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Quote

Determine never to be idle.
 No person will have
 occasion to complain of
 the want of time who
 never loses any. It is
 wonderful how much may
 be done if we are always
 doing.
 - Thomas Jefferson

SPECIAL EVENTS

World Glaucoma Week 2012

March 11- 17

World Glaucoma Week is observed every year from March 11 - 17 to enhance awareness about glaucoma among the public and the healthcare providers in general so that it generates efforts to screen the individuals at risk at periodic intervals to detect glaucoma early to enable appropriate intervention and prevent needless blindness.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

Various awareness programmes were organized by Aravind – Tirunelveli on the occasion of World Glaucoma Week. An exhibition with details on glaucoma was arranged at the hospital. Glaucoma detection camps were organized at Kadayanallur and Kallidaikurichi vision centres. A total of 180 patients were screened at Kadayanallur Vision Centre. 25 patients were diagnosed with glaucoma out of which 9 were newly identified patients. A total of 139 patients were screened at Kallidaikurichi and 19 patients were identified as glaucoma patients. 17 new glaucoma patients were identified. An interactive session and seminar on glaucoma was arranged under the leadership of Dr. R.

Editorial

Massive awareness campaigns were organized by the different Aravind Hospitals on the occasion of World Glaucoma Week mainly to sensitize the public to the seriousness of this silent blinding disease.

LAICO has been conducting annual national conference on healthcare management, Prism for the past seven years. Prism 2012, held in the second week of elicited overwhelming response from the participants who came from all over India.

With more than 80% of the Aravind workforce being constituted by women, debates and literary competitions were held on the importance of women empowerment and their role in modern society.

It was a time for the tiny tots at Janakiamma Child Care Centres as they celebrated their graduation day with a variety of exciting programmes.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team



Ramakrishnan on March 16. All India Radio, Tuticorin and All India Radio, Tirunelveli broadcast the talk of Dr.R.Ramakrishnan on glaucoma on February 10.

Banners were displayed; pamphlets and notices were distributed to create awareness among the public on glaucoma. An awareness programme on glaucoma was telecast on Hello FM 7 times per day for a week.



Aravind – Pondicherry



An awareness exhibition on glaucoma was organized at Gandhi Tidal, near Pondicherry beach on March 11. Around 450 persons visited the exhibition and got benefitted. A one week awareness exhibition was conducted at Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry during March 11- 17. A quiz programme was arranged for the patients after the exhibition visit and prizes were distributed immediately. Glaucoma awareness posters were displayed at many places in the city. Glaucoma awareness advertisement was broadcast on the Suriyan FM. A special

glaucoma screening camp was organized for the staff of Electricity Department on March 14 and 220 employees participated in the same. Five persons were identified as having glaucoma in the camp. A screening camp for those glaucoma patients who missed their regular follow up and their family members was arranged at the city centre on March 16. 126 patients attended the camp. At another screening camp held at Chengam on March 17, 125 patients participated and 7 were identified as glaucoma patients and were referred to base hospital.



Aravind – Madurai



A glaucoma screening camp was held in the hospital premises for siblings, parents and children of individuals detected to have glaucoma in the base hospital during the past one year. Around 300 patients were screened, out of which 249 individuals were new outpatients and closely related to individuals with glaucoma. Fifty persons with definite glaucoma or suspect glaucoma were identified and further referred for investigations.

An awareness talk was delivered by Dr. Sharmila on the All India Radio and she was also interviewed on Radio Mirchi on the significance of Glaucoma week observations. Dr.S.R. Krishnadas was interviewed by World BBC Tamil Radio on the importance of early detection of glaucoma and prevention of glaucoma blindness.



Excerpts from a letter of appreciation received from one of Aarvind's Instruments Maintenance trainees addressed to Prof. V. Srinivasan, Instruments Maintenance Department:

The knowledge I got from you I has been put into good practice. At the moment I've been assigned to carry out ophthalmic equipment maintenance in three provinces in Kenya (nyanza, western and parts of rift valley). Sir the biggest challenge is handling computerized equipment. I like bio-optics maintenance and I think it has almost becoming a hobby. Thanks. Austine Ater, Homa-bay District Hospital, Kenya



NEWS AND EVENTS

Visitor to AMRF




Dr. T. Madhan Mohan, Adviser, Bioinformatics division, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India visited AMRF and interacted with faculty and students. He explained the opportunities available for scientists and research scholars in Department of Biotechnology to carry out research projects.




