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Quote

"If you are not willing to risk the unusual, you will have to settle for the ordinary".
 – Jim Rohn

Editorial

The Teledicon 12 conference showed the progress that has been made to date, and what is likely to come next in the field of telemedicine using the latest communication techniques along with digital technology. Hosted by Aravind Eye Care System in Coimbatore, this three-day conference presented an excellent platform for sharing of ideas through the various eminent faculty around the world.

Many of Aravind staff were honoured at different for a for their exceptional work, the most important one being Dr. P. Namperumalsamy conferred with the Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

The success of Aravind's outreach programmes relies greatly on the active support rendered by many of the community sponsors. The biannual event for felicitating the service of these sponsors was conducted at Aravind – Madurai which truly evoked wide response from the participants.

Widespread awareness programmes were arranged by the different Aravind centres on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. These various programmes were widely received by the public and many were oriented on the seriousness of this escalating disease.

News about these and many more feature in this issue

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy Receives AAO Outstanding Humanitarian Award

Chicago, USA, November 11



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy received the prestigious Outstanding Humanitarian Service Award by the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

IPe – CSR Corporate Governance Social Innovation Award

Mumbai, November 24

Mr. R.D Thulasiraj was awarded the Social Innovation Award as part of the IPE C S R Corporate Governance Awards at Mumbai.

The Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE), Hyderabad is a non-profit educational society. IPE is the premier Business School at Hyderabad and is recognized as a "Centre of Excellence" by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, New Delhi for doctoral studies. The IPE CSR Corporate Governance Awards recognise the best practices in corporate social responsibility. The awards merit recognition to contributions made by an organisation which has made a difference to the people and the community and played a role of responsible citizen.



Best Paper Award for Dr. Anitha Raghavan

Eucornea Congress, Milan, Italy



Dr.Anita Raghavan, Senior Consultant –Cornea Department Coimbatore, was awarded the Best Paper Award for the paper, Persistence of viable fungi in excised button in therapeutic Keratoplasty and clinical implication in the session on Infection and immunity.



XOVA - Excellence In Ophthalmology Vision Award

Aravind – Pondicherry, November



This year XOVA committee selected Department of Paediatric Ophthalmology, Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry as Winner of Excellence in Ophthalmology Vision Award through grant for the innovative initiatives in Improving the teacher training model in India to identify ocular defects among school children.



Dr. Andrew Craig Best Poster Award for Ms. Sudhapriya

Belfast, UK



Ms.Sudha Priya Soundara Pandi of Aravind Medical Research Foundation received Dr.Andrew Craig Best Scientific Poster Presentation award with a Trophy and a cash price of £500 at the 9th Alumni Research Meeting Day held in Belfast. She is currently doing PhD at Queens University, Belfast on MicroRNA in retinal ageing and age-related macular degeneration with Dr. Heping Xu and Dr David Simpson.

Ms.Sudha Priya Soundara Pandi has been working with Aravind Medical Research Foundation as a research scholar with Dr.VR.Muthukkaruppan during 2008-2010 and developed the method of identifying AMD features in the retina of donor eyes. Her manuscript is ready to be submitted for publication. On the basis of her work in AMRF, she was selected for the PhD programme by Center for Vision and Vascular Sciences, Queens University, Belfast.



Aravind Eye Care System finds Place in the 2012 Indian MAKE Finalists

Aravind – Madurai

Teleos, in association with The KNOW Network, has announced the Finalists in the 2012 Indian Most Admired Knowledge Enterprises (MAKE) study and Aravind finds place in the list. The 8th annual Indian MAKE study is an established benchmark to recognize India's leading organizations for their ability to leverage enterprise knowledge to deliver superior performance in the areas of innovation, operational effectiveness and excellence in products and services.

A panel of Indian-based Fortune 500 senior executives and internationally-recognized knowledge management and intellectual capital experts selected the 2012 Indian MAKE Finalists. Teleos will announce the 2012 Indian MAKE Winners later this year.



SPECIAL EVENTS

8th International Telemedicine Conference - Telemedicon 12

Coimbatore, November 29 – December 1



The Telemedicine Society of India held their 8th annual International Telemedicine Conference at the end of November, 2012 at Hotel Le Meridien, Coimbatore, India. The event was hosted by Aravind Eye Care System. About 280 people attended the event.

The Telemedicon 12 conference showed the progress that has been made to date in improving doctor to patient relationship, using the latest communication techniques along with digital technology and what is likely to come next.

