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Quote

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

- Helen Keller

Editorial

Glaucoma is a dangerous disease as it can affect the eye without symptoms and lead to irreversible loss of vision. The initial loss of vision is usually on the sides. By the time a patient is aware of vision loss, the disease is usually quite advanced. To sensitise the public on the seriousness of the disease, on the occasion of World Glaucoma Week, Aravind Eye Hospitals organized massive awareness creation programmes.

Aravind Eye Hospital at Pondicherry is well-known not only for its patient care, but also for its excellent garden which has won laurels in many competitions. For the fifth consecutive time, the hospital bagged award for the best garden at the Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show organized by the Government of Pondicherry.

Vision centres have proved to be of great significance for rural people to access quality eye care. Continuing its tradition of providing eye care services to the needy, Aravind – Tirunelveli opened its latest vision centre at Pavoorchatram. Aravind centres celebrated International Women's Day with a variety of programmes including guest lectures, seminars and awareness talks.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Aravind – Pondicherry Bags Prize at Farm Fest Show 2015

Pondicherry, March 8



The Department of Agriculture, Government of Puducherry conducted XXVIII Flower, Vegetable and Fruit show from 6th March to 8th March 2015. Aravind Eye Hospital, Puducherry participated and won first Prize for ornamental garden, herbal and kitchen Garden for the fifth consecutive time. Certificate and memento were given by the Department of Agriculture, Puducherry.

Women's Day Excellence Award

Madurai, March 8

Dr. Usha Kim and Ms. Aleykutty Varghese were honoured with International Women's Day Excellence Award by the Lions Club of Madurai Delight District 324-B3 at Tirunagar.



CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

Attension 2015

Aravind – Madurai, March 14-15



Glaucoma Department at Aravind - Madurai organized a two-day symposium on *Refractory and Childhood Glaucoma*. The symposium had eminent faculty sharing their experiences in the management of glaucoma. Close to 150 participants attended the symposium.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Women's Day Celebrations

March 8



On the occasion of International Women's Day, a special skin care camp was organized at Aravind - Tirunelveli for the benefit of lady staff. Dr. Seeniammal, Dermatologist from Tirunelveli Medical College was invited to examine the staff members. Close to 40 people were benefitted. Apart from skin care camp, various competitions like cooking, rangoli, poetry writing, quiz and memory game were organized. Staff members participated with great enthusiasm and exhibited their talents. At Aravind – Madurai, a special guest lecture

was arranged on preparing nutritional food without using stove. Ms. Hema, an eminent yoga teacher handled the session. Following this, a motivational talk and training in handicrafts was given by Ms. Gunavathy, winner of Lions Award on the occasion of International Women's Day. In Pondicherry, Suriyan FM organized various programmes at Subburayalu Chettiar Thirumana Mandabam, Cuddalore. Nurses from Aravind - Pondicherry participated in events like rangoli, singing, cookery, dance, poetry and won prizes.



World Glaucoma Week Celebrations

March 8-13

Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry conducted various awareness programmes in and around the city. A mega marathon was organized which was inaugurated by Thiru Dr. S. Sundaravavelu, Special Secretary to Govt-cum-District Collector, Govt. of Puducherry. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer of Aravind Pondicherry addressed the press meet. More than 1,300 students and public participated in the event. The marathon covered main streets of Pondicherry city.

Aravind – Salem organized Glaucoma Awareness Run (5KM) at Gandhi Stadium, Salem. A total of 470 participants participated to fight blindness due to Glaucoma. The event was inaugurated by Sri. Amalraj IPS, City Police Commissioner– Salem. Top 10 finishers in each category were given prizes, medals and Certificates.



Aravind – Tirunelveli organized exclusive Glaucoma camps at Kadayam and Pavoorchatram vision centres. A total of 138 patients were screened at Kadayam. 31 patients were identified to have of which 20 were newly identified cases. A total of 90 patients were screened at Pavoorchatram. 10 patients were found to have Glaucoma of which 8 were newly identified cases.

