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## Quote

"One half of life is luck; the other half is discipline - and that's the important half, for without discipline you wouldn't know what to do with your luck".  
 - Carl Zuckmayer

## Editorial

Infinite Vision – the book portraying Aravind's exciting journey and the sharp insight of Dr. G. Venkataswamy authored by Ms. Pavitra Mehta and Ms. Suchitra Shenoy was brought forward to the public with two main launch events held at Chennai and Madurai. The function held at Madurai was something really special in that it was organized at Aravind – the "original home" of the book.

Nature's fury manifested itself in the form of a severe cyclonic storm on December 30 disrupted the routine at Aravind – Pondicherry. Thane as its name goes, reminded the people, of the Tsunami which hit the Indian subcontinent in the same month almost a decade back. The hospital badly hit by the cyclone is now on its way back to normalcy.

A group of 400 Jagriti yattris visited Aravind as part of their annual journey to get introduced to exceptional and innovative organizations. That Aravind became one of the destinations for the Yattris for the third time consecutively bears testimony to the impact this inspiring model has achieved.

The two – day international symposium on diabetic retinopathy provided a platform to reflect on the latest developments in the management of the disease. Presence of many international faculty in addition to the national ones facilitated profound exchange of ideas and valuable insights.

A rare distinction came to Aravind when the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology acknowledged Dr. M. Srinivasan's service to ophthalmology with a rare honour. Aravind was recognised as India's most innovative hospital by the ICICI Lombard Health Insurance and CNBC – TV 18. Also, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Dr. Aravind Srinivasan were accorded distinctions by various organisations.

Outreach has always been the cornerstone of Aravind's high – volume work. Meticulous planning and innovative strategies evolved by the outreach team have resulted in better reaching out to the masses. Here we share with you outstanding performance by three of our camp organisers which warrant due recognition.

Not many can think of a comparison between a dhobi and a parent. True it is, as is evident from an interesting article in our Staff corner.

Wish you all a happy reading.

*Aravind News Team*

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### Natarajamanickam Oration Award for Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

Chennai, December 18

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman – Emeritus, AECS was awarded the inaugural Natarajamanickam Oration Award



instituted by M.N. Eye Hospital Pvt, Ltd. at Margazhi Ophtha Fest 2011, a series of CMEs arranged by the hospital to update knowledge in academics, research and surgical skills in ophthalmology. *Diabetic Retinopathy: Challenges and solutions* was the topic of Dr. Namperumalsamy's oration. Dr. G. Natchiar, Director – Emeritus, AECS stressed the importance of HR in a successful ophthalmic practice. Dr. Mayilvahanan Natarajan, Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.G.R Medical University and Dr. Madhivanan Natarajan, Chairman, M.N. Eye Hospital Pvt. Ltd addressed the gathering.



### **Aravind Wins India's Most Innovative Hospital Award**

New Delhi, December 22



Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai won India Healthcare Awards 2011 in the category of "Most Innovative Hospital" instituted by ICICI Lombard Health Insurance and CNBC – TV 18. Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna received the award from Shri. Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare at a spectacular function held at the Durbar, Taj Palace, New Delhi.



### **Honour for Dr. M. Srinivasan by the APAO**

Aravind - Madurai



Dr. M. Srinivasan, Cornea Services, Aravind - Madurai has been selected for the Distinguished Service Award by the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology. The award will be presented at the next APAO Congress to be held in Busan, South Korea, on April 13th – 16th, 2012.



### **Special Recognition for Dr. Aravind Srinivasan by Kalavardhini**

January 12

Dr. Aravind Srinivasan has been recognized as an Inspiring Role Model by Kalavardhini, a trust primarily set up to support and propagate performing and allied arts. Dr. Aravind will be felicitated at a special dance – evening, named Pancha Maha Yajna organized by the Kalavardhini group on January 12, 2012.

Pancha Maha Yajnas are the five sacred duties to be performed as a way of life for living in harmony. They include Deva Yajna (to the Lord Iswara); Pitr Yajna (to the family and ancestors); Brahma Yajna (to our vedic culture); Manushya Yajna (to our fellow human beings) and Bhutha Yajna (to the ecosystem).

Dr. Aravind has been recognized as a role model in the category of Manushya Yajna.