Much of the Telemedicon 12 Conference was devoted to case histories, as many people involved in telemedicine explained how it has already been implemented and used. The conference also included information on the new medical devices being developed to aid in telemedicine (such as devices to listen to a patient's heart, measure blood pressure, etc.) are being modified to create a digital signal that can be sent by telephone or wireless, so a doctor in a remote location can evaluate the patient from a distance. In addition to the group meetings, individual workshops were held, where more detailed information was discussed. Various companies involved in Telemedicine also set up booths outside the discussion areas, to show off their new devices and capabilities. [Proud Moment for Aravind's Event Management Team](#)



CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

Neuro-ophthalmology CME

Aravind – Madurai, November 18



A neuro-Ophthalmology CME was conducted for neurologists, neurosurgeons, physicians and ophthalmologists. The primary aim of this meet was to increase the interaction between the different specialties in the field of ophthalmology since the eye is the window to the body. Altogether 75 participants attended the meeting. The special guest lecture was by Dr. K.G.Srinivasan who gave his talk on Imaging in neuro-ophthalmology which was very useful to all the participants especially the postgraduates and fellows. Dr.G.Natchiar stressed on the importance of neuro-Ophthalmology for all the different specialities of ophthalmologists, neurologists and neurosurgeons since all the three share the common anatomical and physiological

relationship.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Guest Lecture at Kamaraj College of Engineering College and Technology

Virudhunagar, October 20

Dr. Vanniarajan, Scientist- Proteomics Department, AMRF delivered guest lecture on Genetics of Retinoblastoma and Breast Cancer to the students of Department of Biotechnology, Kamaraj College of Engineering College and Technology, Virudhunagar.



Training on Eye Banking and Eye Donation

Madurai, November 2



To promote awareness on eye donation, a special programme for the public was arranged at Hotel Vimas. A total of 80 participants attended the programme. Mr.Saravanan, Manager, RAIEB handled the session.

An awareness programme on eye care and eye donation was arranged by the Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank for the students of Mangayarkarasi B.Ed College. A total of 150 students attended the programme. Topics covered included importance of eye care, concept of eye donation, demand and supply and role of teachers in eye donation.

Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Center, Madurai, November 6

The main purpose of the programme was to build the capacity of the staff of MMHRC towards promoting eye donation and implement the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme. Concept of eye donation, demand and supply, grief counseling were stressed. Mr. Saravana, – RAIEB handled the session.

Awareness Exhibition on the use of Fire Crackers

Aravind – Tirunelveli, November 3



Considering the Diwali season, an awareness exhibition on safety measures while handling fireworks was conducted by the Cornea Department of Aravind – Tirunelveli. Dr. R Ramakrishnan inaugurated the exhibition. Charts, posters, pamphlets and models were displayed in the exhibition to create awareness among the patients and the public. Nearly 165 patients visited the exhibition.

Sponsors' Day

Aravind – Madurai

November 4



The success of Aravind's outreach programmes mainly rests on the active support rendered by the sponsors. Aravind arranges a grand programme once in two year wherein these sponsors are honoured and are felicitated for the excellent work they are doing. This year the Sponsors' Day was celebrated at Aravind – Madurai. Dr. K. Ilango, Camp medical officer welcomed the gathering. Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Community Outreach provided the objectives of conducting Sponsors Day. Dr. G. Natchiar and Dr. M. Srinivasan, Directors Emeritus delivered the felicitation address. Dr. K. Naresh Babu handled a quiz on eye care for the audience which was highly interactive and interesting. Chief guest Prof.

Sivakasi Ramachandran delivered a special talk on the importance of service. The whole group was finally taken to Aurofarm and Nithyatha.

Aravind – Pondicherry

November 7

A week long awareness exhibition safe handling of fire Crackers was organized at Aravind - Pondicherry. Posters and models displayed during the exhibition conveyed how to be precautious while bursting the fire crackers. More than 500 patients and attendees visited the exhibition.



Lavelle Board of Directors Visit

Aravind – Pondicherry, November 7-9



Lavelle Fund for the Blind is supporting paediatric eye care services at Aravind Eye Hospitals, Tirunelveli and Pondicherry through the project "Eye Care for A Million". In the first week of November, board of Directors from the Lavelle Fund visited Aravind – Pondicherry to review the progress of the project and to observe the Aravind model of eye care services. The team also visited vision centre at Marakkanam.



Training Programme at Pegasus

Aravind – Pondicherry, November 10 – 12

A training programme on the importance of commitment to work, creating good work environment, proper delegation and distribution of the work was organized for the doctors and managers at Pegasus institute. It was a great learning experience which was filled with lots of activities. This training programme was very useful to develop the personnel skills and enhance team work among the staff.



