



Inside

AWARDS AND
ACCOLADES

SPECIAL EVENTS

NEWS AND EVENTS

CONFERENCES

ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

LAICO HAPPENINGS

TRAINING
PROGRAMMES

PUBLICATIONS

AUROLAB NEWS

MONTHLY PATIENT
STATISTICS

Aravind News Team

Archives

Hit Counter 1

Quote

Everybody has a creative potential and from the moment you can express this creative potential, you can start changing the world. Paulo Coelho

A new year has begun. With new hopes and aspirations, we stepped into the year. Wishing our readers all the very best on this occasion.

Aravind always ventures into philanthropic activities as and when the need arises. In December Aravind along with Green Walk undertook the massive task of supporting people in the recent Chennai floods. Angaadi-the charity fest was also organised to raise resources to support this initiative. It was so gratifying to see the overwhelming response from the public. What else could be a fitting gesture to mark the close of the year..the joy of doing something beautiful.

Aravind this year too became one of the destinations of a highly-spirited group of entrepreneurs who embark on a one month journey to get exposed to exceptional organisations in India. Named Jagriti Yatra, the initiative had around 500 people this time who got an opportunity to interact with the senior management team.

As always, last month also Aravind staff bagged prizes in many conferences and forums. These awards in addition to recognizing the efforts, provide great encouragement to do more. Various centres of Aravind celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Role Model Award for Mr. Poornachandran

New Delhi, December 3



Mr. Poornachandran, Senior Technician, Instruments Maintenance Department, Aravind - Madurai received the Role Model Award as part of National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, 2015 by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The award is given to persons with disability who can be an exemplar for others by way of his/her achievements in their chosen field.



Second Prize at Cornea Society of India Conference

Kolkata, December 11-12

Dr. Sayali Pradhan was awarded second prize for the paper, Epidemiology and management of microsporidial keratitis at Keracon - the Annual Conference of Cornea Society of India.



Aravind Staff Bags Prize at the Kolam Competition

Aravind – Pondicherry, December 20



K.R.Deepa, Housekeeping Supervisor participated in the competition organized by Dinamalar and won second prize worth 4 grams gold coin. This is the third consecutive year that Deepa wins the prize.



Eminent Doctor Award for Dr.M.Srinivasan

Chennai, December 30



Tamil Nadu Medical Council felicitated Dr.M.Srinivasan with Eminent Doctor award as part of its centenary celebrations.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Lending Support to Flood-hit Areas

Aravind – Madurai, December 14, 17



The recent floods that hit Chennai and surrounding areas is one of the worst disasters in the recent past in Tamil Nadu. The fury of nature has been devastating and deadly. Forceful floodwaters washed away everything that came its way - people, cattle, homes, apartment buildings, cars and all that was blocking nature. Aravind Eye Care System opened its doors to Green Walk in collecting, segregating and sending relief materials to the flood hit areas. Under the able leadership of Mr.Muthukrishnan, the Green Walk volunteers did a commendable job in pooling materials together. Within no time, Aravind's research institute became flooded with materials donated by kind-hearted people. As soon as the message about relief collection centre went out, things started pouring in. What followed was hectic days and sleepless nights in segregating and arranging things, packing and finally sending. Relief materials distributed included blankets, dresses, towels, lungi, nighties, mats, sarees, sweaters, rice, grocery packages, milk powder, utensils, stoves, candles, emergency lights, torches, sanitary napkins, mosquito nets and medicines and medical care. Green Walk was able to provide the rs.41lakh worth materials to 3,634 families in 68 villages. Being a part of this noble cause was truly a gratifying moment for Aravind as well, lending support to Green Walk in whatever ways it could.