### **Ph.D Awarded**

January

Ms. P. Murugeswari, research scholar, Aravind Medical Research Foundation was awarded Ph. D in bio medical sciences by the Madurai Kamaraj University for her research on Molecular mechanisms of diabetic retinopathy. She has been doing research under the guidance of Dr. VR. Muthukkaruppan, Director-Research, Aravind Medical Research Foundation during 2004 - 2010.



Ms. B. Hemadevi, research scholar from 2004-2010 was awarded Ph. D by the Madurai Kamarj University for her research on Genetic and functional analysis of Fuchs Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD) and Congenital hereditary endothelial dystrophy (CHED) in Indian patients under the guidance of Dr. P. Sundaresan, senior scientist, Aravind Medical Research Foundation.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Infinite Vision Unveiled

Madurai, January 29



It was a proud moment for Aravind Eye Care System when the book "Infinite Vision – How Aravind Became the World's Best Business Case for Compassion" was released at a spectacular function held at the institute. Mr U. Sagayam IAS, District Collector, Madurai presented the first copy to Mr. P. Kannappan IPS, Police Commissioner, Madurai city. Collector Mr. Sagayam, while offering his felicitations acknowledged the yeomen service rendered by Aravind and its far reaching fame as the best eye care provider. He stressed that the Aravind model can be emulated not only by businesses but also the government administration can learn a lot from this. He further reiterated the compassionate services rendered by the institute. Police Commissioner Mr. Kannappan congratulated the invaluable service of the organization for the betterment of the society without expecting any reward or fame. Mr. Lakshmi Kanthan Bharati, former Madurai collector and a staunch Gandhian remembered the tedious journey undertaken by Dr. Venkataswamy, battling the heavy odds in providing sight to millions. He also reminisced the life of Dr. Vas more of a spiritual journey. Mr. Raja Govindasamy, Director – Mannar Tirumalai Naicker College, Madurai spoke about the illustrious Aravind family and its services that are branching out as a banyan tree.

Ms. Pavitra, one of the authors went down the memory lane – detailing her association with Dr. V and their daily meetings. She also shared with the audience the story of archiving Aravind over the years and acknowledged the invaluable support offered by Ms. Suchitra Shenoy in bringing out this wonderful book. Ms. Shanti Mohan, one of Madurai's finest educators and Ms. Pavitra's school teacher read a few relevant passages from the book.



### Chennai

January 25



The Indian edition of "Infinite Vision" was released at Chennai at a grand function organized by Landmark and Harper Collins India. The authors Pavitra Mehta and Suchitra Shenoy mesmerized the audience with their firsthand narration of their six year experience of working on the book. Mr. Pradipta K. Mohapatra, a long – term associate of Aravind and Chairman, Executive Coaching Foundation of India pointed out the real secret behind the Aravind success. Brand consultant Harish Bijoor describes the Aravind model as a classic case of socially sustainable marketing.



### Jagriti Yatris at Aravind

Aravind – Madurai, December 28

This year too, Aravind became one of the destinations for a group of India's highly motivated youth, Jagriti Yatris, on





their eighteen day national odyssey introducing them to exceptional and innovative entrepreneurs. The aim of the Yatra is to awaken the spirit of entrepreneurship - both social and economic - within India's youth by exposing them to individuals and institutions that are developing unique solutions to India's challenges. Around 400 yatris visited Aravind's various facilities and got an opportunity to interact with the senior leaders of the organisation. This is the third time that Aravind hosts such a programme.



## CME HELD AT ARAVIND EYE HOSPITAL

### Continuing Education Programme for Photographers and Videographers

Aravind – Pondicherry, December 23 – 25



In continuation of the photography class organized at Aravind – Madurai in April 2011, a special training session was organized for the photographers and videographers across the Aravind Hospitals. Mr. Mike Myers facilitated the entire session along with Dr. R. Venkatesh, chief medical officer, Aravind – Pondicherry. The participants got an opportunity to share and discuss the issues they face in terms of technology and equipment. Mr. Mike shared some valuable inputs which would be of immense benefit to the photographers in improving the quality of the photographs. The technical discussion that followed came up with novel ideas which would provide a suitable platform for

the participants to share the images they capture. A total of 15 participants attended the session.