World Diabetes Day Celebrations

November 11



Aravind – Madurai

Retina Department at Aravind – Madurai organized an awareness exhibition in the hospital premises. Awareness lecture was also conducted in the auditorium for the benefit of patients and attendants. A special DR camp was conducted at Munichalai on November 11.

Aravind – Theni, November 23-25

Partnering with Nalam Hospital, Aravind – Theni conducted AR awareness exhibition "DiaExpo" which was inaugurated by Dr. K.S. Palanisamy IAS- District Collector, Theni. Models of eye and eye diseases were displayed and basic tests for blood pressure and sugar were arranged. Stalls were put up different pharma companies. Importance of yoga in preventing diabetes and related diseases were discussed. The panel discussion provided an opportunity for the participants to get to know more about diabetes and its complications. Intercollegiate quiz on diabetes was conducted the following day. A special DR screening camp was conducted at Aundipatti in association with the local community leaders.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

To convey the seriousness of the disease, Aravind – Tirunelveli organized special exhibition along with foot care awareness in the hospital premises. Notices and pamphlets on diabetic retinopathy were distributed to the patients. A special DR screening camp was arranged at Sankarankoil and Sengottai joining hands with some local institutions. A total of 295 persons were screened for diabetic retinopathy. Free blood test was arranged at the exhibition venue. Around 480 patients visited the exhibition and got benefitted.

Aravind – Pondicherry

On the occasion of the World Diabetes Day, Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry conducted week-long awareness exhibition in the hospital premises. The exhibition was inaugurated by Lavelle Fund Board of Directors. All the staff members of Retina and Vitreous Clinic enthusiastically took part in the exhibition and created awareness among public regarding diabetes mellitus and diabetic retinopathy. Charts, posters, and models were displayed in the exhibition.

Aravind – Salem

Aravind – Salem organized an awareness rally on diabetes Diabetes Awareness Rally at Sarada College Road, Salem. The rally was flagged off by Mr. Sanjay Kumar IPS, DIG of Police, Salem. Doctors, Staff of AEH- Salem along with Dr. Janakavalli, Principal Sarada College of Education participated in the rally.



Children's Day Celebrations

Aravind – Pondicherry, November 14



An exhibition was arranged by the Paediatric clinic of Aravind – Pondicherry on the occasion of Children's Day celebrations. It was inaugurated by Lavelle Fund Board of Directors. Around 400 school children and 900 patients visited the exhibition. Drawing competition was conducted for children less than 15 years of age and prizes were distributed by Mr. P. Kanagaraj, Manager – General and Mr. Mike Myers, Volunteer, USA.



Workshop on Skill-Building for Eye Hospital Librarians

Aravind – Madurai, November 26-28



Aravind Library and Information Centre conducted a workshop on "Skill-Building for Eye Hospital Librarians" during 26-28 November, 2012. This workshop was sponsored by SEVA, Canada. A total of thirteen participants attended. Dr. S Aravind gave welcome address to the participants and Dr. R. D Ravindran gave a brief summary of the meeting. Dr. S.R. Krishnadas gave valedictory address.



Anniversary celebrations of Kinathukadavu Vision Centre

Aravind - Coimbatore



Aravind's vision centre at Kinathukadavu celebrated its anniversary with a variety of programmes. Special camps were conducted during the occasion.



Towards a Litter-free Environment

wastemanagement

Everywhere around us waste management and disposal is becoming a crucial problem – be in the case of a community or a simple household. Overflowing dust bins are a common sight that often welcomes us in many places. Even sadder is the sight of streets dumped with garbage. The efforts of the local governing bodies should equally be supplemented by the community to keep a place clean and neat. This should be an ongoing process and not something to be done during occasional instances such as outbreak of some epidemic.

Waste management gets utmost importance especially in a hospital setting where clogging of materials of different sorts poses serious health hazards. Recently Aravind's energetic and vibrant batch of Fellows in Eye Hospital Management pioneered a unique way in waste management under the direction of HR. It was truly revealing the different steps they undertook in this regard. [Read More](#)



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Annual Conference on Mitochondria in Health and Disease

Gandhi Nagar, November 2-3



Dr. P.Sundaresan, Senior Scientist, AMRF and Mr. Bibhuti Ballav Saikia, Research scholar from Dept. of Genetics, Aravind Medical Research Foundation attended the annual conference of the Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine-India (SMRM) at Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. Dr. P.Sundaresan delivered his talk entitled "Mitochondrial Involvement in Ocular Disorders; Emphasizing Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy in Indian Scenario" and Mr. Bibhuti Ballav Saikia presented his poster entitled "Mitochondrial DNA variants associated with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy".