Angaadi 2015

Aravind – Madurai, December 19, 21



The great charity (Angaadi) fest to support the flood victims and Chennai and Cuddalore was conducted for the second time at Aravind – Madurai. Mr. G. Srinivasan inaugurated the event. Items on sale included clothes, crockery, ceramics, children's toys, furniture, vessels, show pieces and food items. Aurolab arranged various game stalls to add fun to the whole event. Through this initiative, Aravind was able to raise more than 1.5lakh rupees to support the people who were badly affected by the recent Chennai floods.

It was a time where we saw selfless contribution, unsolicited co-operation and whole-hearted involvement. The whole event was nothing short of a collective effort – be it in segregating materials, fixing price, packing and neatly displaying. Response was overwhelming and so was the shopping spree. For the buyer, satisfaction arises from the pleasure of getting a good/new object at a low price, for the donor it is the sheer contentment that his goods are to be reused and the proceeds goes to a noble cause. A substantial amount of Rs 1,82,065/ was collected and sent in favour of Goonj (<http://goonj.org/>). What else could be a fitting gesture to mark the close of the year..the joy of doing something beautiful.

Log on to <https://youtu.be/2yvBVXo-xpY> to feel the real spirit of Angaadi



NEWS AND EVENTS

22nd Annual Conference of Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology Society of India (SPOSI)

Aravind – Coimbatore, December 12-13



Aravind - Coimbatore hosted the 22nd Annual Conference of Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology Society of India at Hotel Le-Meridien, Coimbatore under the chairmanship of Dr.P.Vijayalakshmi and Dr.Kalpna Narendran as Organising secretary. Around 200 delegates from all over India and abroad registered for the conference. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr.Marilyn Miller, (Prof of Ophthalmology, Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary University of Illinois at Chicago, U.S.A) and the guests of honour included Dr.M.Ramasamy (Pediatrician, Coimbatore) and Dr.S.P.T.Sambandam (Senior Strabismologist, Coimbatore). The scientific programme covered a vast variety of topics providing in-depth knowledge to the audience. The conference provided a healthy platform for young ophthalmologists to share their experience through video sessions, free papers, interesting case presentations and E-posters.



Christmas Celebrations

Aravind – Madurai, December 18



Aravind Eye Hospitals celebrated the spirit of Christmas with carols, skits and dance. The programmes kindled the spirit of teamwork amongst the staff members. Santa's entry cheered the audience tremendously. He shared a few points about Christmas and distributed sweets to the audience.



Handwashing Awareness Week

Aravind – Coimbatore, December 7-13



Globally handwashing is being recognized as the foundation of infection control practices. To reinforce this, Aravind - Coimbatore conducted a hand washing awareness week for the staff. A special poster describing the WHO-designated 8 steps in hand washing was put up in sixty prominent places in the hospital. Series of talks and a video demo on the topic were arranged for the staff and employees. Designated people were observing the compliance to hand washing in various departments. A poster competition was also arranged on the topic and the best three posters were awarded prizes.



Programme for Aravind Staff Support (PASS) 2015

Aravind – Tirunelveli, December 20



As part of Employee Engagement, Aravind - Tirunelveli conducted Program for Aravind Staff Support (PASS) 2015 for the staff of all the ten Vision Centres. Staff members along with their family members attended the program with great enthusiasm and zeal.

The program started with prayer song, followed by Lakshmi, Manager HR welcoming all for the program. Dr.R.Meenakshi, Deputy CMO explained the Genesis of Aravind. Dr.R. Ramakrishnan, CMO gave an inspiring speech about "Vision Centres" - its purpose, total number of VCs as on date, census and its significance in the society. Dr.Divya, MLOP in-charge Doctor spoke about the important role played by the MLOPs for the smooth functioning of the hospital and also shared a few awards and achievements of MLOPs. Sr.Chidambaram, Nursing Superintendent spoke about the roles and responsibilities of the Vision Centre Technicians and Co-ordinators and also what our management expects from their family members.