### Pongal CME

Aravind – Pondicherry, January 5 – 11

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



### International Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy and Retinal Vascular Diseases

Aravind – Madurai, January 7 – 8



Aravind TIFAC-CORE in Diabetic Retinopathy conducted a two-day International Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy and Retinal Vascular Diseases. This is the fifth International Symposium on Diabetic Retinopathy. Several exciting developments taking place rapidly in the management of diabetic retinopathy, especially in pharmacotherapy were discussed during the symposium. Around 150 participants attended the symposium. Eminent faculty from leading research centres in USA, Germany and across India involved in diabetic retinopathy research shared their views on current developments and future trends in the field. Dr. Charles P Wilkinson, MD, GBMC,

Baltimore; Dr. Ingrid Zimmer Galler, MD, Wilmer Eye Institute, Baltimore; Dr. Jennifer Sun, MD, Dr. Lloyd Paul Aiello, MD, Ph.D; Dr. Sabera Shah, MD, from Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston; Dr. Jost B. Jonas, Universitats - Augenklinik, Germany and Dr. Srinivas Sadda, MD, Doheny Eye Center, USA were the international faculty who handled the different sessions. Apart from them Dr. Mangat R Dogra, PGIMS, Chandigarh; Dr. Mahesh P. Shanmugam, Sankara Eye Hospitals, Bangalore; Dr. Pramod Bhende, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai and Dr. Taraprasad Das, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar and also the Aravind faculty shared their valuable inputs during the seminar.



### CME for Paramedical Ophthalmic Assistants

LAICO – Madurai, January 29



A total of 99 participants (85 from Tamilnadu and 14 from Kerala) attended the CME organised for TamilNadu paramedical ophthalmic assistants. This programme was coordinated by the outreach department. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. G.Natchiar - Director Emeritus, Arvind Eye Care System. Detailed sessions on Arvind genesis, how Dr.V initiated steps to take eye care to the rural poor and its further development over the time were discussed. There were clinical sessions on cataract, refractive error, diabetic retinopathy, pediatric blindness, corneal disorders, low vision and contact lens. Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS spoke about the need for providing health education and comprehensive eye care at the primary level. Mr.R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior manager - outreach and Dr.Ilango, Camp Medical Officer shared their thoughts and the need and importance for public-private partnership in eye care.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Arvind's Expertise Shared with Sala Uno

Mexico, December 1 - 20



Dr. Tanpreet Pal Singh, Medical Consultant, IOL Services visited Sala Uno Eye Hospital, Mexico to train the surgeons in SICS and to use this technique for their subsidized and community outreach patients. A total of 4 surgeons were trained in the practical and theoretical aspects of SICS. Each doctor got an opportunity to perform 25 cases under Dr. Tanpreet's supervision. During his visit, Dr. Tanpreet recommended to standardize their clinical and surgical protocols and explained Arvind's quality assurance parameters. Guidelines related to sterilization, instrumentation, cost effective practices and ocular anesthesia were given to the OT staff. He also gave suggestions to improve surgical and follow up acceptance rate. He also participated in outreach camps and shared valuable inputs.



### Annual Outreach Planning Meeting

Arvind – Tirunelveli, December 6 – 7

Camp medical officers, managers, camp organizers and administrative assistants from Arvind - Madurai, Theni , Tirunelveli and Coimbatore participated in the meeting . Camp team from AEH, Pondicherry participated in the meeting through teleconference. Dr Ramakrishnan - Chief medical officer, Arvind – Tirunelveli and Mr.R.Meenakshi Sundaram , senior manager - Outreach services facilitated the meeting. The outreach team discussed the previous year performance by each organizer, analysed the reasons for success and failure of eye camps and shared the learnings. Following that each organizer presented their action plan for the upcoming year. The opportunity was also utilised to appreciate and recognise Mr.S.Selvam , Mr.P. Jeyaram ( Arvind - Madurai) and Mr.Harikrishnar ( Arvind - Pondicherry ) – senior camp organizers for achieving 100% target in the different types of eye camps. The achievers shared the best practices they adopted to reach their targets. Mr.R. Meenakshi Sundaram discussed the need for fixing population based targets in each district. He analysed the performance of each camp organizer for a period of 4 years in their service area and their CSR to the total population in the particular district. The highest CSR by the same organizer can be fixed as the target for the camp organizer. Following that, a group work was done to fix proportionate targets for the next three years. There was a brain storming session on how to reach the targets and the strategies shared by the outreach team members were documented.



### Dr. G.Venkataswamy Memorial Award for Outstanding Performance in Outreach

January 2012

Arvind has been conducting eye screening camps successfully right from the inception. In 2008, camp organizers were assigned targets for the different types of camps - Comprehensive camps, Workplace screening, School screening, and Diabetic Retinopathy screening camps. A goal was thus formulated as



'Eye Care for All'. It was also decided to felicitate the camp organizers who achieve 100% of their annual target in the four types of camps with 'Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Award for Outstanding Performers in Aravind's Outreach Work'.