Eye India Conference

Pune, November 3- 4

Dr. R. Venkatesh

- *Reaching the unreached: The Aravind way*
- *Survey on epidemiology of glaucoma: Global initiative – glaucoma session*
- *Easiest way to find out glaucoma in the community – glaucoma session I*
- *Developing technical skill - human resources development session*

He co-chaired the session on *Research in community ophthalmology and the best way for community eye health.*



Seminar on Recent Trends in Photonics and 27th Annual Convention of IAPT (Indian Association of Physics Teachers)

Kochi, November 2-4

Prof. V. Srinivasan participated in a Seminar on Recent Trends in Photonics and attended the 27th Annual Convention of IAPT (Indian Association of Physics Teachers) of which he is a founder member. The Seminar and the convention were held at the International School of Photonics, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi. He gave a special evening lecture entitled Physics is Everywhere and how Physicist can help in the eradication of Global blindness. Earlier he was felicitated by the organizers for the recognition his team had received as Eye Health Hero at the 9th General Assembly of IAPB (International Agency for Prevention of Blindness) held in Hyderabad in Sept 2012.



Biology 2012 and Beyond

Hyderabad, November 25-27



Dr. P. Sundaresan and Dr. A.Vanniarajan from Aravind Medical Research Foundation, Madurai were invited to participate in the 25th Foundation Day celebration symposium Biology 2012 and Beyond at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. The three day meeting was organized to cover the current trends in multiple disciplines of biology and talks were delivered by the eminent scientists in the field across the globe.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Diwali CME

Aravind – Pondicherry, October 29 – November 7

Diwali CME was a great learning experience for the all the staff to think and orient themselves. The MLOPs were oriented on the various aspects related to their work.



Inauguration of Children's Park

Aravind – Pondicherry, November 9



For the benefit of employees' children, a children's park was opened at Aravind – Pondicherry which was inaugurated by Lavelle Fund Board of Directors.



Deepavali Celebrations

November 12



Aravind – Tirunelveli

Aravind – Tirunelveli organized grand Deepavali celebrations with a variety of entertainment programmes including dance, skit and songs. The gala evening was marked with glittering diyas, dazzling fireworks, dinner and cultural program. All the staff enjoyed this really exciting experience. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan gave a special address during the occasion.

Aravind – Pondicherry

HR department organized various cultural programmes as part of Diwali celebrations at Aravind - Pondicherry. Lavelle Board of Directors was the

chief guests for the function.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Seva Board Meetings

San Francisco, USA, November 15 – December 5

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the annual board meet of Seva Foundation, USA and also the thirtieth anniversary celebrations of Seva – Canada at Vancouver. He also addressed the audience at the grand rounds session of the University of British Columbia.



Course on Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye care Services

Aravind – Madurai, November 20- December 8



A total of eight participants from Tanzania, Cambodia, Bangladesh and India attended the course. Dr. K. Ilango delivered the welcome address. Inaugural address was given by Dr. G. Natchiar. At the valedictory function, R.D. Thulasiraj gave the valedictory address and distributed certificates.



Evaluation Visit to Sala Uno

Mexico City, Mexico, November 23 – 30

Ms. Deepa Krishnan visited Sala Uno Eye Hospital to assess the progress made by the hospital and also to provide inputs towards developing their patient services. Current operational and strategy issues were discussed and recommendations were given.

[Click here to view Consultancy statistical report](#)



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on November 2012	Enrollments for December 2012
Long term Fellowship Programmes for Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Theni	17	1
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	44	1
	Tirunelveli	2	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	116	0
	Tirunelveli	146	1
	Coimbatore	111	2
	Pondicherry	4	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	713	0
	Tirunelveli	278	0
	Coimbatore	219	1
	Pondicherry	12	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	174	0
	Tirunelveli	116	0
	Coimbatore	138	0
	Pondicherry	24	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	274	1
	Coimbatore	269	2
	Pondicherry	6	0
Phacomulsification	Madurai	154	2
	Tirunelveli	87	1
	Coimbatore	112	1
	Pondicherry	21	0
Fundus Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	45	1
Instrument Maintenance Course			
For Ophthalmologist	Madurai	33	0
For Technicians	Madurai	436	2

[Click here to view Training Programme full statistics](#)



