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Editorial

Aravind treaded one step further in its efforts to provide easy access to eye care services with the opening of a City Centre at Pondicherry. It is meant for the local population of the area particularly office-goers with timings that suit their working hours. Already Aravind has a City Centre at Madurai.

Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirupur which was opened in October 2010 initiated its outreach activities with the inauguration of its first Vision Centre at Pongalur.

The medical community once again recognized Aravind's services when two of its senior doctors were felicitated and honored at different occasions.

It has been five years since Aravind lost its beloved founder chairman, Dr.V. In commemoration of the fifth anniversary of Dr.V's memorial day, Mission Day was observed across all the centres to rededicate the institution to the cause for which he stood.

News about these events and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Quote

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."

- William James

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan receives Dr. K.S. Sanjivi award

Chennai, July 3



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer – Aravind, Tirunelveli was awarded Dr. K. S. Sanjivi award by Udhavum ullangal and Ekam in recognition of his untiring efforts in serving the underprivileged. The award was given by Dr. Santha, Chairperson, Cancer Institute, Adayar, Chennai. Dr. K.S. Sanjivi Award was instituted in 2004 in memory of Dr. K.S. Sanjivi, the founder of Voluntary Health Services and a pioneer of community health services.

IIRSI Gold Medal for Dr. R.D. Ravindran

Chennai, July 9

The Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society, India (IIRSI) honoured Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS with a gold medal for his contributions to ophthalmology at the annual convention held at Chennai.



Meritorious Doctor Award for Dr. R. Ramakrishnan

Tirunelveli, July 17



"Meritorious Doctor Award" was conferred on Dr. R. Ramakrishnan by the Indian Medical Association, Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association and Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai. The award was given in recognition of his services to the growth, sustenance and development of the Indian Medical Association and its members. Dr. Sadagopan, president - IMA presented the award at a grand function organised at Tirunelveli Medical College.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Inauguration of City Centre

Pondicherry, July 1



Aravind - Pondicherry opened a City Centre which was inaugurated by Mr. R. Chandramohan, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Puducherry. Mr. Rajiv Yaduvanshi, Health Secretary, Govt of Puducherry opened the counselling and optical dispensing centre in the presence of Mr. G. Srinivasan, President - GOVEL Trust.

Inauguration of Pongalur Vision Centre

Aravind - Tirupur, July 16



Aravind Eye Hospital-Tirupur opened its first Vision Centre at Pongalur which is about 20kms from the base hospital and covers a population of 76,655 with 16 villages around it. The centre was inaugurated formally by Mr. Parthasarathi, Secretary, P. V. Kasthuri Rangapasamy Naidu Higher Secondary School, Pongalur. Dr. V.Narendran, Chief Medical Officer-Aravind, Coimbatore presided over the function. Dr. P. Sathyan, glaucoma consultant, Aravind - Coimbatore welcomed the gathering and briefed them on the functions of vision centre. Dr. Selvi Selvakumar, Dr. Padma Sathyan, Dr. S. Ramakrishnan and various community leaders attended the function. The team screened 87 patients among which 12 were prescribed spectacles and 15 were referred to the base hospital for surgery and speciality eye care.



NEW RECORDS



Highest ever OP at Aravind- Pondicherry

June 13

Aravind- Pondicherry recorded the highest ever outpatient visits at the paying section on June 13.

New - 454; Review - 701; Total - 1155

The previous record was 1020.

Aravind – Coimbatore Sets a New Record in the Number of Refractive Surgery

Refractive surgery centre at Aravind – Coimbatore performed 154 procedures in the month of June, 2011 of which Zyoptix procedures were 152 (99%).

Highest Ever Outpatient Visits at Aravind Free Hospital

Madurai, July 11

Free hospital at Madurai recorded the highest ever number of outpatient visits (829) on July 11.