Meeting the proposed target was truly a long – cherished dream for all the camp organizers and now, 3 among the 24 organizers have done an excellent work in 2011 and shown a significant performance.

**Our hearty congratulations to Mr. P. Jeyaram (Namakkal, Selam, Dharmaburi, Krishnagiri), Mr. S. Selvam (Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Perambalur, Ariyalur), and Mr. Harikrishnar (Villupuram).**

[click here for outreach performance](#)



### 73rd Batch of Instruments Maintenance Course

Aravind – Madurai, December 12



A total of six trainees - two from Nigeria, one each from Zambia, Kenya and Bangladesh and one from Aravind - who underwent the course received certificates and tools kit from Dr. Pamona Samson, Ophthalmologist and Consultant, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. In her talk, Dr. Pamona emphasized the need for proper care and maintenance of the instruments to ensure effective delivery of eye care and congratulated the trainees. Miss. M. P. Marieswari was the chief instructor of the course.



### Observational Visit to Aravind – Pondicherry

December 21



A group of 25 women from Sri Aurobindo Rural Village Action Movement (SARVAM), Poonthurai village visited Aravind - Pondicherry. Housekeeping staff organized a one day training programme on Rangoli. Awareness lecture about common eye diseases and free eye checkup were also arranged.



### Training on the use of Fire Extinguisher

Aravind – Pondicherry, January 11



Staff members of Catering, Housekeeping, Electrical, Maintenance, Internal Securities, and lift operators, drivers, clinical and non clinical staff actively participated in the training programme. Mr. Sankar, regional manager, Usha Fire Safety Services demonstrated all types of fire extinguishers and how to manage fire during such accidents Mr. Krishnamoorthy, transport manager and Mr. Balamurugan, electrical manager facilitated the programme.



### Research Methodology Workshop for Medical Officers

Aravind – Madurai, January 12 – 13

Around 15 medical officers from all the Aravind Hospitals participated in the research methodology workshop



organized during the second week of January. The workshop was intended to guide the participants interested in learning clinical research and innovative approaches. Dr. S.R.Rathinam, Dr Lalitha Prajna, Dr Anand Rajendren, Dr Shukla, Mr Ganesh Babu, Mr. Jothi and Dr.P.Sundareshan handled the different sessions.



## Visitors to AMRF

December 13



Dr. Lene Juel Rasmussen, Professor and Managing Director, Center for Healthy Aging, University of Copenhagen, Denmark visited AMRF on 13th December 2011. She presented a lecture on "Molecular mechanisms underlying age-related genomic instability". She enjoyed a tour of AMRF research facilities and had discussions with faculty members and students. AMRF faculty discussed the possibility of developing collaborative research project on the role of mitochondria in age-related macular degeneration was discussed, since her institute has been interested in mitochondrial genetics and its role in the biology of aging. Exchange visitor programs between AMRF and

University of Copenhagen was also a matter of discussion during her visit.

January 3 -5

Dr. Maya Thangavelu, Clinical Cytogeneticist, California visited Aravind Medical Research Foundation and Pediatric Clinic. She discussed with Dr. P.Namperumalsamy, Dr. VR.Muthukkaruppan, Dr. P.Vijayalakshmi and Dr. P.Sundareshan to initiate genetic counseling center at Aravind. She gave a lecture on Genetics in the Practice of Medicine at the Grand rounds and also to Pediatricians at Government Rajaji Hospital, Madurai. In addition, she also interacted with AMRF faculty and students and delivered a lecture on Developing the division of Medical Genetics.

Dr. Omathanu Pillai Perumal, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, South Dakota State University, Brookings, USA visited AMRF on 6th January 2012. He presented a lecture on "Transcutaneous Drug Delivery". He had discussion with faculty members and students of AMRF. The possibility of developing collaborative research project on the efficient drug delivery system for ocular diseases was discussed.



## "Thane" Rocks Aravind – Pondicherry



December 30.

