurai, March 26



Janakiamma Child Care Centre celebrated graduation day for the loving kids with a variety of program. Almost all the senior leaders of Aravind were present. A total of five kids were graduated from the crèche qualifying to join school.



Employee recreation programme – Thithikkum Thingal

Aravind – Tirunelveli, March 28



The staff celebrated Thithikkum Thingal, the monthly retreat for employees to relax and rejoice. The whole event was organised by the welfare committee members. The participants delighted the audience with dance, songs and other cultural programmes. At the end, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer gave an inspirational talk.



Excursion programme for cleaners

Aravind – Tirunelveli, April 3

As part of employee welfare activities, cleaners were taken on a one day tour to Coimbatore. They were taken to temples in and around Coimbatore like Thenthirupathi, Marudhamalai, Perur Easwaran Temple, Vana Mariamman temple and Dhyanalingam.



Training programme for MLOPs

Aravind – Madurai, April 12 - 15



environment, relationships etc.

The HR department at Aravind – Madurai organised a training programme for the MLOPs in coordination with the Brahmakumari Samaj on topics such as three Dimensional health Care – mind, body, soul and values in nursing care. The training programme was aimed at rediscovering the innate values and reconnecting with the basic principles of the nursing profession. The MLOPs were taught how to tap the innate values such as care, compassion, kindness, generosity, responsibility, competence from within and put them into practice without being influenced by outside conditions including work



Moments of relaxation for mid level ophthalmic personnel

Aravind-Madurai

The HR Department, Aravind-Madurai organised a tour for our MLOPs to Black Thunder to take a break and relax from their routine work. A total of 280 MLOPs were taken and they were really thrilled and rejuvenated by this trip. All the MLOPs who went for this trip were hosted at Aravind-Coimbatore and they had excellent and memorable time both at Coimbatore and Black thunder. Ms. Uma Priya and Sr. Sulochana, Aravind - Coimbatore and Mr. Ramanathan, Public Relations Officer, Madurai were the key persons to organise and coordinate the tour programme.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Course for management training and systems development for hospital administrators

Aravind-Madurai, April 14



The 22nd batch of Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators commenced on April 14th. The nine participants from Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria and India were welcomed by our Chairman Dr. R. D. Ravindran and the key note address was given by Mr. R.D.Thulasiaraj, Executive Director – LAICO who highlighted the importance of effective administration for an eye hospital. The course will end on March 2.



Training of trainers in counselling

He Eye Hospital, Dalian, China, April 15- 17



Preethi Pradhan, Senior faculty – LAICO and Ms. Muthulakshmi, Supervisor Refraction – Paediatric Ophthalmology department, Aravind – Madurai visited He Eye Hospital, Dalian, China to conduct a workshop for the counselling staff. 34 participants from the He Eye Hospital, Dalian, He Eye Hospital, Shenyang and Yunan Red Cross Eye Hospital participated. The programme was supported by ORBIS International.

[Click here to view Consultancy statistical report](#)



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on February 2011	Enrollments for March 2011
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	98	1
	Tirunelveli	12	0
	Coimbatore	21	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	97	1
	Tirunelveli	121	1

	Coimbatore	89	1
	Pondicherry	1	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	701	0
	Tirunelveli	273	0
	Coimbatore	208	1
	Pondicherry	8	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	243	1
	Tirunelveli	0	0
	Coimbatore	233	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
Orientation to Paediatric Ocular Anesthesia for Anaesthetist	Madurai	10	1
	Tirunelveli	0	0
	Coimbatore	0	0
	Pondicherry	0	0
	Theni	0	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	124	1
	Tirunelveli	68	1
	Coimbatore	84	2
	Pondicherry	17	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	152	2
	Tirunelveli	105	2
	Coimbatore	121	0
	Pondicherry	18	1
Management Courses			
Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators	LAICO	206	9

[Click here to view Training Programme full statistics](#)



PUBLICATIONS

- **Retina 2011**

MAR. 17

Praveen Muraly, Poonam Limbad, Karthick Srinivasan, Kim, R

Single session of pascal versus multiple sessions of conventional laser for panretinal photocoagulation in proliferative diabetic retinopathy: A comparative study. [View article](#)