The hospital joined hands with the Ophthalmology department at Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital in organising glaucoma mega awareness walk from VOC ground – Palayamkottai till the Medical College Hospital. The walk was inaugurated by Tirunelveli Medical college Dean Dr. Thulasiram in the presence of Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli and Dr. Yoheswari, Head of the Department, Ophthalmology department, Tirunelveli Medical College. More than 400 members participated in the walk. Press meet also was arranged. Leaflets were distributed to public during the walk. An awareness exhibition for Patients and public was arranged for the public which was inaugurated by Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi Chief - Paediatric Ophthalmology Services, Madurai. The exhibition displayed different types of glaucoma with the help of various models and pictures. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan gave glaucoma awareness talk on Hello FM and All India radio. Awareness seminar for patients and their attenders was conducted in the hospital auditorium.



Inauguration Pavoorchatram Vision Centre

Aravind – Tirunelveli, March 11



Aravind's 51st Vision Centre was inaugurated at Pavoorchatram by Dr.Vijayalakshmi – Chief of Paediatric Ophthalmology department, Aravind- Madurai in the presence of Thiru. S. Selvamohan Dass Pandian, Chairman, Keelapavoor Panchayat Union, Thiru. Ramasamy @ Tamilselvan – President, Kalloorani Panchayat, Thiru. Ilango, Lions Club of Pavoorchatram, members of Merchant Association, Lions club and Rotary club. Dr.Vijayalakshmi and Dr.R.Ramakrishnan addressed the audience and highlighted the importance of vision centre. 56 patients were screened on the inaugural day.



Motivational Talk

Aravind – Madurai, March 11



There are a lot of things to learn from nature. When we go out a lot of learning happens which is beyond imagination. To elucidate this point, Mr. Praveen from Next Services delivered a talk on *Virtues of getting outdoors* to the staff and managers at Aravind. He shared his learning from the treks done by him in Himalayan ranges along with some beautiful photographs and stories.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

March 18

Swamy Omkarananda Giri from Yogoda Satsanga Society of India from Ranchi gave a spiritual talk on *Spiritualizing Service to Society*. Swamiji, a Post Graduate in Management Sciences is a disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda who wrote the famous book An Autobiography of a Yogi. His talk was very precise and powerful interspersed with examples from his own life.



ReLOAD

Aravind – Madurai, March 21

As part of Phaco Development Programme, Alcon India along with Aravind – Madurai organized a one day workshop, ReLOAD (Review Learnings On Advancement and Development) for the Medical Officers of AECS who have completed their Phaco training under the programme last year. A total of 10 participants from Aravind - Madurai,



Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Pondicherry participated and Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Dr. Neeraj Kumar Agarwal and Dr. Manas Nath moderated the sessions.



Graduation Ceremony of Kids

Aravind – Madurai, March 25



Tiny tots of Janakiamma Child Care Centre celebrated their graduation day with a wide variety of programmes. A total of seven children received graduation this year. Dr. M. Srinivasan distributed the certificates and gifts. Ms. Donna Campbell from Aravind Eye Foundation was the chief guest. Cultural programmes by kids added colour to the whole programme.



Ph. D Thesis Defended

AMRF, March 31



Mr. Sushil Kumar Dubey, Department of Molecular Genetics, AMRF defended his PhD thesis entitled *Identification and characterization of mutations in candidate genes involved in major congenital globe anomalies* in the presence of external examiner, Dr. S. Sripriya, Lecturer, SN ONGC Department of Genetics and Molecular Biology, Vision Research Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai. He carried out his studies under the guidance of Dr. P. Sundaresan.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training Programmes Enrollments for March 2015 at Aravind Eye Care System			
Course title	Training Centre	Enrollments for April 2015	Total number trained till March 2015
Residency Programmes			
DNB	Pondicherry	4	174
	Coimbatore	2	
Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment and Intraocular Lens Surgery	Pondicherry	1	182
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	2	126
	Coimbatore	1	
Fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty	Madurai	1	51
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Tirunelveli	1	439