PUBLICATIONS

- **Journal of Applied Sciences Vol:12(20) 2012 p.2128-2138**
Ganesh Babu,TR; Shenbaga Devi S and Venkatesh, R
- *Automatic detection of glaucoma using optical coherence tomography image.* [article view](#)
- **CORNEA VOL: 31 (10) 2012 OCT. P.1123-1127**
Lin, Charles C Lalitha, Prajna; Srinivasan, M; Prajna, N Venkatesh; McLeod, Stephen D; Acharya, Nisha R; Lietman, Thomas M; Porco, Travis C
- *Seasonal trends of microbial keratitis in south India.* [article view](#)
- **Arch Ophthalmol . Vol:130 (11) NOV. 2012 p.1481-1484**
Rathinam, SR, Lalan Kumar Arya, Usha, Kim R, Lalitha, Prajna, Veena Tandon
- *Novel etiological agent: Molecular evidence for trematode-induced anterior uveitis in children.* [article view](#)
- **Arch Ophthalmol VOL 130 (11) NOV. 2012 p.1452-1455**
Robin, Alan L; Thulasiraj, R D
- *Cataract blindness.* [article view](#)
- **Arch Ophthalmol. Dec. 2012 E-pub**
Prajna, N Venkatesh; Tiruvengada Krishnan, Jeena Mascarenhas, Revathi Rajaraman, Lalitha,Prajna; Srinivasan, N; Anita Raghavan; Catherine E. Oldenburg; Kathryn J. Ray; Michael E. Zegans; Stephen D. McLeod; Travis C. Porco; Nisha R. Acharya; Thomas M. Lietman; for the Mycotic Ulcer Treatment Trial Group
- *The mycotic ulcer treatment trial: A randomized trial comparing natamycin vs voriconazole.* [article view](#)
- **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2012 Nov;60(6):584-5.**
Manayath GJ, Narendran V, Ganesh A, Arora S.
- *Low-fluence photodynamic therapy for early onset choroidal neovascular membrane following laser in situ keratomileusis.*[article view](#)
- **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2012 Nov;60(6):531-4.**
Shukla, Dhananjay; Jay Kalliath J, Patwardhan A, Naresh Babu, K, Thayyil SB.
- *A preliminary study of heavy brilliant blue G for internal limiting membrane staining in macular hole surgery.* [article view](#)
- **Indian Journal of Medical Microbiology, (2012) 30(4): 418-22.**
Kannan, A; Gowri Priya, C; Lalitha, Prajna; Rathinam SR
- *Efficiency of two commercial kits in serodiagnosis of leptospiral uveitis.* [article view](#)
- **Retina. Dec. 2012 E-pub**
Shukla, Dhananjay; Jay Kalliath; Karthik, Srinivasan; Nithya, Neelakantan; Anand Rajendran; Naresh Babu, K; Umesh Behera, C.
- *Management of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment with coexisting macular hole: A comparison of vitrectomy with and without internal limiting membrane peeling.* [article view](#)



AUROLAB NEWS

Awareness Talk on Dengue Fever

Aurolab, November 8



In view of the increasing incidence of Dengue Fever at Madurai, Aurolab arranged an awareness talk about the disease and how to prevent the same. Dr. Banushree, Physician Aravind – Madurai handled the session.



Training on Resuscitation, First Aid and Lifeguarding

October 28

Mr. B. Selvam, Maintenance – Auro swimming pool attended a training programme on resuscitation, first aid and lifeguarding organised by Rashtriya Life Saving Society.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

November - 2012										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	36,258	6,108	18,384	26,280	17,510	4,434	3,254	6,838	2,271	121,337
Free (Direct walk-in)	10,247	1,667	4,477	8,542	5,407	3	129	-	747	31,219
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	4,076	1,240	3,378	7,902	2,025	-	192	92	-	18,905
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	472	424	294	970	879	-	-	154	-	3,193
Refraction Camps	432	-	1,050	1,000	1,137	-	-	-	-	3,619
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	382	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	382
School Screening camps	8,312	528	2,601	6,216	8,504	-	-	-	-	26,161
Paediatric Camps	-	302	167	-	134	-	-	-	-	603
Vision Centres	8,804	4,089	3,993	2,346	2,336	-	444	-	-	22,012
Community Eye Clinics	3,117	1,585	1,418	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,183
Total OP Examinations	71,718	16,325	35,825	53,256	37,932	4,437	4,019	7,084	3,018	233,614
SURGERIES										
Paying	2,816	273	773	1,102	570	97	102	273	78	6,084
Free (Direct)	1,877	172	579	1,181	412	27	36	35	60	4,379
Camp	868	142	677	1,528	327	-	14	46	-	3,602
Total Surgeries	5,561	587	2,029	3,811	1,309	124	152	354	138	14,065



