Editorial

Over the years, Aravind has built good will and trust amongst patients coming from bordering districts of Andhra Pradesh. A number of patients from southern part of the state have been visiting Aravind Eye Hospitals to avail quality eye treatment and this is increasing year after year. Several years ago, what used to be a small number of patients, has now steadily increased to over a 150 patients every day with about 50 of them getting operated. Most of these patients come to Aravind for speciality eye surgeries which are complex and are provided at reasonable charges or at subsidised cost for those who belong to poor socioeconomic groups. Many of them have to come for several review visits following surgery and the cost involved in the travel makes the entire treatment cycle expensive for many. Recognizing these hardships, Aravind finally established a hospital closer to their homes, in Tirupati with the support of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, who allocated the land at a nominal lease.

Since more than 80% of Aravind’s work-force is constituted by women, International Women’s Day was celebrated with a wide variety of programmes. It is also important to note several senior lady doctors received awards from various forums on this occasion.

World Glaucoma Week was observed with great fervour. Glaucoma being the silent thief of sight, the need to have regular eye examination and compliance to treatment were stressed during the awareness creation programmes.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Awards at the Annual Conference of Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
Bangkok, Thailand, March 06-09

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Chief, Neuro-ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Madurai and Dr. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina and Vitreous Services, Aravind-Madurai received Achievement Awards.

Dr. Rashmita Ravishankar, DNB Resident, Aravind-Pondicherry received Most Popular e-poster Award for the poster titled, Calibration of Various Tonometers: Shiotz, Goldmann, Perkins, Non-contact, iCare, and Tonopen.
Dr. Pavan Kumar, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Pondicherry won Most Popular Video Award for the video titled, Family Screening: An Effective Way to Combat Glaucoma Blindness.

Heroes of Ophthalmology Award for Dr. Natchiar
Madurai, March 09

Dr. Natchiar, Director-Emeritus received the award from MS Chellamuthu Trust and Research Foundation, Madurai on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

Dr. R.D. Ravindran Delivers Dr. Alim Memorial Lecture
Dhaka Bangladesh, March 20, 2019

Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System delivered Alim Memorial Lecture at the 46th Annual National Conference, conducted by Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka.

Twin Awards for Dr. Usha Kim
Madurai, March 09

Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit, Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology Clinic at Aravind-Madurai received two awards on the occasion of International Women’s Day
- Vocational Excellence Award for the year 2018-2018 from Rotary Club of Madurai Blossom
- Award of Excellence: Elegance of womanhood from BNI Chanakyaas, Madurai

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sri Venkateswara Aravind Eye Hospital Formally Inaugurated
Tirupati, March 04
Compassionate world-class eye care at an affordable cost, has come to serve at Tirupati with the formal inauguration of Sri Venkateswara Aravind Eye Hospital by Shri Chandrababu Naidu Garu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The hospital has been providing outpatient services since December 2018. Senior leadership team of Aravind, prominent leaders in the community, officials from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, managers and staff were present during the inauguration. The 2.7 Lakh sq.ft hospital facility has the capacity to handle 4 lakh outpatients and perform about 30,000 eye surgeries per year. Like any other Aravind centre, the hospital will have 50% of the services as paying and 50 % as either free or at deeply subsidised rate.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Orientation workshop on Redcap Software
Aravind-Madurai, March 02

The Department of Biostatistics conducted the one-day workshop for the 27 study coordinators involved in various research projects across Aravind centres. 27 participants attended.

Women’s Day Celebrations
Aravind & Aurolab, March 08
Various Aravind centres and Aurolab celebrated International Women’s Day with great enthusiasm. At Aurolab, various competitions were organised such as kolam, art from Aurolab waste materials and debate. Mrs. Sangeeth Radha, Professor, Thiagarajar College was invited as judge for debate. Prizes were distributed to all the winners and runners up.

At Aravind-Madurai, a two-week yoga course was conducted for MLOPs through Azhiyar Arivu Thirukovil. 42 MLOPs received certificate.

Aravind-Pondicherry organized several programmes. Nurses participated in the events organised by Suryan FM at Jayaraman Thirumana Nilayam, Pondicherry. Ms. Deepa, Housekeeping supervisor won the Second Prize in Rangoli competition. Mrs. Vaijeyanthi Rajan from Karaikal delivered a motivational speech to MLOP sisters on the topic “Puthiyathore Ulagam Seivom”. A boat ride was organised for lady doctors at Chunnambar late. Food festival was organised for all lady staff members.

At Aravind-Salem, Rangoli and drawing competitions were organised for MLOPs.