The severe cyclonic storm "Thane", which hit the Tamilnadu coast early this morning, caused extensive damage to Aravind Eye Hospital - Pondicherry. Trees were uprooted; window glasses were broken and the whole area was filled with water and dirt. Here we have Mr. Mike Myers giving a firsthand account of the devastating effects of the cyclone: "I read in the Hindu yesterday that a cyclone was approaching Chennai, but nobody made a big issue of it. It turned out to be a good size hurricane that landed in a direct aim at AEH Pondy. I woke up at 4am to hear crashing and breaking noises outside, as if buildings were being demolished. When the sun came up, and it was safe to venture outside, we found the damage to the hospital you see here in these photos. It's a huge job of clean-up, lots of broken glass, uprooted trees, at least one car crushed by a falling tree, and dirt and water all over. Dr. Venkatesh organized a huge clean-up effort; the hospital is running on generator power, but is able to feed the existing patients, and the debris and water is gradually being removed. As the day went on, more and more people showed up, and I have a feeling the worst is over". -Mike



## CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

### Annual conference of Society of Mitochondrial Research and Medicine

Hyderabad, December 9-10

Dr. A. Vanniarajan, Scientist, Molecular Genetics Lab, AMRF gave a talk on "Mitochondria in Biology and Medicine" at the 1st Annual conference of Society of Mitochondrial Research and Medicine held at Centre for Cellular and



Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. He presented this lecture based on his postdoctoral work titled "Assessment of breast cancer risk by the analysis of POLG1 variants" at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, USA. He gave a brief overview of his present work on retinoblastoma, age-related macular degeneration and other mitochondrial diseases with ocular manifestations.



### Retina Workshop

Jorhat, Assam, December 24-26

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was invited as guest faculty for the Retina Workshop held at Chandraprabha Eye Hospital, Assam and he delivered the following lectures:

- Venous occlusion - clinical presentation and management
- Eales disease and retinal vasculitis

He also delivered a lecture on Diabetic retinopathy - challenges and solutions at L.C. Datta Oratorion conducted at the hospital.



### 5th Annual Conference on Genetic and Molecular Diagnosis in Modern Medicine 2012

SRM University, Chennai , January 26-29



Dr. P.Sundareasan got an opportunity to interact with Dr. Wladimir Wertenleki, University of Southern Alabama, USA and Dr.Vaithalingam Dev, Genetic Associates Inc, USA during the conference. He also presented a lecture on Carrier and prenatal diagnosis of Oculocutaneous Albinism type I II by genetic analysis.



## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### Christmas Celebrations at Aravind

#### Aravind – Madurai

December 20



As the bells started ringing for the festive season, Aravind – Madurai was brimming with joy at the special Christmas celebrations held in the research building. Madurai Choristers, choir group led by Prof. Christopher Sherwood added colours to the entire programme with their pleasing carol songs. Skit performance by the MLOPs told the story of Jesus' birth. Kids from Janakiammal Child Care Centre too, played their role in making the whole event interesting. Santa was welcomed cheerfully by the audience and he distributed sweets to them. Bible readings and the final blessing during the programme lent an air of sobriety to the whole evening.



#### Aravind – Tirunelveli

It was a perfect evening of joy and happiness marked with glittering lights, stars, sweets and cultural program like





dance, skit and songs. Santa's arrival delighted the audience to a great extent. Christmas tree, star, cakes, carol songs - altogether created a perfect ambience of the joyful season.



### Aravind – Salem



Christmas Eve at Salem started with a prayer song. A Biblical skit was performed by the staff followed by the ceremonious cake cutting. There was a special movie screening as part of the celebrations.



### Aravind – Pondicherry

December 23



Aravind - Pondicherry organized a combined Christmas and New Year celebrations. Dance competitions were arranged as part of the celebrations. MLOPs divided into different teams participated in the events with great enthusiasm. The team Lotus got the first prize.



### Aravind – Tirupur

December 25



Aravind Eye Hospital - Tirupur celebrated X'mas with a variety of cultural events and games. Dr Selvi Selvakumar-Chief Medical Officer welcomed the gathering. Sr. Nithya, refractionist gave an inspiring speech on the relevance of X'mas in today's context and Sr. Usha, counsellor sang a song during the programme. Following cake cutting various games were conducted for the staff. Dr. Aditya, IOL fellow proposed a vote of thanks.



### Pongal Celebrations

**Aravind – Coimbatore**

January 11



Pongal week was celebrated with great fervor at Aravind – Coimbatore. The employees were divided into different teams-Surya Pongal consisting of doctors; Mattu Pongal – consisting of MLOPs and Kanum Pongal comprising admin staff. With great enthusiasm and spirit, they participated in the various traditional competitions such as Pot hitting, Sugarcane eating, Rangoli contest etc. Traditional pongal was prepared by Sr.Sulochana, nursing superintendent and the MLOPs.

