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Quote
What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Aravind Alumni Meet
To be held
at AIOS 2015

Editorial

As a first of its kind initiative, a special family meet was arranged for the technicians of vision centres at Aravind – Madurai and Pondicherry. The idea behind organizing the whole programme was the fact that most of the staff lacks the necessary family support that enables them to work efficiently. The main purpose of the whole programme was to make the family members understand the great service they giving to the society and the significance of their work. The programme was well-received by the participants.

It was a season of awards at Aravind as two among the senior leadership team, a doctor and a senior MLOP staff were presented with prestigious awards by various forums. To acknowledge the selfless service rendered by sponsors in conducting Aravind’s outreach camps, Sponsors’ Day, the biannual event was organized at Pondicherry.

Ensuring professional competence of employees by organizing continuing education programmes is one of the core activities of the Human Resource Department at Aravind. A three-day session was arranged for the Aravind Communications team consisting of news correspondents, photographers and videographers at Aravind – Madurai.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Awards at the Annual Conference of Vitreo Retinal Society of India
Agra, December 5-7

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was awarded Lifetime Achievement Award by the Vitreo Retinal Society of at their annual conference held in New Delhi. The award recognizes his contribution to the development of Vitreoretinal services in India.

Dr. Parag K Shah, Retina Services, Aravind – Coimbatore received the Best Video Award for the video titled *Scleral auto graft for management of chronic maculopathy associated with optic nerve head pit* at the 23rd Annual Vitreo Retinal Conference held at Agra.

Most Inspiring Healthcare Leader of the Year Award for Mr. R.D Thulasiraj
New Delhi, December 11

Mr. R. Thulasiraj received the first edition of the Healthcare Achievers Awards 2014 presented by New India Assurance and an initiative by The Times of India. The Most Inspiring Healthcare Leader of the Year award was presented to him for his leadership, knowledge and contribution to the healthcare sector.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Dr. M. Srinivasan

Mahabalipuram, December 20

Dr. M. Srinivasan has been awarded Lifetime Achievement Award by the Cornea Society of India at the annual conference of the Society, KERACON held at Mahabalipuram.

Dr M Srinivasan, the Director Emeritus of the Aravind Eye Care System has played a key role in teaching and training ophthalmologists and technical personnel in Eye banking from the country and across the developing World. His compassionate approach to patients, especially the lesser privileged with infective keratitis has redefined patient care excellence at the Aravind Eye Hospitals for over four decades and he continues to inspire many younger ophthalmologists to place service before self. He has played a pivotal role in prevention of microbial keratitis in Madurai, Bhutan and Myanmar by conducting epidemiological studies and several drug trials that has influenced management of infective and fungal keratitis, a common cause of blindness in the developing world. As part of volunteering services for ORBIS International and Eye bank Association of India, he has helped development of eye banking activities in India and several of the developing nations. His seminal research activities in the area of fungal infective keratitis and wide clinical experience in management of this condition has helped evolve treatment guidelines that has been widely accepted internationally and has paved the way for establishing a Centre of Excellence in Fungal Keratitis at the Aravind Research medical Foundation funded by the Department of Biotechnology. Amongst the many honors and Awards he has been bestowed, the most recognized are his acknowledgement as one of the Top 50 opinion leaders in ophthalmology by the Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today (2005) and the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Distinguished Service Award (2011).

Best Nurse Award for Sr. Chidambaram

Aravind – Tirunelveli, December 31

Sr M N Chidambaram, Nursing Superintendent was presented with the "Best Nurse Award" for her selfless work and service by the Lions Club of Tirunelveli Star. The award was presented by Mr.Sivagami Arumugam, Lions Club Governor at a special function organized here.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Employee Welfare Activity – Spoken Hindi Classes

Aravind – Madurai, November 30

HR Department organized spoken Hindi classes for Staff of Aravind, Madurai, LAICO and AMRF. The one-month course provided insights into the basics of the language. Certificates from Hindi PracharSabha were distributed to the staff who passed the Viva Voce. Mr. R.D Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO distributed the certificates.
Sponsors Day
Aravind – Pondicherry, December 10

Sponsors day is organized once in two years to acknowledge the unflinching support of sponsors in conducting eye camps. At Aravind – Pondicherry, around 398 sponsors participated in the programme. Dr. K. Thiruvenkadakrishnan, Camp Medical Officer welcomed the gathering. Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus-AECS and PMJ.F.Ln.J. Ashok Kumar Chordia – PDG-324 A3 gave the felicitation address. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer delivered a talk on the importance of eye screening camps. Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram Senior Manager, Outreach Department also addressed the audience. Mr. K. Selvanayagam, Company Secretary, Ramco Industries Ltd., Chennai gave an inspirational speech to motivate the sponsors. Mr. Xavier, Camp Manager proposed a vote of thanks.

