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Quote

Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.
 - Mark Twain

Editorial

Aravind has been conducting Neuro-ophthalmic workshop every alternate years in one of its tertiary eye care centres - Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Pondicherry. This year Aravind - Madurai hosted the event and it turned out to be an enriching and informative experience to the wide range of participants.

Aravind has always been conscious of the significance of being proactive about attracting patients instead of simply waiting for patients to arrive on their own. Over the years, Aravind's outreach programmes evolved from the traditional cataract - only screening to that of a comprehensive screening for all age groups and from thereon to the setting up of primary eye care centres in rural places. Continuing its journey of expansion of primary eye care facilities, Aravind - Udumalpet opened its second centre at Madathukulam.

Recently, a team from Aravind was in Mongolia, probably the first from the organization to land in this land-locked east Asian country, to run the Instruments Maintenance course supported by Orbis International. The entire course though faced several odds mainly due to language barrier turned out to be a success and the whole episode was a real, at the same time a satisfactory experience to the entire team.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Virudugal Award for Dr. G. Natchiar

Chennai, July 27



Dr. G. Natchiar was awarded the Tamilan Virudugal Award by the television channel Puthiya Thalaimurai for her selfless service in restoring sight to many.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Internal Capacity Building

Seattle, USA, June 1 - 24



Mr. Saravanan, Manager, Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Aravind - Madurai underwent fellowship programme in Technical operations, Hospital Cornea Retrieval Program, Project Management and Planning at SightLife, Seattle, USA. He presented the project on Establishing hospital cornea retrieval program in a successful way.

Mr. Saravanan along with Dr. M. Srinivasan, and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi attended Annual Meeting of Eye Bank Association of America at Portland from June 25 - 28.



Training Program on Eye Donation

Dindigul, June 4



A total of 25 nursing staff attended the programme which was organized at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. The main objective of the programme was to train the hospital staff on hospital cornea retrieval programme. Sessions were handled by Mr. D. Saravanan and Mr. K. Saravanan from Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank.

A similar programme was arranged at Usilampatti Government Hospital on May 30 which was attended by 12 participants. Audience consisted of Nursing superintendents, Nursing staff, Admin staff and

Lab team.



Vision day

July 7



The 8th memorial day of Dr. G. Venkataswamy was observed across the Aravind centres and Aurolab on July 7. Bhajans were sung. Employees shared their great experiences with chief. Passages from Illuminated Spirit were read.



Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Leadership Development Programme

Aravind - Madurai, July 11

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj handled a session on leadership for heads of the departments of Research stations and Extension services from different places in Tamil Nadu. There were a total of 27 participants and the whole programme was organised by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.



Inauguration of Madathukulam Vision Centre

Aravind - Coimbatore, July 16

Aravind Eye Hospital - Udumalpet extended its Community Outreach services by inaugurating the second Vision Centre at Madathukulam on July 16. The centre is about 18kms from the base hospital which covers a population of 73,324 with 12 villages around it. Rotary Club of Udumalpet generously sponsored the space, electricity and marketing for the centre. The centre was inaugurated formally by Mr. Jose, President- Rotary Club of Udumalpet.

Dr. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore presided over the function. On the inaugural



day, the team screened 83 patients. Fifteen of them were prescribed spectacles. Close to thirty patients were advised surgery.



Cataract Clinic at Madurai Moved to New Premises

Aravind – Madurai, July 16



Cataract clinic moved to spacious premises in the first floor of the main hospital building. Dr. R. Pararajasegarm and Dr. Suzanne Gilbert inaugurated the centre along with the senior leaders of Aravind.



Neuro-Ophthalmology Update

Aravind – Madurai, July 17-19



Aravind Eye Hospital has been conducting Neuro-Ophthalmic workshop every alternate years in one of its tertiary eye care centres at Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Pondicherry. A 2 day workshop on Neuro-Ophthalmology was arranged at Aravind – Madurai that focused on postgraduates and practicing ophthalmologists, neurologists and neuro-surgeons. A total of 175 people attended the programme.

Dr. Karl Golnik, Prof. of Neuro-ophthalmology, Cincinatti Eye Institute, University of Cincinatti, USA; Dr. Prem S Subramanian, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA; Dr. V. Jayakumar, JK Institute of Neurology, Madurai; Dr. K.G. Srinivsan, KGS Scans, Madurai and Dr. Santhosh Joseph, Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai constituted the faculty apart from the Aravind team.