**Aravind – Madurai**

January 12



Aravind - Madurai, LAICO and AMRF joined together to celebrate the Pongal festival as Aruvadai Thirunal. LAICO team under the leadership of Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy and Ms. Meenakshi Palaniyappan organized "Varthai Vizhaiyattu", 4 teams comprising 5 members from each domain (Doctors, MLOPs, Admin, LAICO and AMRF) participated in the game show. The winning team was awarded Pongal kit. First year MLOP trainees gave a wonderful dance performance. The AMRF team gave a mind-blowing pongal performance covering the different aspects of the festival - right from rice harvesting to Jallikattu.

**Aravind – Tirunelveli**

January 12



Sr. Thanga Mari Selvi welcomed the audience to the gala celebrations. Sr. Chidambaram, Sr. Pappa Ramalakshmi and team prepared the delicious sweet pongal in the traditional manner. Following the welcome address, cultural programs like Karagattam, Bharathanatyam, Kolattam, Kummi and folk dance were performed by the MLOPs. For the first time uri adi competition (pot breaking) was arranged and Sr. Malliga, MRD trainee won the prize. Dr.R.Ramakrishnan, chief medical officer gave a motivational talk. The celebration also included thanksgiving to the Sun god and earth for all their blessings. Ms. Lakshmi.R was the master of the ceremony.

**Aravind – Pondicherry**

January 12



Elaborate Pongal celebrations were organized for the staff of Aravind - Pondicherry. The MLOPs were divided into five different teams and the team Lotus won the first prize in the Pongal preparation competition.



**Aravind – Salem**

January 13



Pongal celebrations in the hospital was marked with a devotional note. Hospital manager, Mr. K. Manickam pointed out the real significance of the festival and its relevance to all living beings. Traditional pongal games like Rangoli contest and tug of war were conducted. The contests like lemon and spoon race and lucky corner were really lively. Pongal dance on a traditional Tamil song received wide applause from the crowd. Finally, the staffs and employees were served Pongal dish and sugarcane which marked the end of the celebrations.

**Motivating Camp for the Staff Children**

Aravind – Madurai, January 26

A special motivating and inspiring session was arranged for the children of the staff appearing for the public examination this year. Around thirty students preparing for their 10th and plus two exams and new MLOP recruits benefitted from the programme.

**Republic Day Celebrations**

Aravind – Tirunelveli



Aravind – Tirunelveli celebrated the 63rd Republic day with great enthusiasm, national zeal and fervor. Chief Medical Officer Dr. R. Ramakrishnan hoisted the National Flag. Doctors, MLOPs and administrative staff attended the function. MLOPs sung patriotic songs in Tamil. Dr. Ramakrishnan gave a motivational speech on this important day. The function came to an end with National anthem and distribution of sweets.



Aravind – Madurai



Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman – AECS hoisted the National Flag at Aravind – Madurai. Staff, MLOPs and doctors attended the function. They took the oath during the occasion.



Aravind - Pondicherry

Manager – General Mr. Kanagaraj hoisted the National Flag at Aravind - Pondicherry. Patriotic song was sung by the MLOPs after flag hoisting. Staff took the pledge and paid respect to the flag.

**LAICO HAPPENINGS**



## Follow up Visits

Grameen Eye Hospitals, Bogra and Barisal, Bangladesh, December 10 – 15



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Mr. D. Nagarajan and Ms. K.M. Sasipriya visited Grameen Eye Hospital, Bogra, Bangladesh for a follow up. During this visit, key team members from both the Centres – Bogra and Barisal presented their current situation and focus of the discussion was on how to provide comprehensive eye care services that would help these two hospitals gradually move towards providing tertiary eye care services and also the training facilities to develop more hospitals in Grameen Network. Mr. Ashaduzzuman, Managing Director – Grameen Health was also present during the discussions.



Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology, Kakinada, Hyderabad

December 15 – 17

As a follow up to the visit made in April 2011, Dr. R. Venkatesh, chief medical officer, Aravind – Pondicherry and Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy, faculty – LAICO visited Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology to assess the developments made by the hospital.



Trilochan Netralaya, Sambalpur, Orissa

December 19 – 20

Dr. Frederick, Aravind – Pondicherry and Mr. Suresh, faculty – LAICO visited Trilochan Netralaya as part of the capacity building process. The team analysed the hospital performance and necessary recommendations were suggested.