MoU for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) Screening
Aravind – Pondicherry, December 10

Eye Health Programme for Prematurely Born Children (EHPPBC) is a novel collaborative effort initiated between Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry and Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Kirumampakkam, Pondicherry. Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Prof. S. Krishnan, Dean (Administration) Mahatma Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute, Pondicherry and Dr. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer - Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry.

Review OP moved to New Premises
Aravind – Madurai, December 12

Out patient department for review patients of Free hospital has been shifted to 2nd floor of the building and has started functioning in a spacious area. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy inaugurated the new facility in the presence of senior leadership team. Dr. VP. Ravinchandran and the team of free hospital staff lit the holy lamp.

Aravind Communications and Visual Arts CPE 2014
Aravind Communications team consisting of close to thirty members from DTP, Audiovisual department and news correspondents across the Aravind Eye Care System had their annual CPE programme held at LAICO. Sessions consisted of motivational classes, soft skill training as well as professional training relevant to each department. Eminent resource persons were roped in from outside to give hands-on training to the participants. At the Photography competition held as part of the programme, Mr. Saravanan from Aravind – Pondicherry became the winner.

Vision Centre Staff Family Rendezvous

As a first of its kind initiative, a special family meet was arranged for the technicians of vision centres at Aravind – Madurai and Pondicherry. The main purpose of the whole programme was to make the family members understand the great service their relatives or spouses are giving to the society and the significance of their work. The idea behind organizing the whole programme was the revelation that most of the staff lacks the necessary family support that enables them to work efficiently. At Aravind – Madurai, Dr.Kim welcomed the participants. Dr. R.D. Ravindran addressed the audience and highlighted the importance of vision centres. Dr. Usha Kim set the context for the whole programme. Sr. Begam, Sr. Jeeva and Sr. Senchulakshmi took the participants on a tour of hospital facilities, Nithyatha and Aurolab. A total of 22 family members and 33 technicians attended. Ms. Pitchai Meena and Ms. Jhansi Sunitha were the organisers of the event.

At Aravind – Pondicherry on December 28, Dr. R. Venkatesh and Dr. Veena addressed the audience and motivated them. Dr. R. Krishnadas spoke on the role each vision centre technician thereby making their family members understand the importance of their work.

Christmas Celebrations

The special evening was marked with glittering lights, stars, sweets and cultural program like dance, skit, songs by MLOPs and distribution of gifts by Santa Claus. It was a perfect evening of joy and happiness. Staff across the centres participated with great enthusiasm.

Employee Welfare Activity

Lady staff members were taken on a one day to the temples of Nava Thirupathi, Thiruchendur, Kulasekarapattinam, Vanathirupathi and Church at Manapadu. The entire programme provided a refreshing atmosphere to the participants.

Madurai, December 22
Dr. Krishnamoorthy Venkataraman, Vice President – Parent Circle gave an inspiring talk on parenting for the staff of Aravind – Madurai on December 22.

**Ophthalmic Anaesthesia Workshop**

LAICO, December 25

Aravind – Madurai hosted the session on *Principle and practice of ophthalmic regional anaesthesia* at the 62nd Annual National Conference of Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists held at Madurai. It is for the first time that Madurai hosted the event which lasted for four days from December 25-29. At the session hosted by Aravind, Dr. S. Somasundaram, Rtd. Professor of Anaesthesiology welcomed the audience and Dr. R.D Ravindran delivered the inaugural address. Dr. A. Ravichander, Anaesthesiologist, Aravind - Madurai did a presentation on *Choosing and preparation of patients for regional blocks*. There was a live demonstration of needle blocks by Ophthalmic Forum of ISA and Sub- Tenon’s block by Dr Kannan.S, Consultant, Anaesthesia and Critical Care, City Hospital, Birmingham, UK. Dr. Kannan also handled the wetlab session on Sub-Tenon’s block. Dr. Ravichander proposed a vote of thanks. Close to twenty post graduates from Aravind – Madurai and Tirunelveli participated. Other presentations during the session include:

- Dr Jaichandran VV, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, SankaraNethralaya, Chennai
  - *Needle-orbit–Globe-extraocular muscle relationship: Mannequin demonstration*
- Dr Jagadeesh V, Director, Department of Anaesthesiology, SankaraNethralaya, Chennai
  - *Challenging clinical scenarios: Group discussion*
- Dr. NareshBabu
  - *Retrobulbar haemorrhage and globe perforation*

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE**

**Annual Conference of the Vitreo Retinal Society of India**

New Delhi, December 5-7

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was the invited guest at the annual conference of the Vitreo Retinal Society of India and delivered a lecture on Aravind Eye Care System.

