Editorial

Another year is passing. The year bygone was vibrant with several exciting happenings at Aravind that are sure to have a lasting impact in the field of blindness prevention. With great energy and commitment, the organisation continues its fight against needless blindness in the upcoming year. We wish all our readers a very Happy New Year.

Awards while motivating the people concerned, add up the additional responsibility of delivering nothing less than the best. Aravind doctors were fortunate to bag several awards at various prestigious ophthalmic fora, both international and national.

Aravind continues its spirit of sharing with a view to develop ophthalmic personnel. National Programme for Control of Blindness has identified the organisation as a training centre to train ophthalmologists in the better management of glaucoma.

Going by the mission of making eye care accessible to the rural people, Aravind established one more vision centre, thus taking the total number of such numbers to 64.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Qimpro Award for Dr. S. Aravind
Mumbai, November 16

Dr. S. Aravind was awarded the Qimpro Award in the category, Role Model Leader for World-Class Quality in the field of Healthcare Qimpro Gold Standard for Leadership in the field of Healthcare.

Bets Video Award at the Annual Conference of the Vitreo Retinal Society of India
Bhubaneswar, November 30-December 3

Dr. Pratyusha Ganne, Retina Fellow, Aravind-Pondicherry won the Best Video Award for the video titled, For RETILAPP: Retinal laser and photography practice eye model: A Cost effective innovation in simulation at the Annual Conference of the Vitreo Retinal Society of India held at Bhubaneswar from November 30 to December 3, 2017.
Twin Awards for Dr. Haripriya

Dr. Haripriya Aravind was panelist in the Spotlight on cataract surgery and presented two original papers - Aravind pseudoexfoliation study - 5 year postoperative results and Endophthalmitis reduction with intracameral moxifloxacin prophylaxis - Analysis of 1 million surgeries at the American Academy of Ophthalmology held at New Orleans during November 10-14. The paper - Endophthalmitis reduction with intracameral moxifloxacin prophylaxis - Analysis of 1 million surgeries won the award for best paper of the session.

Dr. Haripriya was a finalist in the category Research paper of the year at the British Medical Journal awards at New Delhi on November 17 and 18. The paper 'Endophthalmitis reduction with intracameral moxifloxacin prophylaxis – analysis of 600,000 surgeries' was one of the top 3 finalists of 462 entries in this category at BMJ awards.

NEWS AND EVENTS

CME for Staff of Vision Centres
Aravind – Madurai, November 5

A continuing medical education programme was organized for the staff of vision centres of Aravind-Madurai. The CME focused on the objectives vision centres, fixing targets based on population, understanding data and documentation in calendar, standard Clinical Protocols and the use of data in managing the centres.

Training workshop for District Ophthalmologists
Aravind-Madurai, November 2-3

The first batch on Training workshop of District Ophthalmologists in early diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma was held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai on 2nd & 3rd November 2017. This workshop was conducted under the National Program for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt of India.
Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai has been chosen as one of the Training Centres in Tamil Nadu by NPCB. A total of 25 district ophthalmologists is identified and nominated by NPCB for Tamilnadu State. In this first batch, 5 ophthalmologists from Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin & Kanyakumari participated. The participants were given lectures on the basics of glaucoma, Wetlab training, hands on training on diagnostic procedures in glaucoma, observation in OT, and the use of the phone application KOBO COLLECT (to detect and enter the diagnosis and treatment of Glaucoma, in their locality, through mobile app). The remaining 4 batches will be trained during first weeks of the upcoming months.

**Dr. S.R. Rathinam as Visiting Professor at UCSF**

Dr. S.R. Rathinam was invited as visiting professor by UCSF, San Francisco to deliver the talk named Prof Nozik Grand Round Lecture. The title of talk was, “Multinational collaborations in uveitis”.

**Workshop on Basics of Phaco**

Aravind-Madurai, November 4-5

The workshop was conducted in association with Alcon. Post Graduates and two IOL Fellows from Aravind-Madurai participated in this workshop which covered basics in Phacoemulsification. Apart from the lectures and interactive sessions, there was a hands on wetlab session where each of the doctors performed all steps including wound construction CCC, Hydro procedures and Nucleus management in animal eyes.

**Aravind – Aurolab Phaco Training Centre in AEH-Salem**

Salem, November 25

Aurolab sponsored its first Wet lab for Phaco training to Aravind-Salem. The training centre was inaugurated by Mr. R.D Sriram-Joint Managing Director, Aurolab. The centre will provide a platform for budding and practising surgeons to perfect their surgical skills by imparting hands on training. Aurolab also installed its high precision cataract phacoemulsification unit ‘Hummingbird’ for the benefit of phaco surgeons.

**CME - Update on Ophthalmic Diagnostics**

Aravind – Tirunelveli, November 25-26
The field of Ophthalmic Diagnostics has undergone revolutionary changes and the main purpose of the CME was to familiarize the participants with the new changes and update themselves. Eminent Faculty with rich knowledge and experience were invited to discuss the recent advances and developments at length. Experts representing various states of the country, Fellows and postgraduates attended the CME. Close to 130 participants participated.