Khairabad Eye Hospital, Kanpur

December 22 - 24

Dr. Maneksha, Aravind – Tirunelveli and Mr. Suresh made follow up visit to Khairabad Eye Hospital, during the last week of December.



## SF 1588 Workshop for Lions Eye Hospitals

LAICO, January 3 – 8



A special vision building workshop was conducted for the Lions eye hospitals towards enhancing their competence and performance as part of the SightFirst 1588 project. This was the third workshop conducted in this series of five and was attended by 30 participants from 14 Lions eye hospitals.



## Vision Building Workshop Supported by SSI

LAICO, January 16 – 21

Totally 15 participants attended the workshop which was supported by Sightsavers International. The participant hospitals included LEPR Eye Hospital Odisha, Mahatme Eye Bank Eye Hospital Nagpur Sankara Eye Hospital Pammal, Tamilnadu.



## Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery

LAICO, January 22 – 28



LAICO hosted its flagship course for the heads of eye hospitals during the last week of January. A total of 22 participants from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya and Ethiopia participated in the workshop. Apart from the Aravind faculty, Prof. DVR Seshadri (IIM – Bangalore), Prof. R. Balasubramanian (IFMR – Chennai) and Cindy Harrison (Vice – president, Human Resources Dept, Chelsea Community Hospital, USA) handled the different sessions.

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

## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on November 2011	Enrollments for December 2011
<b>Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Fellowship in Comprehensive Ophthalmology</b>	<b>Theni</b>	5	1
<b>Fellowship in Orbit &amp; Oculoplasty</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	27	2
<b>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	107	0
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	132	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	97	3
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	2	0
<b>IOL Microsurgery</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	707	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	276	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	212	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	11	0
<b>Phacoemulsification</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	136	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	74	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	93	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	16	1
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	257	2
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	252	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	4	0

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



## PUBLICATIONS

- JOURNAL OF PARASITIC DISEASES. VOL: 35(2) JUL.-DEC. 2011 P.148-154**  
 Soumyava Basu, Jyotirmay Biswas, Uwe Pleyer, Avinash Pathangay and B. Manohar Babu.  
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## STAFF CORNER

### "DHO DALA"

A Fascinating Analogy between a Parent and a Dhobi



The most dangerous profession in the world is that of a Dhobi- the guy who washes and irons our clothes. In the west people prefer to wash their own dirty linen; in India we prefer to outsource ours. Thus, you'll find the ubiquitous Dhobi in every galli nukkad (corner).

When washing other people's clothes you can never be too careful, what if the colour runs? The whites have to be washed separately, invariably something runs colour all over 'madamji's favourite kurta'. Invariably something shrinks to two sizes too small, or madam ji has put on weight, but blame it on the Dhobi. Some important document gets washed up since it was in the 'jeans pant' and sirji blames the Dhobi for not turning out the pockets.

Ironing is a whole new terrain of danger and destruction. How hot is too hot? And before you know it, the chiffon sari is singed. How cool is too cool, and the wrinkles are still there when you hand over the cotton sari. And it's not just the material and texture that matters... it's how old the clothes are too. A new silk sari, say a new stiff tassar sari, takes ages to iron, and the same sari twenty years hence is now so soft that the minute you put the iron, you here a hiss and crackle-the sounds of doom as the sari is irreversibly ruined.

How does one decide the right temperature?

I think the tiresome and fraught with dangers, yet thankless profession of a Dhobi can be compared to that of a parent. How much is too much scolding, and how much is too little? You don't want your child to grow up a vagabond, nor do you want them not to enjoy the harmless pleasures of growing up. You consider your kid like a precious white kurta, so you don't want them hanging around with the 'colourful' personalities in the neighbourhood, rest their colour run off on your kid. You wash, and scrub and iron out your Kid, only to realise that it is now two sizes too large, and does not in any way resemble the original.

Hmmmm, it's difficult being a parent.

But, if I were to choose I'd say being a dhobi is tougher. As a parent you can mess up only your own kid, but as a dhobi, you are entrusted with so many other people's prized possessions. Much like a teacher... but that's for another blog.



P.S. This note is dedicated to all the parents who have successfully 'washed, scrubbed and ironed ' their kids, and to all those who are starting out on the same journey. May you proudly be able to say 'DHO DALA!!!'

(Literally means "washed away". Also a catch phrase among Indian Cricket team meaning "We have won").