**Dr. P. Sundaresan at the Annual Conference of the Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine**

Manipal, December 8-9

Dr. P. Sundaresan delivered a invited talk on Establishment of Retinal Mitoscriptome Gene Expression Signature for Diabetic Retinopathy Using Human Cadaver Eye and chaired a session at the 4th Annual Conference of the Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine (SMRM), Manipal University, Manipal, Karnataka Aravind Medical Research Foundation will host the 5th SMRM conference in December 2015 at Madurai

**Dr. S. Aravind Delivers Talk on Aravind Model**

172.17.1.2/aravindnews/aravindnews.aspx?newsissuecode=NI00000146
Perundurai, November 16

Dr. S. Aravind delivered a lecture on Aravind model as part of Global Entrepreneurship week observed at Kongu Engineering College, Perundurai.

**Dr. P. Namperumalsamy Delivers the Dr KS Sanjivi Endowment Oration**

Chennai, December 27

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was invited to deliver the Dr KS Sanjivi Endowment Oration on "An Affordable Health care Delivery Model - Challenges and feasibility" based on Aravind model at The Voluntary Health Services Hospital (VHS), Chennai. He was also awarded medallion by Dr. M.S.Swaminathan, Director – VHS, who presided over the function.

Dr K.S.Sanjivi was a pioneer in health care in India with a single minded focus on community health. He was the first person to initiate the concept of "primary Health Centres" in India and the Government subsequently followed this model of health care.

**TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

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### Training Programmes Enrollments for January 2015 at Aravind Eye Care System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Training Centre</th>
<th>Enrollments for January 2015</th>
<th>Total number trained till December 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship in Cornea</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<td>122</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship in General Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Salem</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship in Glaucoma</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<td>107</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology &amp; Strabismus</td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship in Retina</td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>522</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Training for Orthoptist</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Course - Non Clinical Courses</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**PUBLICATIONS**

  - *In vitro susceptibility of filamentous fungi from mycotic keratitis to azole drugs.*

- Sayali Pradhan, Jeena Mascarenhas, Srinivasan M.
  - *Microsporidial stromal keratitis masquerading as acute graft rejection.*
  Cornea. 2014 Dec 19. [Epub] [Article View](#)

  J Proteomics. 2014 Dec 10;115C:23-35 [Epub] [Article View](#)

- Madhu Uddaraju, Jeena Mascarenhas, Manoranjan Das, Prajna NV.
  - A case of bilateral, multiple, symmetric, concentric ring-shaped opacities in the cornea.
  JAMA Ophthalmol. 2015 Jan 8. [Epub] [Article View](#)

- Cunninghan ET Jr, Rathinam SR, Albini TA, Chee SP, Zierhut M.
  - *Tuberculous Uveitis*
  Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2015 Feb;23(1):2-6 [Article View](#)

**AUROLAB NEWS**

**Guest Lecture**

Aurolab, December 10

A guest lecture was organized on the topic of Hormonal Imbalance in Women for the staff members in Aurolab. The session was handled by Dr. Anand Kumar - Consultant Endocrinologist from Ashwin Hospital – Madurai. The participants felt the session very useful and informative.

**An Eye-opening Experience**

Sharing the feedback given by Surendra Subramani, Professor from Oregon after he had his cataract surgery done at Aravind - Pondicherry.

**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**
## December - 2014

### HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Theni</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>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paying (New &amp; Review)</td>
<td>52,114</td>
<td>7,980</td>
<td>22,570</td>
<td>32,257</td>
<td>22,112</td>
<td>3,616</td>
<td>10,135</td>
<td>2,611</td>
<td>4,666</td>
<td>165,163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free (Direct walk-in)</td>
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<td>5,594</td>
<td>9,469</td>
<td>6,248</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>827</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>37,073</td>
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### OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Theni</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>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Eye Camps</td>
<td>7,990</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>3,841</td>
<td>9,675</td>
<td>5,304</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>963</td>
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<td>30,574</td>
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<td>Diabetic Retinopathy Camps</td>
<td>649</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,489</td>
<td>520</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>2,742</td>
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<td>Refraction Camps</td>
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<td>137</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td>941</td>
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<td>Mobile Refraction Unit</td>
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<td>School Screening Camps</td>
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<td>Paediatric Camps</td>
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<td>Vision Centres</td>
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<td>763</td>
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<td>Community Eye Clinics</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total OP Examinations</strong></td>
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<td>18,930</td>
<td>41,292</td>
<td>57,762</td>
<td>44,503</td>
<td>7,117</td>
<td>4,986</td>
<td>11,576</td>
<td>4,350</td>
<td>5,461</td>
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### SURGERIES

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Theni</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>
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<tr>
<td>Paying</td>
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<td>2,234</td>
<td>1,395</td>
<td>973</td>
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<td>530</td>
<td>115</td>
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<td>Free (Direct) Camp</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td><strong>Total Surgeries</strong></td>
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