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Quote

I do not believe in taking right decisions. I take decisions and then make them right. So always believe in your ability and efforts.

– Ratan Tata

Editorial

Glaucoma remains one of the leading causes of blindness across the world. Awareness events took place all around Aravind centres to educate people about how to assess their risk for glaucoma and to be aware of the importance of regular eye exams and disease detection. The programmes organized as part of World Glaucoma Week also provided opportunity for already diagnosed patients to know more about the disease and its serious consequences. All over the world, International Women's Day was celebrated with great fervor. Aravind too, commemorated this special occasion in its own special way.

Aravind is always keen on improving the professional competence of its employees and the organization ensures it by way of conducting various continuing medical education programmes. Similar programmes were arranged for the staff of vision centres to update them on the latest developments in the field of eye care. Likewise Cataract Services at Aravind – Madurai organized a live surgery session for medical officers on how to handle complicated cases.

Children's day care facility at the Aravind Hospital is a real boon for the working mothers in the organization. This year too, the child care center celebrated its annual day during which children joining school the ensuing academic year were offered graduation.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

NEWS AND EVENTS

Visit to Sichuan Academy of Medical Sciences & Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital

Chengdu, China, March 4-7



Dr. P.Sundaresan, Senior Scientist, Aravind Medical Research Foundation visited Centre for Human Molecular Biology and Genetics, Sichuan Academy of Medical Sciences and Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital, Chengdu, to deliver a lecture on "The role of genes and inheritance of human eye diseases in Indian population" Dr. P.Sundaresan met Dr. Zhenglin, Yang Director – Research and Vice President of the Hospital and discussed the future collaborative projects as well as interacted with the institute faculty Dr.Xianjun Zhu and Dr. GongBo and research scholars.

SAP team visits Aravind

Aravind – Madurai, March 8-9

A team of 25 members from SAP Lab India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore visited Aravind Eye Hospital to get an overview of Aravind Model and to have discussion with IT Team for future collaboration.



CME for Vision Centre Staff

March 10 & 17



Aravind-Pondicherry, March 17

A total of 10 sisters from the different vision centres of Aravind Pondicherry participated and got benefited. CME began with some clinical sessions and then continued with non clinical sessions. The staff shared their experience about interesting cases seen by them. This CME was moderated and guided by Dr. K.Tiruvengadakrishnan, Chief Cornea Consultant and Camp Medical Officer.

Aravind – Madurai, March 10

A detailed Continuous medical education programme was conducted for Vision centre Staff of Madurai and Theni. The entire programme was designed in such a way that it focused on the recent updates in ophthalmology. Staff from 23 vision centres of Madurai and Theni participated in the workshop. The workshop overview was given by Dr. Ilango – Camp medical officer. The sessions were taken by senior consultants from the different specialty clinics. Beside the clinical sessions, there were other sessions that focused on family eye screening, genetic disorders, maintenance of equipment and instruments. The entire programme was coordinated by Dr. Sathya Ravilla and Ms. Sridevi from HR Department and the Vision Centre Management team.

Aravind - Tirunelveli, March 17

Staff from six vision centers, field workers and senior MLOP staff attended the CME. Overview about the workshop was given by Dr. Maneksha – Camp Medical officer. The topics covered included recent updates in ophthalmology and the sessions were taken by Dr. Meenakshi, Dr. Sherin Haroon, Dr. Syed Mohaideen, Dr. Neelam Pawar and Dr. Praveena. The session focused mainly on pectiality diseases, diagnosis and treatment, instruments maintenance and family screening. The entire programme was coordinated by the Vision center team, HR and the nursing department.



Awareness Programme for Ashram Inmates

Aravind – Pondicherry, March 13



As part of 10th year celebrations, an awareness programme on various eye diseases was arranged for the inmates of Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Around 186 inmates attended the programme. Dr. R. Venkatesh and team gave an awareness talk to Aurovilians and doctors and staff of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Medical Hospital.