A questionnaire was prepared and given to the family members to fill in and all gave their open and true feedback. All of them felt very proud about their Daughter/Wife/Daughter - in - law was working at AEH especially in the Vision Centres. A game was also arranged for the children of the VC Staff members. As VC Staff do not get a chance to participate in competitions like Auro Utsav, Women's Day and such others, a quiz competition was arranged for them. The VC Staff member with their family members formed a team. There were 22 teams. At the end, prizes were distributed to the winners.



Jagriti Yatra 2015

Aravind – Madurai, December 27

Around 480 Yatris visited Aravind in the last week of December. The session started with an inspiring talk by Dr.Aravind, followed by genesis presentation by Ms.Dhivya. Infinite vision video was played and the Aravind management team answered the thought provoking questions by Yatris. "Madura" video song by Mr.Sanil Joseph was played and the Yatris enjoyed it thoroughly. Yatris were taken on a tour to our different facilities - Vision centres, Community centres, Nithyatha, Aurolab and the paying and free hospitals.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

UBS Global Philanthropy Forum

St. Moritz, Switzerland, December 4-6

Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj attended the UBS Global Philanthropy Forum and gave talk on *What next? Ensuring innovative solutions reach scale*. The Forum discussed ways to embrace risk to foster innovation and address the world's most intractable social and environmental problems.



Comprehensive Cataract Conference

Pune, December 5-6

Dr. R.D. Ravindran

- Keynote Address: *Improving outcomes in Manual small incision cataract surgery through monitoring*
- *Visual outcomes and complications in Manual small incision cataract surgery in a large volume set up*
- *Experience of Intracameral antibiotics in prevention of postoperative endophthalmitis*



Annual Conference of Oculoplasty Association of India

Bhubaneswar, Orissa, December 4-6

Dr. Viji Rengarajan

- a. *Controversies in oculoplasty - lymphangiomas - Surgery Vs Sclerosing agents*
- b. *Palpebral remodelling in management of neurofibromatosis type I* - Awarded as best Video
- c. E- poster - *Orbital vicarious menstruation*

Dr. Harikrishnan M

- *The cystic eye (free paper)*

Dr. Namrata Adulkar

- *Invasive sino orbital fungal infection in immuno competent patients* - retrospective study (Free paper)



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Visits Abroad



Credits: Chazen Institute of International Business, Columbia Business School

At the University of Columbia, New York, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj gave a talk on Primary Eye Care for Universal Coverage at the Conference on Healthcare for Millions. Senior people from health care sector attended the conference. He attended the Partners Gathering of Acumen Fund and made a presentation on Aravind. He gave an update on the projects to the staff of Lavelle Fund. In Baltimore. He gave a talk on vision centres at Dana Centre. Thulasiraj also addressed the students at School of Public Health. At Esalen Institute, California, he along with Dr.Suzanne Gilbert addressed the Ashoka Fellows and spoke to them on how to remain stress free. At Hilton Foundation, he gave an update on the Hilton Cataract Initiative. He gave a talk to the staff on Aravind genesis as well as cataract blindness and its magnitude. At TOMS, he addressed the staff and gave a talk on eye care. In Las Vegas, he met with Bruce Spivey, Dr.Hnery Nkumbe and others and discussed the Cameroon eye hospital project. Dr. R.D. Ravindran signed MoU with Dr.Bruce Spivey. Mr.Thulasiraj attended the Seva board meeting also.

Sanil Joseph, Senior Faculty visited and held discussions with the faculty of Public Health and Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill with a focus on enhancing health services and epidemiological research at LAICO. He visited the Berkeley School of Optometry and gave a presentation on Aravind. He gave a talk on Aravind at the Gilling's School of Global Public Health for the faculty and students of various departments. He also visited the Cleveland Clinic's Eye Centre at Cleveland to explore their quality assurance programme. Several potential collaborative projects have come up as an outcome these visits and interactions. At Google campus, Mountain view, he had a meeting with Dr. Lily Peng the project lead to update on the Aravind - Google project to develop an automated image grading software.