Employee Welfare Activity

Aravind – Pondicherry, July 18



Dr. S.R. Krishnadas met with all the sanitary staff at Aravind - Pondicherry and gave an informal talk. He encouraged them and motivated them towards a much better performance. He distributed educational funds to their children who are studying in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th standards.



Aravind's Instruments Maintenance Team in Mongolia

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, July 26 - 31



With an invitation from Orbis International, an instrument maintenance course of one week duration was held at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Prof. V. Srinivasan and Poornachandran volunteered to run the program along with the Orbis staff. The course was organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of Mongolia. A total of 26 participants attended the programme.

The team faced many challenges while running the program. This course was just for five days whereas the regular instruments maintenance courses overseas are of two to three weeks duration. The number of trainees was large. Usually the number of participants is limited to 15, added to that was the language barrier. The trainees knew no English. A translator was provided as interpreter. The most essential concepts in care and maintenance of ophthalmic instruments were explained to them through video presentations. One of the participants has already undergone an Instruments Maintenance course at Madurai and his presence was of great help to the faculty. During the course, the trainees were able to bring back to use a slit lamp and an operating microscope.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Oculus 2014

Coimbatore, July 6

Dr. Usha Kim attended the Oculoplasty CME, 4th in the series of academic fest organised by Vasan Eye care hospital, Coimbatore. She was the invited faculty and presented the topics:

- *Ptosis surgical management and optimizing outcomes (video assisted)*
- *Surgical approaches to Orbit (video assisted)*



3rd Foresight, Intercontinental

Hongkong, July 19

Dr. Haripriya Aravind

- *Importance of achieving targeted IOP during phaco surgery and benefits and challenging Pathology*



21st Annual meeting of Indian Eye Research Group (IERG) - ARVO - India Chapter

LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, July 26 - 27



Faculty and Research Scholars from Aravind Medical Research Foundation participated and presented their work at the 21st IERG-ARVO-IC Meeting at LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. Prof. K. Dharmalingam attended the meeting and interacted with the research groups from other institutes. Dr. P. Sundaresan chaired the session on Retina, Glaucoma and Oncology. Dr. K. Jeyalakshmi and R. Nithya received travel grants for attending the meeting.

Dr. A. Vanniarajan

- *A new strategy for rapid screening of RB1 in Retinoblastoma patients*

R. Sharmila

- *Alleviation of Glucose-induced toxicity by Epalrestat in ARPE-19 cells under Hypoxia*

Dr. K. Jeyalakshmi

- *Glycoproteomics of tear from mycotic keratitis patients*

Dr. S. Senthil Kumari

- *Aqueous humor outflow facility response to SB772077B (SB77), a Rho Kinase inhibitor in Human Organ Cultured Anterior Segments (HOCAS)*

R. Nithya-

- *Identification and comparison of exoproteins of asperigillus flavus causing keratitis*

Dr. D. Bharanidharan

- *Next generation sequence analysis pipeline for the molecular characterization of RB1 gene in Retinoblastoma*

patients

A. Aloysius

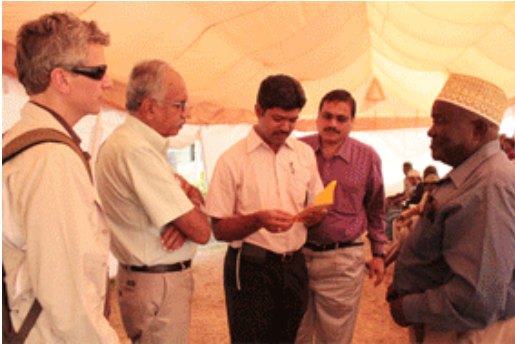
- *Discordance of Retinoblastoma demonstrated by DNA Profiling (poster)*



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Follow up Visits: Hilton Cataract Initiative

June 26 - July 9



Teams from Aravind made follow up visits to hospitals involved in Hilton Cataract Initiative – Eye Foundation, Nigeria; Fitsum Birhan Specialty Eye Hospital, Nigeria; Kitwe Central Hospital, Zambia; Innovation Eye Centre, Kenya; and Upper Hill Eye and Laser Centre, Kenya. At the end of the visit, the Aravind team along with each of these hospital groups joined for a workshop at Nairobi, Kenya from July 6 - 7. Dr. HariPriya also joined this workshop.