Live Surgery Session

Aravind – Madurai, March 15



Cataract department at Aravind - Madurai conducted a live surgery session on "How to handle complicated cases in SICS". Mature, brown, black and posterior capsule management was demonstrated. Live surgeries were displayed in both 2D and 3D views. 21 medical officers from Aravind - Madurai attended the programme.



World Glaucoma Week Celebrations

March 10-16

Aravind – Salem



A 2 km long awareness rally was conducted which was flagged off by Mr. Ashwin M. Kotnis, Superintendent of Police, Salem. Doctors and staff of Aravind - Salem participated in the rally. Family screening camp for glaucoma was conducted in the hospital premises during which 112 patients were screened of whom 28 were newly detected patients and 84 review patients. Awareness videos were screened for the better understanding of patients. To propagate about the camp, various strategies were adopted - intimation letters, posters and banners, voice messages and so on. The whole event was arranged successfully with support from Allergan Pharma and Aurolab.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

An awareness exhibition was organized for the public which was inaugurated by Dr. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer. Glaucoma screening camps were organized at Surandai vision centre and Sankarakovil Community Centre. A total of 235 patients were screened at Surandai Vision Centre and 78 patients were identified with Glaucoma of which 52 were identified patients. A total of 113 patients were screened at Sankarankovil centre. Of the 35 patients identified with Glaucoma, 5 were newly diagnosed patients. An awareness seminar for patients was conducted in the hospital premise which was handled by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan. All India Radio broadcast the live interactive session with glaucoma specialists and patients. Banners were displayed in prominent places to create awareness on the disease.

Aravind – Theni

To celebrate World Glaucoma Week, Aravind Eye Hospital, Theni organized a follow-up and case finding camp for all registered glaucoma patients of the vision centres and Cumbum Community Centre, and for their relatives. A total of 644 outpatients were examined and of that 426 were glaucoma patients, of which 34 patients were newly identified. Several awareness videos and talks were arranged as part of the programme. Publicity for the camp was done mainly through letters, banners, posters, phone calls and voice messages. Pharma companies such as Allergan, Alcon, Aurolab, Milmet/Sunpharma and Microlabs supported in making the camp highly successful.

Aravind – Pondicherry

As part of World Glaucoma Week, Aravind Pondicherry arranged a grand awareness exhibition and glaucoma screening on March 9 at Pondicherry Beach. A total of 150 persons visited the exhibition, out of which 9 were newly identified with glaucoma and were referred to Aravind City Centre. On March 10, a mega rally was jointly conducted by Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry and Department of Ophthalmology, JIPMER. This was organized mainly to create awareness about glaucoma and was flagged off by Honorable Dr. Iqbal Singh, Governor of Pondicherry.

Aravind – Tirupur

Awareness Exhibition was conducted in the hospital premises and in the City Centre. Quiz programme was also conducted as part of the event and prizes distributed on the spot. Awareness posters on glaucoma were displayed in different parts of the city. A total of 1000 letters were sent to glaucoma patients who need regular review but lost their follow up. Out of 1000 patients, 343 (34%) patients attended the screening camp with their family members and got benefited. 17 new glaucoma patients were identified through the camp. 5 patients were advised for glaucoma surgery.



Students from University of Massachusetts visit Aravind

Aravind – Madurai, January 9



A team of students from Isenberg School of Business, University of Massachusetts visited Aravind in the first week of January to get an overview of the Aravind model.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Annual Conference of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh

Bangladesh, March 8-9

Dr. G. Natchiar and Ms. Deepa Krishnan attended the Annual Conference of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh in the first week of March. Dr. Natchiar was invited to deliver Dr. Alim Memorial Lecture after which she was felicitated by Ms.

Sheikh Hazina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Aravind team also visited BIRDEM - Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation for Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders, Islamia Eye Hospital, National Institute of Ophthalmology and Prime Bank Eye Hospital.