The inaugural function commenced with prayer song, lighting of Kuthuvilakku by Dr. G. R. Reddy, Dr. Mahesh Shanmugam, Dr. Lakshmi Mahesh, Dr. Revathi and Dr. Meenakshi. Later, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan welcomed the faculty and all the delegates. The update provided an excellent opportunity for Clinicians, Fellows and Post graduates to discuss these trends as well as to learn and interact with eminent persons.

**Diabetic Retinopathy Awareness Programme**

Aravind, November 14
World Diabetes Day was observed on a grand scale at Aravind- Madurai, Theni, Pondicherry and Tirunelveli. Programmes included awareness talks, exhibition and rallies to create awareness on diabetes and its complications among the general public. Special free eye screening camps were conducted by various Aravind centres to detect diabetic retinopathy.

Inauguration of new Vision Centre

Kamuthi, November 29

Aravind’s 65th Vision Centre was inaugurated at Kamuthi by Dr. Usha Kim in the presence of several local leaders. The centre screened 51 patients on the inaugural day. Field workers - Mr.Nagalingam, Mr.Rajapandian, Mr.Kumar, and Mr. Raman were involved in the publicity activities.
Children’s’ day Celebration
November 14, 2017

Aravind – Coimbatore celebrated Children’s day with fun at the Paediatric clinic. Various games have been conducted and gifts have been for the Children.

Aravind – Tirunelveli celebrated Children’s day in Ophthalmology & Strabismus Department. Dr Meenakshi, Chief - Paediatric Department gave a talk on “Squint & Amblyopia”. As a part of the Celebrations, a “Patch Party” has been conducted in the Paediatric clinic. It was arranged with a hope that this would motivate Children too to wear the Patch and ultimately result in improvement of Vision.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Lavelle Board Meeting, Kolkatta
Kolkata, November 15-16
Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy and Mr. R. Suresh Kumar participated in the Lavelle Board Meeting

Seva – Canada Fall Meeting
Canada, November 28 - December 6
Ms. K.M. Sashi Priya attended the Fall meeting of Seva Canada.

Business Schools visit
Hyderabad, November 14 & 15
Dr. Mahesh Kumar and Dr. Devendra visited Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Hyderabad to share Aravind model and screen ‘Healing Eyes of The World’ documentary as part of Fetzer project

Marketing at the bottom of the pyramid
Trichy, November 21
Ms. Sashi Priya and Dr. Devendra visited IIM Trichi to share Aravind’s story during the course ‘Marketing at the bottom of the pyramid’.

World Congress on Genetics, Genomics and Personalized Medicine
Bengaluru, 15 - 16 November 2017
Dr. P. Sundaresan delivered an invited talk titled “Molecular and Prenatal diagnosis for some of the inherited eye diseases and Gene discoveries” at the World Congress on Genetics, Genomics and Personalized Medicine 2017 at J.N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

2nd International conference on Founder Populations
Kochi, Kerala, 09 - 12 November 2017

Dr. P. Sundaresan delivered an invited talk titled “Gene discoveries for some of the inherited Eye diseases” in the 2nd International conference on Founder Populations - The Landscape of Genetic variants in Asian Founder Populations-from Near to Far East. Professor Sir Walter Bodmer - well known human geneticist gave the keynote lecture.

LAICO HAPPENINGS

Workshop on Management Priorities for Heads of Eye Hospitals
Guangzhou, China, November 3-5
Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj, Dr. Shivkumar and Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy were invited as faculty for the course which was attended by 36 participants.

**Onsite Support**
Kisii, Kenya, November

As Part of HCI, Mr. Mohammed Gowth, Mr. Karthikeyan, Dr. Tiruvenkata Krishnan and Mr. R. Suresh Kumar visited City Eye Hospital, Nairobi, Kenya and Kisii Eye Hospital, Kisii, Kenya to help strengthen their outreach programmes.

**Needs Assesssment Visit**
Sangamner, November 8-12

Mr. D. Yesunesan and Dr. V. Balaji made a needs assessment visit to Rotary Eye care Trust- Sangamner, Maharashtra.

**IHMS Users Meet 2017**
LAICO, November 24,25

LAICO has organised IHMS software users meet for its partner hospitals during 24th &25th Nov 2017 at LAICO. Totally 13 hospitals were participated. The Workshop was led by Mr. Ganesh Babu, Senior IT Manager & Team. Operational head/Clinical head, IT person form each hospital had participated in this workshop. Action plan were developed during the workshop for effective data collection and efficient usage of the collected data.

**ARAVIND MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

**Workshop on Novel Chemical Cross-linking for the treatment of Keratoconus**
AMRF, November 18
The one day workshop on “Novel Chemical Cross-linking for the treatment of Keratoconus” was organized by Prof. Rachel Williams, University of Liverpool, UK and Dr. Venkatesh Prajna. The main objective of this workshop was to bring together clinicians and researchers on a single platform to discuss the importance of the novel chemical cross-linker being developed to treat keratoconus and its advantages over the conventional UV-crosslinking. The novel cross-linker is being tested through a collaborative project involving University of Liverpool, Aravind Eye Hospital, Aravind Medical Research Foundation and Aurolab.