At Tirunelveli, Ms Sornalatha, leading lawyer from Tuticorin was invited to deliver a special address on Women Empowerment. She is a social activist and member of many associations for protecting women’s rights. Through practical and appropriate examples, she made the talk very interesting and interactive. The participants found the lecture very interesting.

22nd Hospital Day of Aravind Eye Hospital Coimbatore

Aravind – Coimbatore,09 March 2019

Aravind Eye Hospital - Coimbatore successfully completed twenty two years of service towards restoring sight. The celebrations began with prayer song. Dr. Parag K Shah, Medical Consultant, Retina Services welcomed the gathering. Dr. V.R.Saravanan, Medical Consultant presented the Annual Report for the year 2018. Chief Guest, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye care System gave an inspirational speech about the service rendered by the team. He appreciated the team for their dedication, hard work and commitment in the journey of eliminating needless blindness. Awards were given to employees who have completed 5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. P Mangala, Medical Consultant, Cornea Clinic.

Soft Skill Training for MLOPs

Aravind-Tirunelveli, March 13
Mr. R. Ganesh, Founder - Life Improvement through Mind Engineering handled the session for the first and second year MLOPs of Aravind-Tirunelveli.

Tour for MLOPs
Aravind-Tirunelveli, March 17

As a part of employee welfare activity, first year employees, both MLOPs and Admin were taken on a one day tour to Kanyakumari. The team visited Thovalai Murugan temple, Vivekananda Rock, newly inaugurated Ramanaya Darshan & Bharat Mata Mandir and also the recently opened “Lord Venkateswara Temple” called as Twin Tirupathi.

Aravind-Coimbatore, March 17
One day tour for MLOPs was arranged to Ooty. The team enjoyed seeing the botanical garden and Doddabetta and also relished the pleasant ambience. MLOP trainees were taken on tour to Marudhamalai in two batches on March 20 and 22, 2019. 55 MLOPs of Coimbatore & Tirupur were taken to Black thunder, 20 MLOPs of Udumalpet were taken to Kodaikanal on March 24.

World Glaucoma Week Celebration
Aravind, March 10-16

World Glaucoma Week was observed across the Aravind centres with a wide variety of programmes. Awareness programmes included, sessions, exhibitions, rallies and distribution of flyers and pamphlets about the disease. Exclusive camps were conducted to screen people for Glaucoma. Talks were given by glaucoma experts on local FM and television channels.

Tomey Optial Biometer
Rotary Club - Madras EAST funded for Tomey Optical Biometer equipment for Aravind’s four secondary centres - Tirupur, Udumalpet, Dindigul and Tuticorin. An official launch was held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai. District Governor Rtn. Babu Peram performed the inauguration and gave a talk on the project. Dr. G. Natchiar spoke about Rotary’s effective way of reaching the public and briefed on Aravind’s community outreach initiatives. At Aravind-Tirupur and Udumalpet, Mr. Nandhagopal and Rtn. Ganesan performed the inauguration. 75 members from Rotary club – Madras East participated.

Inauguration of Gingee Vision Centre
Aravind – Pondicherry, March 22, 2019

75th Vision Centre for Aravind Eye care System and 12th Centre for Aravind Pondicherry was inaugurated at Gingee on 22nd March 2019. The centre was inaugurated by Gingee MLA, Mr. K.S. Masathan, Mrs. Malliga Sandhanam and Dr. Renuka Vijayan. Members from Lions and Rotary Merchant Association felicitated the programme. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer - Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry explained about the purpose of vision centre and its functions to the guests and audience. On the first day, Gingee Vision Centre handled 93 outpatients. Out of 93 patients, 19 glasses were prescribed and 9 patients ordered glasses. 24 cataract patients and 18 patients with specialty eye problems were referred to base hospital.

Vision Centre at Sithayankottai shifted to Kannivadi
March 20
The centre at Kannivadi was inaugurated by Mr. Ramanathan PRO, Aravind- Madurai. Lions Club members, various community leaders and Aravind's senior staff were present. The VC team screened 111 patients on the inaugural day.

Creche Graduation Day
Aravind, March 22

Tiny tots of Aravind’s day care at Madurai and Coimbatore celebrated their graduation day. Five children each from both these centres graduated. Cultural programmes performed by the children were thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

Awareness Talk on Kidney Diseases
Aravind-Madurai, March 23

Dr. Sriramulu Dorairaj, Head, Nephrology Department, Vellamal Medical College & Research gave an awareness talk on kidney diseases to all staff members. He explained the importance of maintaining kidney in good condition and how to protect kidneys from various diseases. The session was very useful and informative.
ESI Medical camp for Aravind Employees
Aravind-Madurai, March 26

HR department arranged ESI Medical Camp for Aravind staff in the hospital premises. About 393 staff were screened. Specialists from Gynaecology, Ortho, Skin, Siddha & Ayurvedha examined the employees. It was an opportunity for the employees to have their complete health checkup done under one roof. Lab & ECG technicians, Pharmacist, Staff Nurses and ANM staff helped screen and provide necessary investigations and medicines at this high volume camp.