Wavelength Connect

London, United Kingdom, March 12-13



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj presented the Aravind model at the prestigious Wavelength Connect, a leadership development workshop which aims to work with ambitious business leaders, entrepreneurs and social innovators from across sectors to build their knowledge, insights, resilience, connectivity and networks.



Workshop on Operations Management organized by V2020

Hyderabad, February 24-28

Mr. Mohammed Gowth attended the workshop organized at L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. The main aim of the workshop was to come up with key performance indicators for operations management.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Employee Welfare Activity

Aravind – Pondicherry, March 4

As part of employee welfare activity, the HR department at Aravind - Pondicherry arranged a motivational session for the staff children who are studying in 10th and 12th standard. Dr. K. Veena, Chief-Paediatric Ophthalmology services gave a motivational talk and tips for preparing for examination and taking care of their health during the examination. Gifts were distributed to the students by Dr. K. Veena. The programme was organized by Ms. Bavithra, Housekeeping co-ordinator, Ms. Sumathi from HR department.



Women's Day Celebrations

March 8



Aravind – Madurai

Celebrations began with a debate that analysed the significance of taking forward age-old traditions and customs in our culture. Staff belonging to different cadres actively shared their ideas. An interesting quiz competition was conducted which was anchored by Ms. Kavitha from Mahatma School. Winners were awarded prizes. As an end to three-day celebrations, a special melody Friday was conducted specially focusing on the theme "woman".

Aravind – Coimbatore

International Women's Day was observed at Aravind – Coimbatore with a special debate on the topic – "What adds value to nursing profession – sacrificial service or medical knowledge"? Kavignar Maruthur Koteeswaran was moderator for the programme. There were 4 members in each group. The debate concluded with the verdict that sacrificial service with compassionate care plays a vital role that first touches the patient than scientific knowledge.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

Competitions like drawing and poetry writing were arranged as part of Women's Day celebrations. Ms.Chidambaram, Nursing Superintendent gave an inspiring speech during which she listed the top ten nurses as well as women achievers in India and also shared her own experiences. Dr.Mona Khurana and Ms. Karthigai Deepa (Refractionist) won prizes in drawing competition. Ms. Muthulakshmi(OPD) and Ms.Kavitha (House Keeping) won the poetry competition. Complementary prizes were given for all participants.

Aravind – Pondicherry

Rangoli and musical Chair competition were held as part of Women's Day Celebrations. A debate on the topic "Pengalin Munnatrathirku karanam Pengala! Angala!" was also conducted in which the participants participated with great fervour.



Graduation Programme for Kids of Janakiamma Child Care Centre

Aravind – Madurai, March 23



A total of 10 kids graduated this year from Janakiamma Child Care Centre. There was a special performance by these kids. Graduation hood and certificate were distributed by Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Dr.R.D. Ravindran, Dr. R. Kim and Dr. S.R. Rathinam. Cultural programmes staged by the children of the crèche added colour to the whole programme. Mothers shared their feelings about the creche and how useful it has been to them.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Journal Club Initiated at LAICO

LAICO, March 9

The first meeting of the journal club took place at LAICO in the second week of March. Mr. Jeyaram Illaiyaraj, biostatistician facilitated the meeting which was attended by around 15 participants. The club plans to meet every Saturday and discuss articles related to research.



Teaching at ICEH

London, United Kingdom, March 16-17



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj handled the management module for the students of M.Sc in Community Eye Health at London Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. At London, he was also invited to participate in the meeting of Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, one of its major areas of focus being eye care especially on diseases like diabetic retinopathy and trachoma. He also met with Mr. Karl Blanchard, faculty – LSHTM and discussed possible collaboration between the institute and LAICO in future.



PRISM 2013

LAICO, March 23-24



The eighth annual national conference of Prism was held at LAICO in the last week of March. Dr. R.D. Ravindran welcomed the audience to the conference. Mr. Rakesh Sarwal, Advisory Board members, Planning Commission of India delivered the inaugural address via teleconferencing. Ms. Dhivya provided an overview of the conference. Around sixty participants attended the conference.