Best Humanitarian Award for Sr. Pappa Ramalakshmi

Tirunelveli, March 3

 Sr.PappaRamalakshmi Sr. Pappa Ramalakshmi, Free Hospital Manager was awarded the "Best Humanitarian Award" by the Lions Club International of Tirunelveli in appreciation of her untiring service to the mankind for the past 23 years. The award was presented at a grand function organized at Hotel Vijaya Gardens, Tirunelveli.

Award for Research Scholars

Tirunelveli, March 15 - 16

 Prize Research Scholars at Aravind – Tirunelveli, Mr. N. Murugan and Mr. G. Ramesh Kumar got first and second prize for oral free paper presentation at National Seminar on Microbial Techniques for Sustainable Environment held at Sri Paramakalyani College, Alwarkuruchi, Tirunelveli. In the Seminar 166 free papers were presented on various fields of life science.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Data and Safety Monitoring Committee Meeting

San Francisco, February 27 – March 2

Dr. Thiruvengadakrishnan, Chief – Cornea and Refractive Surgery, Aravind - Pondicherry attended the DSMC meeting at Proctor Foundation, San Francisco on 27th February 2012.

He also underwent an observation programme at Jules Stein Hospital, Los Angeles with Dr. Anthony J Aldave from February 28 – March 2.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Employee Welfare Activities

Aravind – Pondicherry, March 4



As part of HR Welfare activity, a motivational session was arranged for the staff Children who are studying in 10th and 12th standards. Dr. K. Veena, Chief-Paediatric Consultant gave a motivational talk and tips for preparing for examination and also stressed to take care of their health during the examination. Gift articles like geometry box were distributed to the students by Dr.K. Veena. The programme was organized by Ms. Bavithra, Housekeeping Co-ordinator and Ms. Priya – Manager City Centre.



Women's Day Celebration

International Women's Day was celebrated with great spirit and fervor at all Aravind centres and Aurolab.

March 8



Aravind – Tirunelveli

The theme for the Women's Day celebrations at Tirunelveli was "Connecting girls, inspiring future" and several programmes were organized based on this theme. Drawing and Poetry writing competitions were also arranged. Dr. Dandrita, Academic consultant, MLOP Training Division, won "Best Educationalist Award" and "Eminent Educationalist Award" was invited as chief guest for the function. She gave an inspiring speech. She listed the top ten Nurses in the world and also shared her own experiences. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer gave the concluding speech. Ms. Lakshmi.R, Manager -

HR was the Master of Ceremony.



Aravind – Madurai



The women's day celebration started with poem writing competition and lasted for 3 days from March 6 – 8. On March 7, Rangoli competition was held. The highlight of the celebrations on 8th March was the special interview with Ms. Rasammal- the senior Mason worker of Aravind Eye Hospitals. She started her career at Aravind in her early 30's and she is still working at age 72. Her hard work, perseverance, culture and values, struggle in life, saving habits etc was a real opener to the audience. A dance programme was staged by the MLOPs depicting the role of women at home and society. The programme ended with a special debate on status of the working

women at home. The debate was well handled by Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy, LAICO Faculty. The programme had good Participation from Managers and MLOPs.



Aravind – Pondicherry



International Women's Day was celebrated with great fervor in Aravind Eye Hospital - Pondicherry. Art from waste competition was held and most of MLOP staff participated to reveal their hidden talents. The Sunflower team won the first prize. Ms. P. Priyadarshini, Director, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Puducherry was invited as the Chief Guest during the celebration. In her speech she dealt with the importance of women empowerment, not only economically but also culturally and socially.



Aravind – Coimbatore

A special drawing competition was conducted for the staff on the theme significance of the women's day. A panel discussion on when women feel confident about themselves in their life was arranged and the session was kick started by Ms. Maragatham. The discussion was continued by MLOP team and was concluded by the chief guest Ms. M.Uma Maheswari.



Graduation Day for the Staff's Tiny Tot

Aravind – Madurai, March 24



A total of 11 kids graduated from the Janakiamma Child Care Center, Aravind – Madurai. There were interesting cultural performances by the kids which included group dance and rhymes recital. Mr. G. Srinivasan, Dr. M. Srinivasan, Dr. Manju R Pillai and Dr. George V Puthuran distributed the certificates, and school kit to the kids.



Training Programme at Pegasus Training for OT Staff

Aravind – Pondicherry, April 1



Operation Theatre staff of Aravind - Pondicherry was taken to Pegasus training institute on an outbound learning programme. The main idea of this was to develop their skills in communication, proper planning, develop commitment to work, create good work environment and proper delegation and distribution of the work. It was a great learning experience for the participants.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Wavelength Connect 2012

London, March 6 - 7

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj spoke on the Aravind model to a group of business leaders, entrepreneurs and social innovators at the leadership development workshop named Wavelength Connect.