- Dr. Kuheli Bhattacharya



## AUROLAB NEWS

### 5's Master Award at Aurolab

December 24, Aurolab



Aurolab staff have been practicing 5S measures as part of Total Quality Management. 5S is a useful tool for creating an efficient work place. To add colour to the 5S practice, this time, five potential candidates were selected as's Masters. Further, all the 5S title winners were awarded by our Managing Director Dr. P. Balakrishnan. The title winner for 3 consecutive times was awarded a mega prize. The 5's Audit was facilitated by the Regulatory Department in Aurolab.



### Christmas Celebrations

December 23



The glittering stars and the Christmas tree announced the commencement of the joyous season at Aurolab. Beautifully arranged and decorated crib was a pleasing sight to all. Kids from the creche performed dance and sang songs. Finally the Santa Claus came with jingle bells and distributed sweets to all the staff members.



### Training Programmes at Aurolab

December 23



At the special training programme arranged for all the managers in Aurolab, Mr Parameshwaran from ZTQM Institute, Bangalore handled the different sessions. He trained the participants on developing listening skills, communication skills, body language, memory power etc., Group exercises were also given to the participants during the session.



### Training on QC Tools

December 24

Training session on 7 Quality Control (QC) tools was arranged for the production staff and Quality Assurance

managers and chemists. Session was handled by Mr. Parameshwaran from ZTQM Institute, Bangalore.



**Pongal Celebrations**

January 13



Pongal celebrations at Aurofarm started with a prayer song followed by folk song and dance by the staff. Kummi dance performed by the staff was really exciting. Mr.Srinivasan, accounts manager performed the Pongal Pooja. The first offering was made to the Sun seeking His blessings. Beautiful kolam designs were drawn. The cattle were cleaned and decorated - their horns painted and flower garlands tied around their necks.



**20th Aurolab Day**

January 21



Aurolab celebrated the 20th Aurolab day celebration at Aurofarm. The programme started with a prayer song. Mr. Krishnakumar welcomed the gathering. Pharma division supervisor Sr.Sheeladevi shared the impact of Aurolab products in the community. Dr. Balakrishnan shared the activities of the year with the audience. Mr. Sriram shared the evolution and growth of Aurolab to the audience. Chairman-Emeritus Dr.Namperumalswamy gave a motivational speech to staff members. Dr.G. Natchiar, Mr.R.D Thulsiraj, Mr.G.Srinivasan and Dr.R.D. Ravindran presented the different service awards to the employees. A special cultural programme was also arranged by the staff as part of

the celebrations. Mr.Ramnath proposed a vote of thanks. The function came to an end with the National Anthem and dinner.



**Republic Day Celebrations**

January 26



Managing Director, Dr. Balakrishnan hoisted the National Flag at Aurolab. The audience saluted the national flag. Patriotic song was sung by the staff and they took the pledge. The celebration came to an end with National Anthem. Sweets were distributed to all the staff members.



**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**

December - 2011								
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
<b>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</b>								

Paying (New & Review)	42,145	5,494	21,260	28,218	18,305	5,145	3,235	123,802
Free (Direct walk-in)	11,483	1,702	4,783	9,044	5,384	15	-	32,411
<b>OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS</b>								
Regular Eye Camps	11,571	1,856	4,026	6,757	4,111	-	-	28,321
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	350	344	467	1,296	509	-	-	2,996
Refraction Camps	1,931	108	493	1,818	961	-	-	5,311
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	885	-	-	-	-	-	885
School Screening camps	1,300	360	29,003	8,627	4,627	-	-	43,917
ICDS Children	-	-	3,161	-	-	-	-	3,161
Paediatric Camps	592	116	-	-	445	-	-	1,153
Vision Centres	7,850	3,874	4,303	2,458	2,020	-	509	21,014
Community Eye Clinics	3550	1,280	4,327	-	-	-	-	9,157
<b>Total Examinations OP</b>	<b>80,772</b>	<b>16,019</b>	<b>71,823</b>	<b>58,218</b>	<b>36,362</b>	<b>5,160</b>	<b>3,744</b>	<b>272,098</b>
<b>SURGERIES</b>								
Paying	2,502	313	946	1,500	761	126	169	6,317
Free (Direct)	1,781	173	539	1,366	491	29	-	4,357
Camp	2,307	210	866	1,633	-	-	-	5,016
<b>Total Surgeries</b>	<b>6,590</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>2,351</b>	<b>4,499</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>15,690</b>