Needs Assessment Visits

Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)

Tanzania, March

Mr. Suresh Kumar and Dr. S.R. Krishnadas made needs assessment visit to CCBRT, Dar es Salaam. The team gave detailed inputs and suggested necessary recommendations for the better performance of the hospital. Aravind team also ran a workshop to give the hospital staff a better understanding of the systems and procedures.

The hospital is one of the leading healthcare institutions in the country and its eye department currently performs over 7,000 cataract surgeries. The visit is part of a capacity building process to help the hospital increase its productivity and build its cataract specialty services.

Madanapalle Lions Eye Hospital

March

Mr. Mohammed Gowth visited Madanapalle Lions Eye Hospital to assess their eye care services and then to suggest necessary modifications to improve the hospital performance.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on March 2013	Enrollments for April 2013
Long term Fellowship Programmes for Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	67	1
	Coimbatore	35	0
	Pondicherry	8	0
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	47	0
	Tirunelveli	13	1
	Coimbatore	26	0
	Pondicherry	9	0
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	45	0
	Tirunelveli	2	1
Fellowship in Retina - Vitreous	Madurai	109	1
	Tirunelveli	7	0
	Coimbatore	38	0
	Pondicherry	14	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	117	0
	Tirunelveli	148	1
	Coimbatore	112	0
	Pondicherry	4	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	714	0
	Tirunelveli	278	1
	Coimbatore	221	0
	Pondicherry	12	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	179	1
	Tirunelveli	119	0
	Coimbatore	146	0
	Pondicherry	27	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	279	2
	Coimbatore	276	1
	Pondicherry	7	0
Phacomulsification	Madurai	162	2
	Tirunelveli	88	1

	Coimbatore	121	3
	Pondicherry	25	0
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	2	1
	Coimbatore	1	0
Ocularist	Madurai	26	1
Management Courses			
Management Training and System Development for Hospital Administrators / Managers	LAICO	240	7
Instrument Maintenance Course - for Technicians	Madurai	441	2



PUBLICATIONS

- **OPHTHALMIC EPIDEMIOLOG. 2013 APR; 20 (2):96-101**

Sanil Joseph; Thulasiraj, R D; Ken Bassett

- *Gender issues in a cataract surgical population in south India.* [article view](#)

- **Curr Eye Res VOL: 38(5) 2013 p.550-562**

Jayahar, M Bharathi, Rameshkumar, G; Ramakrishnan, R; Vanugopal Reddy, Y C, Shivkumar, C; Ramesh, S

- *Comparative evaluation of uniplex, nested, semi-nested, multiplex and nested multiplex PCR methods in the identification of microbial etiology of clinically suspected infectious endophthalmitis.* [article view](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

March - 2013										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	43,457	6,538	21,967	27,748	21,926	5,348	3,220	4,449	2,243	136,896
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,016	1,813	6,243	9,690	6,908	1	190	4,092	930	42,883
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	12,156	1,976	4,919	5,570	7,952	-	-	807	-	33,380
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	691	47	-	1,072	301	-	-	-	-	2,111
Refraction Camps	1,337	-	1,479	2,115	1,249	-	-	144	-	6,324
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	495	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	495
School Screening camps	-	-	571	3,456	-	-	-	-	-	4,027
Paediatric Camps	4,747	-	-	540	139	-	-	-	-	1,153
Vision Centres	9,654	4,238	4,987	3,236	2,692	-	-	-	-	24,807
Community	3,460	1,658	1,820	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,938

Eye Clinics											
Total OP Examinations	84,245	16,765	41,986	53,427	41,167	5,349	3,410	9,492	3,173	259,014	
SURGERIES											
Paying	2,686	372	919	1,398	1,066	149	110	387	76	7,163	
Free (Direct)	2,575	218	682	1,427	693	36	49	50	62	5,792	
Camp	3,477	254	966	1,217	1,453	-	-	194	-	7,561	
Total Surgeries	8,738	844	2,567	4,042	3,212	185	159	631	138	20,516	