Ms. K.M. Sashipriya was elected member to the board of Seva - Canada. In this capacity, she attended the annual general board meeting at Vancouver, Canada and met with the sponsors. She was also one among the three women felicitated by Seva - Canada for their leadership role in giving the power of sight in Nepal, Tanzania and India. She shared stories from the field and her own experiences working as woman in leadership positions in eye care. In the United States, Sashipriya participated in the Seva Foundation board meeting. She visited a few organisations involved in consultancy services to get to know about their way of working and apply the best practices in Aravind's consultancy programmes.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Enrolments for December 2015 at Aravind Eye Care System		
Course title	Training Centre	Enrolments for September 2015
Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Tirunelveli	1

Cornea	Coimbatore	2
General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
Glaucoma	Madurai	1
Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Madurai	2
Retina & Vitreous	Coimbatore	3
Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists		
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	2
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirunelveli	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
Diagnosis and management of Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Short Term Courses - For Paramedicals		
Vision Technician Course	Madurai	3
Training for Ocularist	Madurai	2
Instrument Maintenance Course		
Instrument Maintenance Course - For Technicians	Madurai	8



PUBLICATIONS

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Antifungal Susceptibility and Phylogeny of Opportunistic Members of the Genus Fusarium Causing Human Keratomycosis in South India.
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AUROLAB NEWS

Continuous Technical Education

Aurolab, December 12-13

A Continuous Technical Education Training was arranged for the Production staff. Participants were briefed on new products in each division, steam and ETO Sterilization, GMP and registration formalities in countries, anatomy of eye, microbiology tests etc. A motivational session on the topic Matram Munnnetram was handled by Mr.Shivalingam-Author of Vizhivaarvi.



Game Show to Support Chennai

Aurolab, December 18



Aurolab organized a game show and snacks stall to support Chennai Flood Relief Fund. Various games show were organized for the staff members. Each and every member actively participated in the game show and donated for the noble cause. A snacks stall was also displayed with items such as Gulab Jamun, Vadai, Mysore Pak, Maa Laddu etc. A total of Rs. 20,010/- was the Aurolab contribution and the amount was sent to Chennai Flood Relief Fund.



Guest Lecture on Stroke and its Signs

Aurolab, December 29



Dr. Kannan -Diabetologist from Dr.Mohan Diabetes Centre handled the session. In his lecture, he shared about what is stroke and how it attacks people. He also mentioned its different signs and ways to prevent it. The participants felt the session highly useful and informative.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

December - 2015

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Tuticorin	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS											
Paying (New & Review)	51,923	7,381	25,505	34,232	20,656	5,536	3,942	10,478	2,304	4,263	1,66,220
Free (Direct walk-in)	11,859	1,657	5,854	9,597	5,397	10	580	624	846	599	37,023
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS											
Regular Eye Camps	6,701	1,747	2,876	5,371	2,446	NA	NA	1,356	NA	NA	20,497
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	805	113	NA	955	579	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,452
Refraction Camps	578	238	1,700	479	616	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,611
Mobile Refraction Unit	NA	NA	NA	3,297	NA	NA	NA	354	NA	NA	3,651
School Screening camps	792	200	1,84	NA	4,946	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7,422
Paediatric Camps	NA	233	91	476	260	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1060
Vision Centres	15,381	5,140	8,041	2,472	3,413	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	34,447
Community Eye Clinics	NA	1,748	2,471	NA	NA	NA	835	NA	1,174	NA	6,228
Total OP Examinations	88,039	18,457	48,022	56,879	38,313	5,546	5,357	12,812	4,324	4,862	2,82,611
SURGERIES											
Paying	2,568	407	1,399	1,528	852	152	109	561	88	112	7,776
Free (Direct)	1,696	193	746	659	528	51	91	109	122	59	4,254
Camp	1,646	241	558	1,344	435	NA	42	464	12	NA	4742
Total Surgeries	5,910	841	2,703	3,531	1,815	203	242	1,134	222	171	16,772

Note: NA - Not Applicable



ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM

Admin