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Crave for a thing, you will  
get it. Renounce the  
craving, the object will  
follow you by itself.  
- Swami Sivananda

### Editorial

It was really a matter of pride and joy when Aravind Eye Care System hosted the 8th Annual Conference of World Association of Eye Hospitals. Aravind became a member of the Association in 2010 and from then on has been active in its various yearly meetings. The meet was truly a platform for rich sharing of experiences and expertise, an opportunity for both the host and the guests to learn from each other and also to have a feel of the culture and traditions unique to south India.

Fungal infections in humans are on the rise all over the world due to a variety of reasons like more patients being on immunosuppression because of renal transplant, chemotherapy etc. India, being a tropical region, is very conducive to the growth of fungus. As we have both the climate and the patient population prone to these infections, it is important that people working in this area in India come together to share knowledge and expertise. Towards this end, Aravind joined hands with PSG Institute of Medical Sciences, Coimbatore to host the 10th biennial national conference of the Society for Indian Human and Animal Mycologists at Hotel Le Meridien, Coimbatore.

An integral part of AECS is its community outreach programmes which take eye care service to the doorstep of the community. Meticulous planning is essential for the smooth conduct of these eye camps which amount to more than 2800 a year. In order to plan for the strategies for the current year, outreach staff across the Aravind centres were brought together for a two-day meeting at Aravind – Madurai.

Various Aravind Hospitals and Aurolab celebrated Pongal, the harvest festival with a wide variety of programmes. News about these and many more feature in this issue.

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*Aravind News Team*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Aravind Hosts the 8th Annual Meet of the World Association of Eye Hospitals

Aravind – Madurai, January 21-25



Aravind Eye Care System hosted the 8th annual meeting of the World Association of Eye Hospitals, a global association of eye hospitals and ophthalmology departments of university hospitals from all over the world. During the meeting, members had the opportunity to get connected to each other and exchange information and knowledge about all kinds of topics, like improving the efficiency in the service given to patients or how to continuously develop patient pathways. Around 100 delegates from eye hospitals from 15 countries attended the meet.



## CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

### Pongal CME



#### Aravind – Pondicherry, January 5– 11

Pongal CME was held for the MLOPs to update themselves on the clinical and non-clinical aspects of patient care.

#### Aravind - Tirunelveli, Sunday, 05 January 2014

Aravind –Tirunelveli organized Pongal CME on January 5 which was attended by all the MLOPs. It was truly a refreshing experience for them and provided an opportunity to update themselves.



### Cataract CME

Aravind- Pondicherry, January 5



Aravind - Pondicherry organized "Cataract Symposium with Live surgery" in the first week of January for ophthalmologist in and around Pondicherry. Around 75 ophthalmologists including Aravind staff benefited from the CME.



### 10th SIHAM (Society for Indian Human and Animal Mycologists) Conference

Coimbatore, January 10-12



The SIHAM conference is conducted biennially and the 10th SIHAM conference was co-hosted by Aravind Eye Care System, and PSG Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Coimbatore. Fungi are gaining more and more importance in human, plant and animal infections. There are enormous advances in the field of clinical mycology including diagnostic techniques, treatment modalities and in the understanding of pathogenic mechanisms. This conference provided an excellent opportunity for clinicians, microbiologists, scientists, and students to discuss these trends as well as to learn and interact with eminent persons in the field of mycology, from within India and around the world.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Workshop for Staff of Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD)

Aravind – Madurai, January 2-4



The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise, train and standardise the operations of CSSD (Central Sterile Supply Department) of all the Aravind Hospitals. MLOP sisters of the department from across the Aravind centres attended this two day workshop.



## HR Annual Retreat

Aravind – Madurai, January 3-4



Annual planning meeting and retreat for the central HR department was held at LAICO in the first week of January. Nursing superintendents, HR representatives and Personnel department staff from all the Aravind centres were called in for the retreat. HR theme for the year 2014 was designated as "Year for training and development".



## Republic Day Celebrations

January 26

65th Republic Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervor at various Aravind centres and Aurolab. Patriotic songs were sung during the ceremony. Sweets were distributed to all.



## SSA - Low Vision Project

Chennai, January 30-31



In collaboration with SSA (Sarva Siksha Abhiyan), Govt. of India initiative Aravind's Low Vision Clinic along with SSI India is involved in a project to provide support to children with low vision. As part of this initiative, Ms. Flora from Low Vision Services Aravind – Madurai was invited to a master training session wherein she handled a seminar for a group consisting of District coordinator and special educator from 30 districts in Tamil Nadu. A total of 60 participants attended the seminar held at Nungampakkam, Chennai. The participants were trained on common eye problems, how to measure visual acuity and how to identify / deal with people with low vision. Upon return to their respective centres, these teachers are

supposed to take sessions for special educators, school teachers and parents on eye care based on the learning they had here. The participants were given low vision kits at the end of the training programme.