Personality Development Course
Aravind-Madurai, March 14-30

Second batch of MLOPs were taken to Aliyar Arivu Thirukkovil for Personality Development Course. Twenty employees participated in this 15 day course. Certificates were issued at the end.

Residents Social Responsibility
Aravind-Madurai, March 21
Post graduate residents of Aravind Eye Hospital Madurai organized the programme at Aakash school for Children with Special Needs, maintained by M.S.Chellamuthu trust-Alagarkoil. Children with special needs and staff of the school were screened and spectacles were provided for those in need, Low Vision Aid Clinic and Orbis team helped arrange this social camp. Dr.Prajna, Director-Academics, and his guests Dr.Baljeon Dhillon (UK), Dr. Maghizh Anandan (UK), Dr. Bertie Surgith Fernando (UK) were also present.

**Promoting Eye Donation Awareness**

Aravind-Madurai, March 22

Mr. Saravanan, Manager, Eye Bank, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai handed over 13 eye donation awareness boards to Dr. Arjun Kumar, Deputy Director of Health Services, Madurai and Mr. Muthu Vel, District Health Educator, Madurai. These posters will be distributed to 13 block level primary health centres. The posters are expected to create awareness among the community on eye donation and also to bridge the gap between Primary health centres and Eye Banks.

**Eye Donation Awareness Programme**

Government Hospital, Tirumangalam, March 18

Mr. Saravanan, handled an awareness session on hospital cornea retrieval programme and its importance to the staff of Government Hospital, Tirumangalam. 30 staff including doctors and nurses attended this session.

**CME on Uveitis – Common Mistakes in Diagnosis and Management**

Aravind– Coimbatore, March 24
Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore in association with Coimbatore Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons, under the aegis of Uveitis Society of India, conducted the CME. Dr. Manohar Babu, Chief - Uvea & Cataract Services, AEH, Salem, welcomed the gathering. External faculty included eminent national faculty and pioneers in the field of uveitis including Dr. Jyothirmay Biswas, Head of Uvea services, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, Dr. Parthopratim Dutta Majumder, Consultant, Uvea services, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai and Dr Padmamalini Mahendradas, HOD of Uveitis and Ocular Immunology, Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore. Dr. Anuradha V K, Head, Uvea Services, AEH, Coimbatore proposed a vote of thanks. The conference received an overwhelming response and had a total of 191 delegates. The sessions were followed by active participation from the audience and elaborate discussions by the faculty. An interactive quiz program conducted by Dr. Parthopratim D Majumder. The programme was accredited with 3 credit points from Tamil Nadu Medical Council and 5 credit points from Dr MGR Medical University.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Workshop on HR Issues
Pune, March 02-03

R. Deepa
- Employee Engagement
- Organizational Values and Culture

Lakshmi
- Performance appraisal
- recruitment and selection

All India Ophthalmic Society (AIOS) Conference
Indore, February 14-17

**Dr. R. Venkatesh**
- Routine fundus photography in Vision centres: Stepped-wedge, cluster-randomized trial in South India (Free Paper)
- Chair Person for the session Eye Care and Environmental Impact
- Co-instructor – IC for Challenging Phacoemulsification Cases: Combining Techniques and Technology
- Co-instructor – IC for Innovative Solutions for Complex Anterior Segment Situations: A Video assisted course
- Co-chairperson in Debates & Controversies (Surgical Glaucoma)

**Dr. S. Kavitha**
- Moderating Glaucoma (Free paper)
- Session-3 - Judging Glaucoma Free Paper Finals.
- IC on "Working towards Success of Trabeculectomy" Talk on "Dealing with a Failing Bleb"

**Dr. S. Balamurugan**
- Speaker In Debates & Controversies in Both Sides of a Story: Treatment Dilemmas in Uveitis
- Chief Author & Presenting Author in "Ripley believe it or not! Steroids stand alone are not useful in these uveitis entities!"
- Moderator in "Clinical Rounds - Comprehensive Ophthalmology"

**Dr. Swati Upadhyaya**
- Presented a Video Titled: "Can GATT be an Effective Surgical option for POAG in Developing Countries"