- **Bioinformation**

5(9) 2011 P.398-399

Rangachari K; Dhivya M; Eswari Pandaranayaka PJ; Prasanthi N; Sundaresan P; Krishnadas S R; Krishnaswamy S

Glaucoma Database [View article](#)

- **Retinal Cases & Brief Reports**

x:1-3, 2011

Dhananjay Shukla, Shashank Rai Gupta

Evolution and management of Macular tractional detachment With a macular hole in the Presence of nonperfused Hemiretinal vein occlusion. [View article](#)

- **Niger J Clin Pract.**

2011 Jan-Mar;14(1):70-3.

Aghaji AE, Natchiar G.

Structured extracapsular cataract extraction-intraocular lens microsurgical training: Report of a trainee's experience. [View article](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

March - 2011								
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS								
Paying (New & Review)	40,329	6,272	20,402	27,099	19,048	4,627	2,853	120,630
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,625	1,898	6,030	10,288	6,707	-	-	38,548
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS								
Regular Eye Camps	5,936	1,016	1,278	8,248	3,579	-	122	20,179
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	756	330	51	1,592	172	-	-	2,901
Refraction Camps	2,038	898	873	1,604	184	-	-	5,597
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	252	-	-	-	-	-	252
School Screening	-	2,901	1,432	1,000	-	-	-	5,333
Paediatric Camps	50	121	-	-	190	-	-	361
Vision Centres	7,449	3,880	3,635	2,339	2,115	-	-	19,418
Community Eye Clinics	3,606	1,701	4,444	-	-	-	-	9,751
Total Examinations OP	73,789	19,269	38,145	52,170	31,995	4,627	2,975	222,970
SURGERIES								
Paying	2,622	383	1,094	1,410	937	160	113	6,719
Free (Direct)	2,851	270	853	1,641	740	-	-	6,355
Camp	1,981	180	398	1,635	921	-	5	5,120
Total Surgeries	7,454	833	2,345	4,686	2,598	160	118	18,194



CASE STUDY

Aravind's eye camp gives new hope and averts two suicides!

Here is a different story in which badly impaired vision of a grand-daughter drove her and her grand mother to the extent of deciding to commit suicide. As in the previous case, Aravind's eye camp helps the concerned girl to regain clear vision. The resultant new hope sweeps out thoughts of suicide from the minds of the grand-daughter and grandmother.

Vanitha (real name shielded) belongs to a village in Madurai district. Her parents were killed in a road accident when she was one year old. Hence she was brought up by her grandmother. Due to financial reasons she could not be educated beyond elementary school level. After she grew up, she started to work as a coolie in construction works to earn livelihood since her grandmother had stopped going to work due to ill health.

One day, when vanitha was engaged in lifting bricks at a construction site, a brick accidentally fell on her face hitting both eyes. As it caused no visible injuries, she did not seek medical treatment. The pain in the eye area disappeared within a few days. As times passed, her eye sight began to diminish to the extent that she could not work.

Without income, the grand-daughter and her grandmother had to languish in hunger. So, they decided to commit suicide. However, before they executed their decision, Vanitha came to hear an oral advertisement about the free eye camp to be conducted by Aravind Eye Hospital in the near by town. This announcement gave Vanitha a new hope. She informed her grandmother about the eye camp and asked "why not we go to the camp and test my eyes?". The grandma agreed.

At the eye camp, Vanitha's eyes were examined and doctors found cataract in both the eyes. The patient was informed about it and told that it should be operated upon for regaining clear vision. Vanitha agreed. She was brought to Aravind-Madurai and both her eyes were operated one after another with a few days interval. The operations were successful. When she regained clear vision, Vanitha felt very happy. It gave her a new hope that she could again go to work and earn to feed her grandmother. As a result thoughts of suicide disappeared from both of their minds.

Before leaving the hospital, the old woman thanked Aravind and the doctors for restoring the vision of her grand-daughter and thus averted the impending tragedy of double suicide!

Source: K.P. Booma Devi
Aravind-Madurai