Eyexcel

LAICO, July 15 - 18



Eyexcel this time had a total of 18 teams consisting of 46 participants from countries - Bangladesh, China, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, Nepal, Singapore and The Netherlands. Guest faculty included Dr. Karl Golnik MD, MEd, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Neurology and Neurosurgery, University of Cincinnati and The Cincinnati Eye Institute, Ohio, USA; Dr. Kathryn Hecht, Ed.D, Former Vice President for Clinical Education, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Volunteer, Seva Foundation, San Francisco, USA; Susan Spinola, Ophthalmic Technician, Volunteer, Seva Foundation, Washington, USA; Dr. R.Pararajasegaram, Global Eye Care Consultant, Geneva; Dr. Suzanne

S Gilbert, Senior Director – Innovation and Sight Programs, Seva Foundation, Berkeley, USA and Dr. Preethi Pradhan, Dean – Chitkara School of Health Sciences, Chitkara University, Chandigarh.



Wellcome Trust Meet on Sustaining Health Dialogue

London, UK, July 23 - 24

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the workshop organized by Wellcome Trust. The overall focus of the dialogue was to explore how knowledge and technology can support the sustaining health agenda which recognises the importance of social and environmental determinants of health.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Training Programmes Enrollments for August 2014 at Aravind Eye Care System			
Course title	Training Centre	Enrollments for August 2014	Total number trained till July 2014 at AECS
Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Coimbatore	2	195
	Madurai	1	

Fellowship in Cornea	Pondicherry	1	124
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	1	121
	Pondicherry	1	
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1	55
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Madurai	1	140
Fellowship in Retina - Vitreous	Madurai	1	199
Short Term Fellowships - For Ophthalmologists			
Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1	13
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1	425
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	1	609
	Coimbatore	2	
	Pondicherry	1	
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	2	25
ECCE / IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	1	1244
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Coimbatore	1	509
	Madurai	1	
	Tirunelveli	1	
Phacomulsification	Coimbatore	2	452
	Pondicherry	2	
	Madurai	1	
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	1	53
Training for Ocularist	Madurai	1	34
Short Term Course in Refraction Techniques	Madurai	8	71
Management Courses Non - Clinical Courses			
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	LAICO	6	479
Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators / Managers	LAICO	10	272



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- Kim R, Bhanu PS Pangtey
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- Saravanan VR, Saurabh Arora
- *Limitations of Anti-VEGF's in its golden era*
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- Manohar Babu B
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- Debarpita C, Ramakrishnan R, Meenakshi R, Arijit Mitra
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- Naresh Kannan B, Praveen Subudhi, Renu P Rajan, Kim R
- *Inverse drainage of premacular hemorrhage with NdYAG Hyaloidotomy and intravitreal SF6 injection*
TNOA. 2014 May;52(2):290-293
- Radhika, Vedhanayaki
- *Newer biologicals*
TNOA. 2014 May;52(2):306-311



AUROLAB NEWS

Graduation Day for Production Staff in Aurolab

Aurolab, July 6

Dr. V.P. Ravichandran – Chief-Free Hospital, Aravind - Madurai was invited as chief guest. The programme began with a prayer song. Ms. Jothilakshmi welcomed the gathering. The guests and the parents lit the holy lamp. The graduating production staff took oath. The roles and responsibilities of production staff were briefed by Mrs. Mahalakshmi. Dr. P. Balakrishnan distributed the prizes to the toppers in the examination. The production staff also shared their experiences of working at Aurolab. Ms. Nandhini gave a vote of thanks.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

July - 2014

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	50,935	7,047	22,997	30,767	24,360	6,048	4,002	10,454	2,576	159,186
Free (Direct walk-in)	17,443	1,945	6,938	9,967	8,031	13	503	219	814	45,873
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	11,844	1,635	3,568	8,218	9,584	-	562	810	-	36,221
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	301	54	-	1,686	784	-	-	-	-	2,825
Refraction Camps	2,727	253	250	736	997	-	-	-	-	4,963
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	505	-	505
School Screening camps	-	-	224	7,126	3,930	-	-	-	-	11,280
Paediatric Camps	117	270	59	134	447	-	-	-	-	1,027
Vision Centres	13,027	4,829	7,215	3,058	3,581	-	814	-	249	32,773
Community Eye Clinics	3,881	1,649	2,344	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,874
Total OP Examinations	100,275	17,682	43,595	61,692	51,714	6,061	5,881	11,988	3,639	302,527
SURGERIES										
Paying	3,246	366	2,203	1,515	1,258	206	115	589	111	9,609
Free (Direct)	4,162	278	1,465	1,548	1,046	47	97	60	91	8,794
Camp	4,248	333	1,162	2,603	2,868	-	52	314	43	11,623
Total Surgeries	11,656	977	4,830	5,666	5,172	253	264	963	245	30,026