During his trip, he also held discussions with Patricia Hewitt, ex-health Minister of UK and shared the Aravind model of eye care services.

He also handled a session for the students of M.Sc Community Eye Health at International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London.



Wide Response to PRISM 2012

LAICO, March 10 - 11



The annual national conference on healthcare management conducted by LAICO elicited wide response as around 150 participants from different parts of India took part in the conference. This two - day conference held during the second week of March mainly constituted healthcare management students from different colleges. Apart from the Aravind team, Dr Annabel D' Souza Sekar, Faculty – Institute of Health Management Research (IHMR); Dr. A.Malathi, Head, Medical Services Compliance & Education, Manipal Hospital, Bangalore; Dr. Nirmal Fredrick, Managing Director, Nirmal Eye Hospital, Chennai; Dr. Umesh Gupta, Founder & Principal Consultant, Delphi Healthcare Research, Delhi; Dr Jawahar, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical science and technology, Trivandrum; Mr. Shantanu Ghosh, Professor of Marketing and Dean at South state Business School and Consultant Social Media Advisor, Hyderabad; Dr. R.R Sudhir, Consultant In Charge, EMR, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai and Dr. Vijayarajan, Clinics-Healthcare IT consulting, Bangalore constituted the faculty list. Poster and paper presentation contests were also arranged as part of the conference and the winners were given cash awards and mementos.



WHO Supported Near Vision Impairment Follow - up Study Data Review and Analysis Meeting

Guangzhou, China, March 19 - 21



WHO supported Near Vision Impairment Follow-up Study Data Review and Analysis Meeting was held at Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Guangzhou, China from 19-21 March 2012. The Principle Investigators from seven study sites (Guangzhou and Beijing for China; Durban for South Africa; Los Angeles for the United States of America; Madurai for India; Kathmandu for Nepal; Dosso for Niger) presented their follow-up study data. Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Principal Investigator (Madurai site) presented the analysis and results of the study. The outcome of the meeting is to develop recommendations for the screening and refractive correction of near vision impairment in low- and middle-income country settings.



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj at the Economist Conference

Healthcare in the Gulf: Setting the reform agenda

Dubai, March 28

Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj was the invited speaker for the session on Innovation in action – Insights from developing markets at the conference Healthcare in the Gulf organized by Economist Conferences, the conference arm of The Economist newspaper.



9th Governing Board Meeting of IHMR – Bangalore

Bangalore, March 30

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the 9th Governing board meeting of IHMR – Bangalore held at the institute premises.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on February 2012	Enrollments for March 2012
Residency Programmes - Clinical Courses			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	62	0
	Coimbatore	24	1

	Theni	11	0
	Tirunelveli	42	0
	Pondicherry	10	0
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	104	1
	Tirunelveli	13	0
	Coimbatore	25	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	27	1
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Madurai	96	0
	Tirunelveli	2	0
	Coimbatore	26	1
	Pondicherry	6	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	108	1
	Tirunelveli	133	0
	Coimbatore	102	1
	Pondicherry	2	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	708	0
	Tirunelveli	276	0
	Coimbatore	215	1
	Pondicherry	12	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	167	3
	Tirunelveli	112	0
	Coimbatore	126	1
	Pondicherry	22	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	261	1
	Coimbatore	259	1
	Pondicherry	5	0
Phacomulsification	Madurai	142	3
	Tirunelveli	79	0
	Coimbatore	94	2
	Pondicherry	20	0
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	39	1
Short Term Training in Vitrectomy (Virtual)	Madurai	14	1
	Coimbatore	7	0

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



PUBLICATIONS

- **Am J Ophthalmol. 2012 FEB.**

Joseph CR, Lalitha P, Sivaraman KR, Ramasamy K, Behera UC.