As part of this project, Low Vision Clinic at Aravind - Madurai screened school children with low vision and provided low vision aids along with educational counselling. Three districts - Madurai, Theni and Ramanathapuram with 34 blocks were covered in this project during the year 2013. Special education teachers were involved in prescreening and mobilising children to the camp site. Overall 2238 children were screened. Out of them 461 children had refractive errors and 34 children had incurable low vision and were provided with low vision aids through the project. In the second phase Sightsavers will work with Aravind in organising a training programme to the special educators with a curriculum covering all aspects of low vision.



## Annual Outreach Planning Meeting

Aravind – Madurai, January 8-9

In order to review the outreach performance of the last year and also to develop new strategies for better performance, outreach staff across the Aravind centres were called in for a two day planning meeting at Aravind – Madurai. Discussions revolved on setting new targets for the camp organizers, analyzing the community participation and evolving ways to reach out to many more.



## Pongal celebrations at Aravind

### Aravind - Coimbatore, January 10

Aravind, Coimbatore conducted "Pongal Vizha" with a variety of programmes. Senior staff prepared pongal for the occasion and thus the celebrations started. The whole staff assembled to witness Pongal overflowing from the pot. Dr. V.



Narendran and Dr. Kalpana were the chief guests for the celebrations. Competitions such as Rangoli, Pot breaking, Sugarcane eating etc were arranged. There was special Silambattam by Mr. Palaniappan, lift operator and Mr. Raju security-in-charge for the hostel.

#### **Aravind –Tirunelveli**

Aravind –Tirunelveli organized Pongal CME on January 5 which was attended by all the MLOPs. It was truly a refreshing experience for them and provided an opportunity to update themselves. Pongal celebrations were held on January 6. Following the prayer song, Ms. Krishnaveni welcomed the gala celebration. Sakkarai pongal (sweet pongal) was prepared by Sr. Ayirathammal, Sr.Sathya and team in the traditional manner. Cultural programmes like Kummi, folk dance added colour to the whole celebrations. Special dance and song by Dr.Ahuja Ashish, and Dr. Kaustubh, final year DNB residents was truly captivating. Sr. Nageshwari, Counselor, won the pt-breaking competition amidst a cheerful audience. Dr.R.Ramakrishnan gave a motivational talk. The celebration also included thanks giving session to the Sun god and earth for all their blessings. Dinner was served to all.

A special debate was organised along with All India Radio with renowned Tamil orator Thiru.Nellai at the hospital auditorium on January 8. All MLOPs and admin staff members attended the debate. It was very interesting and all had a refreshing experience.

#### **Aravind- Pondicherry, January 10**

Pongal celebrations were organized for the MLOPs and staffs with various cultural programmes. Dr. R.Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli and Mrs. Saradha Ramakrishnan distributed prizes for the winners of the competitions.

**Aravind – Madurai** had its Pongal celebrated along with the Aurolab staff in Aurolfarm.



#### **DNB Residents Win Allegan Quiz Competition**



DNB residents, Dr. O. Annamalai and Dr. Sahil Bhandari became the winner and runner up respectively of the Erudio quiz competition conducted by Allergan India Ltd among the 2453 participants from India and Nepal. They are entitled for a free Bangkok trip for the first Academic Congress – Asian Ophthalmology Society to be held on February 19-21, 2014.



#### **CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE**

##### **R.D. Thulasiraj at the Lusophone Congress**

Panaji, Goa, January 14

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the congress which was mainly focused on entrepreneurs of Portuguese-speaking countries and of India, to come to know the real possibilities of exchange of goods and services. It was jointly organized by the Lusophone Society of Goa (LSG) in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), IdEA - Institute of Asian Studies and AAPI - Friendship Association Portugal-India.



#### **ARAVIND MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

##### **Indo-US Research Fellowship for Dr. Vanniarajan**

Aravind – Madurai, January 12

Dr. Vanniarajan, Scientist, Department of Molecular Genetics received the prestigious Indo-US Research Fellowship for the year 2013 supported by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. The Fellowship provides an opportunity to get first- hand experience of cutting edge technologies and to develop



joint research projects with American investigators. In this regard, Dr. Vanniarajan visited Dr. Arupa Ganguly's Genetic Diagnostic laboratory at University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia during October-December 2013 and updated himself with the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) methods for the diagnosis of Retinoblastoma.

Dr. Vanniarajan presented his research findings as poster titled "Importance of genetic analysis in the prediction of retinoblastoma in South Indian patients" at the Annual Meeting of American Society of Human Genetics held at Boston during October 22-26, 2013. He also

visited the Centre for Personalized Medicine, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo for understanding the various NGS platforms used in the cancer diagnosis and treatment.



### Guest Lecture at Aravind's Research Institute

Aravind – Madurai, January 4



Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Scientist 'D', International Cooperation, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi visited AMRF and gave a lecture on "India's Science and Technology Co-operation and Opportunities".



## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on January 2014	Enrollments for February 2014
<b>Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Fellowship in Retina Vitreous</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	140	0
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	8	2
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	44	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	16	0
<b>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	122	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	159	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	120	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	7	0
<b>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	189	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	124	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	151	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	35	0
<b>Phacomulsification</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	177	2
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	93	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	132	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	33	1
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	289	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	289	2
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	9	0

<b>Short Term Training in Refraction Techniques</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	67	2
<b>Instruments Maintenance Course</b>			
<b>For Technicians</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	466	3
<b>Management Courses</b>			
<b>Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	335	37



## PUBLICATIONS

- **OPHTHALMIC EPIDEMIOLOGY VOL:21(1) JAN. 2014**

Christine M. Toutain-Kidd, Travis C. Porco, Eric M. Kidd, Srinivasan, M, Prajna, N V Nisha Acharya, Thomas Lietman, and Michael E. Zegans

- *Evaluation of fungal keratitis using a newly developed computer program, optscore, for grading digital corneal photographs.* [Article View](#)

- **AM J OPHTHALMOL. 2014 FEB**

Lalitha, Prajna, Sun CQ, Prajna, N V, Karpagam R, Geetha M, O'Brien KS, Cevallos V, McLeod SD, Acharya NR, Lietman TM; Mycotic Ulcer Treatment Trial Group

- *In vitro susceptibility of filamentous fungal isolates from a corneal ulcer clinical trial.* [Article View](#)

- **Indian Journal of Ophthalmology 2014; 62 (1) 50-54**

Naresh Kumar Yadav, Chaitra Jayadev, Anand Rajendran, Manish Nagpal

- *Recent developments in retinal lasers and delivery systems.* [Article View](#)

- **Ophthalmology 2014;121:417-422**

He M, Abdou A, Ellwein LB, Naidoo KS, Sapkota YD, Thulasiraj RD, Varma R, Zhao J, Kocur I, Congdon NG

- *Age-related prevalence and met need for correctable and uncorrectable near vision impairment in a multi-country Study.* [Article View](#)

- **TNOA VO: 53(4) NOV. p.17-22**

Kartik Panikkar; Kiruba, E Paul

- *Prevalence of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis in papilloedema*

- **TNOA VO: 53(4) NOV. p.51-44**

Kowsalya, A; Agnes Sylvia; Maheshkumar, S

- *Fungal polyposis presenting as optic nerve compression*

- **TNOA VO: 53(4) NOV. p.55-58**

Parag, K Shah; Narendran, V; Kalpana, Narendran

- *Focal chemotherapies for retinoblastoma*

- **TNOA VO: 53(4) NOV. p.61-65**

Rathinam, Sivakumar R; Vidya Rani, M; Vedhanayaki, R

- *Molecular diagnostics in uveitis*



## AUROLAB NEWS

### Guest lecture on Gynecological Issues

Aurolab, December 26



Dr.Sunitha, Gynaecologist from Vikram Hospital Madurai handled a lecture on gynecological issues for the women staff of Aurolab. The participants felt the guest lecture very informative and useful.



### Art of Living-Yoga Class

Aurolab, December 23-27



Mr.Chandrasekar from Art of Living conducted a breath water sound workshop for Aurolab Production staff. In his session, he taught about simple body exercises, breath exercises, meditation etc.



### Sales Planning Meeting

LAICO, January 6-9

Sales planning meeting for the year 2014 – 15 was organised by Aurolab at LAICO in which all the sales managers from across the country participated along with product managers and domestic marketing team members.



### Pongal Celebrations

Aurolab, January 11

As part of the celebrations, Aurofarm was converted into "Aurovillage". A walk through the village revealed all the common scenes in a typical village and also revived many traditional games in the audience's minds. The celebration started with a folk dance by the production staff. Cleaners and gardeners performed a Mullapari kummi and a group folk dance by the Aravind MLOPs. The Technical and admin staff performed Silambattam, Puliattam, Jalikattu etc. Mr.Mohan, gardener won the pot breaking competition. The celebrations came to an end with Pongal preparation and special pooja. Sweet pongal and sugarcane was distributed as prasatham to the entire audience and participants.



## MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

January - 2014										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
<b>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</b>										
Paying (New & Review)	44,169	6,171	21,179	27,573	18,756	4,800	3,002	8,227	2,031	135,908
Free (Direct walk-in)	11,342	1,593	4,964	8,437	5,554	14	313	-	570	32,787
<b>OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS</b>										
Regular Eye Camps	6,508	1,825	2,490	5,485	3,940	-	236	102	-	20,586
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	-	-	-	375	238	-	-	1	-	614
Refraction Camps	1,508	301	654	592	1,099	-	-	1	-	4,155
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening camps	925	-	-	1,200	1,077	-	-	-	-	3,202
Paediatric Camps	-	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	163

Vision Centres	11,547	4,223	5,530	2,505	2,617	-	562	-	-	26,984
Community Eye Clinics	3,728	1,549	1,949	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,226
<b>Total OP Examinations</b>	<b>79,727</b>	<b>15,825</b>	<b>36,766</b>	<b>46,167</b>	<b>33,281</b>	<b>4,814</b>	<b>4,113</b>	<b>8,331</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>231,625</b>
<b>SURGERIES</b>										
Paying	2,144	308	816	1,074	683	96	71	305	76	5,573
Free (Direct)	1,710	180	589	1,190	455	35	32	33	40	4,264
Camp	1,834	260	469	772	808	-	9	165	7	4,324
<b>Total Surgeries</b>	<b>5,688</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>1,874</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>1,946</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>14,161</b>