	Madurai	1	
	Pondicherry	1	
	Coimbatore	1	
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1	478
	Tirunelveli	1	
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	2	628
	Coimbatore	1	
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	1	7
Short Term Courses - For Paramedicals			
OT Techniques	Madurai	1	37
Training for Ocularists	Madurai	1	39
Management Courses - Non Clinical Courses			
Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators / Managers	Madurai	5	283
Instrument Maintenance Courses - Non Clinical Courses			
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	Madurai	6	495



PUBLICATIONS

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- *A common variant near TGFBR3 is associated with primary open angle glaucoma.*
Hum Mol Genet. 2015 Apr 10. pii: ddv128. [Epub] [Article View](#)
- Kavitha S, Patel SR, Mohini P, Venkatesh R, Sengupta S
- *Vitiligo iridis and glaucoma: a rare sequelae of small pox.*
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- Uddaraju M, Mascarenhas J, Das MR, Radhakrishnan N, Keenan JD, Prajna L, Prajna VN.
- *Corneal cross-linking as an adjuvant therapy in the management of recalcitrant deep stromal fungal keratitis: A randomized trial.*
Am J Ophthalmol. 2015 Apr 1. pii: S0002-9394(15)00166-X. [Epub] [Article View](#)
- Dubey SK, Hejtmancik JF, Krishnadas SR, Sharmila R, Haripriya A, Sundaresan P.
- *Evaluation of genetic polymorphisms in clusterin and tumor necrosis factor-alpha genes in south Indian individuals with pseudoexfoliation syndrome.*
Curr Eye Res. 2015 Apr 7:1-7. [Epub] [Article View](#)



AUROLAB NEWS

Awareness Session on First Aid Measures

Aurolab, March 27



Awareness lecture on first aid measures was arranged for the staff members of Aurolab. Dr. Gomathi Ramya, Medical Officer and Ms. Anbu Jothi-Nursing Staff of Aravind – Madurai handled the session. The session covered first aid measures in cases of wheezing, sprain, fits, fainting, insect / Snake bites, fever, injuries and bleeding in nose. The participants felt the session extremely useful.

**Women's Day Celebration in Aurolab**

Aurolab, March 9

On the occasion of Women's Day Celebration. Aurolab arranged a special guest lecture on the topic of "Pennin Magathuvam". Ms. Kothai Dinakaran delivered the guest lecture. She heads Brahmakumari - Madurai Chapter and is also the director of Jeyavilas group. The participants felt the guest lecture very useful.

**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS****March - 2015**

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Tuticorin	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS											
Paying (New & Review)	49,880	7,356	24,854	29,811	24,085	5,600	3,920	9,607	2,443	4,951	162,507
Free (Direct walk-in)	15,675	1,979	6,725	10,529	8,322	16	611	441	973	763	46,034
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS											
Regular Eye Camps	11,570	2,487	4,748	6,692	7,787	-	-	956	-	779	35,019
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	916	52	195	1,163	758	-	-	-	-	-	3,084
Refraction Camps	954	219	618	1,993	1,053	-	-	-	-	-	4,837
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	721	-	-	721
School Screening camps	346	-	95	-	2,092	-	-	-	-	-	2,533
Paediatric Camps	-	1,173	103	473	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,749
Vision Centres	14,798	4,986	8,094	2,548	4,028	-	855	-	868	-	36,177
Community Eye Clinics	4,062	1,643	2,546	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,251
Total OP Examinations	98,201	19,895	47,978	53,209	48,125	5,616	5,386	11,725	4,284	6,493	300,912
SURGERIES											
Paying	3,391	457	1,552	1,504	1,412	231	154	510	146	192	9,549
Free (Direct)	2,872	269	949	1,624	1,061	77	83	66	127	95	7,223
Camp	3,162	419	862	1,746	2,199	-	32	321	9	75	8,825
Total Surgeries	9,425	1,145	3,363	4,874	4,672	308	269	897	282	362	25,597