- *Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction in the Diagnosis of Acute Postoperative Endophthalmitis.* [article view](#)

- **Invest. Ophthalmol. Vis. Sci. 2012 MAR.**

Cyril Dalmon ; Travis C. Porco ; Thomas M. Lietman ; N. Venkatesh Prajna ; Lalitha Prajna ; Mano Ranjan Das

; J. Arun Kumar ; Jeena Mascarenhas ; Todd P. Margolis ; John P. Whitcher; Bennie H. Jeng; Jeremy D. Keenan; Matilda F. Chan ; Stephen D. McLeod ; Nisha R. Acharya

- *The Clinical Differentiation of Bacterial and Fungal Keratitis: A Photographic Survey.* [article view](#)

• **PLoS ONE Vol:7(3) 2012 p.e33001**

Periasamy Sundaresan, Ravilla D. Ravindran, Praveen Vashist, Ashwini Shanker, Dorothea Nitsch, Badrinath Talwar, Giovanni Maraini, Monica Camparini, Bareng Aletta S. Nonyane4, Liam Smeeth, Usha Chakravarthy, James F. Hejtmancik, Astrid E. Fletcher

- *EPHA2 Polymorphisms and Age-Related Cataract in India.* [article view](#)

• **Asia-Pac J Ophthalmol Vol:1(2) 2012 MAR.-APR. p.113-119**

Rengaraj Venkatesh, David F. Chang, Radhakrishnan Muralikrishnan , Kenia Hemal, Pariskshit Gogate, Sabyasachi Sengupta

- *Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery: A Review.* [article view](#)

• **Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2012 MAR.**

Balasubbu S, Krishnadas SR, Jiao X, Hejtmancik JF, Sundaresan P.

- *Evaluation of SNPs on chromosome 2p with Primary Open- Angle Glaucoma in the South Indian Cohort.* [article view](#)

• **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2012 Mar;60(2):144-6.**

Muralidhar R, Siddalinga Swamy GS, Vijayalakshmi P.

- *Completion rates of anterior and posterior continuous curvilinear capsulorrhexis in pediatric cataract surgery for surgery performed by trainee surgeons with the use of a low-cost viscoelastic.* [article view](#)

• **J Clin Microbiol. 2012 Mar 29. [Epub]**

Manoharan G, Lalitha P, Jeganathan LP, Dsilva SS, Prajna NV.

- *Pantoea ananatis as a cause of Corneal Infiltrate after Rice husk injury -- a Case Report.* [article view](#)



AUROLAB NEWS

Graduation Day for Creche Kids

March 24



Ms.Kannamma Ravindran and Ms.Haripriya Aarvind were invited as chief guests for the function held at Aurolab. Variety entertainments by the kids included dance, song and fancy dress. The graduation day certificates were distributed by the Managing Director Dr. P. Balakrishnan. The others prizes were distributed by the chief guests to the other crèche kids. The programme came to an end with high tea



Women's Day Celebration

Aurolab, March 8



Aurolab organized various sports activities like throw ball, go go, lemon and spoon, musical chair, lucky corner and so on. A special debate on the role of women in society was also organized as part of the celebrations. Ms.Selvageetha from Hello FM was invited as chief moderator for the debate. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the various competitions. Dr.G. Natchiar, Mrs.Varalakshmi Balakrishnan, Mrs.Kannamma Ravindran were invited as special guests for the function.



Guest Lecture on Basic Fire Safety Awareness and Fire Extinguisher Demonstration

March 21



Mr.Arulprakasam from Usha Fire Safety Equipments Pvt Ltd delivered a guest lecture and handled a training program on basic fire safety measures for the staff. Staff was trained on how to make use of fire extinguisher in case of a fire outbreak. The training session also focused on the major rescue steps to be followed in case of a fire accident or gas cylinder leakage. The benefits of wearing helmets while riding two wheelers were also highlighted.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

March - 2012										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Salem	Total	
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	41,799	6,201	21,315	26,679	20,052	5,063	3,290	6,018	130,417	
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,384	1,712	6,054	8,943	6,721	8	-	-	36,822	
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	9,468	1,260	3,308	7,437	5,847	-	-	-	27,320	
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	119	52	274	1,496	477	-	-	-	2,418	
Refraction Camps	-	-	209	2,462	521	-	-	15	3,207	
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	741	-	-	-	-	-	-	741	
School Screening camps	-	-	16,237	1,135	-	-	-	-	17,372	
ICDS Children	-	-	5,040	-	-	-	-	-	5,040	
Paediatric Camps	-	-	-	-	196	-	-	-	196	
Vision Centres	8,121	4,236	4,485	2,486	2,503	-	415	-	22,246	
Community Eye Clinics	3,587	1,593	4,582	-	-	-	-	-	9,762	
Total OP Examinations	76,478	15,795	61,504	50,638	36,255	5,071	3,705	6033	255,541	
SURGERIES										
Paying	2,767	432	1,093	1,324	1,080	159	115	311	7,281	
Free (Direct)	2,829	248	874	1,583	718	31	44	47	6,374	
Camp	3,063	203	927	1,803	1,457	-	-	-	7,453	
Total Surgeries	8,659	883	2,894	4,710	3,255	190	159	358	21,108	