**Dr. S. Subashini**
- Study in isolation frequency and antibiotic susceptibility patients of nocardia keratitis.
- Catching Diabetic Retinopathy patients at camp site and Dose it really works effectively?
- Clinical profile of Endogenous Endophthalmitis-Case series (E-Poster)
- Mon Mode Misery (Poster Presentation)

**Dr. S. Priya**
- Diagnostic skill transfer course in Neuro Ophthalmology session

**Dr. Balraj**
- Neuro-Ophthalmic signs of Intracranial Tumors (Poster Presentation)

**Dr. Kokila Priya**
- FLACS in Alport’s syndrome (Poster Presentation)

**APAO Conference**
Bangkok, Thailand, March 06-09

**Dr. Naresh Babu**
- Poster - Comparison of Surgical Performance of Internal Limiting Membrane Peeling Using 3D Visualization System With Conventional Microscope
- Video- Repositioning of Inadvertent Intralenticular Ozurdex: A Vitreoretinal Approach

**Dr. Vignesh**
- Paper - Eplerenone for CSCR with chronic CME

**Dr. Haripriya**
- Free Paper – Incidence and outcomes of Toric IOL Repositioning Surgery
- Free Paper – Endophthalmitis reduction with Intracameral Moxifloxacin following posterior capsule rupture
- Speaker – Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MICS)
- Speaker – Reducing Endophthalmitis risk with PCR
- Speaker – Intracameral Moxifloxacin for Endophthalmitis Prophylaxis in cataract surgery (Audio experience)

**Workshop on Rights of persons with Disabilities 2016**

Madurai, March 13, 2019

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**Dr. Sahithya**

- Totally blind low vision: Early Detection, symptoms, treatment and prevention

**D. Saravanan, Manager**

- Corneal blindness free Bharat – only solution is eye donation

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**LAICO HAPPENINGS**

**Workshop on Skill Enhancement for Eye care Counsellors (SEEC)**

Pune, March 16-17, 2019

LAICO conducted 6th SEEC workshop at PBMA’s H.V. Desai Eye Hospital, Pune. 55 participants from 31 hospitals in and around Pune were participated in this event, organised by Aurolab. The programme started with welcome speech by Dr. Kuldeep Dole, Director, PBMA’s HV Desai Eye Hospital. Major topics covered included IOL - types & designs, dealing with unwilling patients, Post-Operative counseling and role play session. Dr. Rajesh Nair, Soft Skills Trainer, Pune handled a session on The art of communication. Dr. Kavitha, Psychologist, Pearl Women’s hospital, Pune handled a session on "How to be an effective counsellor". Dr. Rahul Deshpande, Medical Director, PBMA’s H. V. Desai Eye Hospital distributed certificate to participants and delivered valedictory address. The participants found the workshop was very useful and informative.

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**TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

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**Enrolments for March 2019 at Aravind Eye Care System**

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<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
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<th>Enrolments for March 2019</th>
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<td>Long Term Fellowship Programs - For Ophthalmologists</td>
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<td>Fellowship in IOL &amp; Anterior Segment</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Cornea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Glaucoma</td>
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Fellowship in General Ophthalmology

Fellowship in Paediatric ophthalmology

Fellowship in Retina Vitreous

Short Term Clinical courses - For Ophthalmologists

Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy

Phacoemulsification

Clinical observership in glaucoma

Short term training in vitrectomy

Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders

Small incision cataract surgery

Paramedical Courses

Fundus fluorescein angiography & ultrasonography

Eye Bank courses

Training in eye bank techniques

PUBLICATIONS

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

- Shah VM, Gwas G. Purtscher’s retinopathy in one and sixth nerve palsy in the other eye following head trauma. GMS Ophthalmol Cases. 2019;9:Doc09


AUROLAB NEWS

Awareness Session on Electro Static Discharge
Aurolab, March 18

Mr. Selvaganapathy, trainer from ESD Techcon Pvt. Ltd handled the session for the staff members. Training was provided as per ANSI/ESD S20.20-2014 & IEC 61340-5-1 for the advancement of workplace, so that the employees are better prepared to handle electro static discharge sensitive devices.

Guest Lecture in Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai
Aurolab, March 11
Mr. Sundaraganesh, Division Manager, IOL was invited as guest speaker for a short term course on Design, Manufacturing, Analysis of implants with bio materials and its characterization at Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai. He delivered a lecture on the topic, Biomaterials and its uses. Faculty from various engineering colleges attended the workshop.

MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

March - 2019

<table>
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<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Theni</th>
<th>Tirunelveli</th>
<th>Coimbatore</th>
<th>Pondicherry</th>
<th>Dindigul</th>
<th>Tirupur</th>
<th>Salem</th>
<th>Udumalpet</th>
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SURGERIES

Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries
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Note: NA - Not Applicable