Clinicians from various centres of Aravind Eye Hospital, researchers from AMRF, University of Liverpool, Narayana Nethralaya and representatives of Aurolab attended. Dr. Ashish Kumar, AEH Madurai and Dr. J.K. Reddy, Sankara Hospital, Coimbatore talked about the conventional UV-cross-linking practised in the clinic for the treatment of keratoconus. Dr. Atikah Haneef, Liverpool talked about the effects of novel chemical cross-linker on porcine tissue while its effects on human cadaver and keratoconic cornea were described by Dr. Ramprasad, AMRF. Prof. Dharmalingam, AMRF spoke about the proteomics of cross-linking in the cornea and Dr. Arkasubhra Ghosh, Narayana Nethralaya described the role of pro-inflammatory molecules in keratoconus condition. The participants had a good discussion at the end and suggestions were put forth to further refine the experimental methodologies with the cross-linker and ways to increase the efficiency of the novel chemical cross-linker to treat keratoconus.

**TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Training Centre</th>
<th>Enrolments for November 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Fellowship Programs - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship in IOL &amp; Anterior Segment</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td>Tirunelveli</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phacoemulsification</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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</table>
**Small incision cataract surgery**  Madurai  1

**Paramedical courses**

**FFA & USG**  Madurai  1

**Ocularist**  Madurai  1

**Vision Technician**  Madurai  2

**Management Courses**

**Medical Records Management**  LAICO  8

**Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye Care Services**  LAICO  4

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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**AUROLAB NEWS**

**Guest Lecture on Diabetes**

Aurolab, November 14

On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, Aurolab organized a guest lecture on Diabetes. Dr. Vadivel Murugan-Diabetologist - Velammal Medical College Research Centre handled the session. In his session, he detailed about Diabetes and its Management.

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**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**

**November - 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Thanj</th>
<th>Tirunelveli</th>
<th>Coimbatore</th>
<th>Pondicherry</th>
<th>Dindigul</th>
<th>Tirupur</th>
<th>Salem</th>
<th>Udumalpet</th>
<th>Tuticorin</th>
<th>RS Puram</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Paying (New &amp; Review)</td>
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<td>8,553</td>
<td>26,541</td>
<td>33,965</td>
<td>23,085</td>
<td>6,276</td>
<td>5,021</td>
<td>11,841</td>
<td>3,370</td>
<td>4,936</td>
<td>3,524</td>
<td>1,82,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free:Direct walk-in (New &amp; Review)</td>
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<td>2,155</td>
<td>7,052</td>
<td>11,193</td>
<td>7,950</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>1,874</td>
<td>1,445</td>
<td>861</td>
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<td>50,161</td>
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**OUTREACH OUT PATIENT**

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<th>Comprehensive Eye Camps</th>
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<th>930</th>
<th>4,403</th>
<th>8,781</th>
<th>4,769</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>1,481</th>
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<th>479</th>
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<td>329</td>
<td>1,182</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4,336</td>
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<td>Refraction Camps</td>
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<td>974</td>
<td>1233</td>
<td>1336</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>9,078</td>
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<td>8/10/2019 Newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobile Refraction Unit</td>
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<td>School Screening camps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paediatric Camps</td>
<td>358 571 300 316 NA NA NA NA NA NA 1545</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision Centres</td>
<td>21,677 5,976 10,510 4,716 5,817 NA 1,231 NA 1,168 NA NA 51,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Centres / City Centres</td>
<td>9,596 2,017 2,798 NA 2,681 NA NA NA NA NA NA 17,092</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total OP Examinations</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,18,732</strong> <strong>22,071</strong> <strong>54,968</strong> <strong>69,223</strong> <strong>47,366</strong> <strong>6,370</strong> <strong>7,589</strong> <strong>15,756</strong> <strong>6,796</strong> <strong>6,276</strong> <strong>3,524</strong> <strong>3,58,671</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Camps</strong></td>
<td><strong>33</strong> <strong>6</strong> <strong>22</strong> <strong>34</strong> <strong>21</strong> <strong>NA</strong> <strong>NA</strong> <strong>12</strong> <strong>NA</strong> <strong>2</strong> <strong>NA</strong> <strong>130</strong></td>
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### SURGERIES

**Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Paying</th>
<th>Free (Direct)</th>
<th>Camp</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>3,226</td>
<td>2,546</td>
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<td>1,255</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>851</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,711</td>
<td>1,685</td>
<td>1,901</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,210</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>391</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,710</td>
<td>6,921</td>
<td>6,602</td>
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|                  | Total Cataract Surgeries | 8,060 920 2,910 5,297 2,775 391 482 1,303 615 344 136 23,233 |

**Note:** NA - Not Applicable