NEWS AND EVENTS

School Teachers Training Programme

Aravind – Pondicherry, June 30



The programme started with a welcome address and genesis presentation by Mr. Poobalan, Manager-Administration. Dr. Jayasudha handled a session on anatomy of eye and common eye diseases. Dr. Veena gave a talk on common eye disorders in children and the importance of nutrition in eye care. Ms. Devi – Refractionist demonstrated visual acuity measurement. The teachers were taken on a hospital tour. A total of 58 teachers participated in the programme.



Mission Day

Dr.V's fifth memorial day was observed as "Mission Day" on July 7 at all the centres of Aravind Eye Care System.



Aravind – Madurai

In Madurai, two functions were organised, one in the premises of research institute and the other in the hospital auditorium. In the GVERI function in which non-medical staff and employees participated, chairman, Dr. R.D. Ravindran reminisced the founder and his services. Dr. P. Sundaresan, senior scientist Aravind Medical Research Foundation shared the role of research in providing effective eye care. Mr. R. Meenakshisundaram, senior manager – community outreach and Mr. V. Vijyakumar, Project co-ordinator briefed on the outreach activities and the role played by LAICO in the field of community ophthalmology. At the hospital function Dr. Preethika welcomed the audience after the prayer song. Lighting the lamp was performed by Thiru. Rajagopal. Dr. Latheef Sathar, Sathar Eye Hospital shared his experiences of working with Dr.V. Dr. C. Ramasubramaniam gave a talk on Dr.V's influence in his life. Dr. N.V. Prajna proposed a vote of thanks.



Aravind – Tirunelveli

A special prayer meeting was arranged in the auditorium and special flower arrangements were made in the meditation room. The staff members paid homage by observing silence for two minutes. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Mr. Jayabalan and Sr. Chidambaram shared their association with the Chief. The staff took oath and rededicated themselves towards the hospital's mission. MLOPs sung bhajan songs and the meeting came to an end with Aravind anthem.



Aravind – Pondicherry



The programme started with a prayer song and the staff paid homage to the beloved founder by observing a moment of silence. Video presentation showing life history of Dr.V was screened. Ms.Chitra from Sarvam spoke her experiences at Aravind and shared her thoughts about the Chief. There was a bhajan performance by the staff.



Guest Lectures

Aravind - Pondicherry

June 17

Mr.Thiruvarur Shanmuga Vadivel, a retired teacher from Thiruvarur delivered a motivational talk to the MLOPs. Shanmuga Vadivel was earlier a patient of Aravind and has got rich experience in facilitating a number of debates. The lecture was very useful, highly informative and motivating.



Aravind – Tirunelveli

July 9



Mr. Ganapathy Subramanian from Jayendra Matriculation School delivered a motivational guest lecture for MLOP new recruits. He is a renowned poet, writer and an orator. He has many laurels to his credit and is known for his informative speeches.



Aravind – Pondicherry

July 16

Dr.E.Ravindra Mohan, senior consultant, Ophthalmology, Oculoplasty and Orbital Surgery, Global Hospitals Health City, Chennai handled a session on "Tops and tricks in Oculoplasty-Clinical Cases with a message" and "Management of Thyroid related Orbitopathy".



Lecture on Fire Safety Measures

Aravind – Tirunelveli, July 13



Mr. Arul Prakasam, fire safety trainer and auditor, Mr. Pandi - programme assistant and service technician, Mr. Samsudeen, sales representative from Usha Fire Safety Services, Tirunelveli gave informative lectures on "Fire extinguishers and emergency management". The staff members of housekeeping, electrical, maintenance, internal securities, MLOPs and non clinical staff actively participated in the training programme. Mr.Arul Prakasam made a very detailed presentation on emergency management and also about the different fire safety measures.

Tour for Cleaners

Aravind – Tirunelveli, July 17

As a part of employee welfare activities, cleaners who completed one year of service at Aravind - Tirunelveli were taken on a one day tour to different places in Madurai such as Thiruparankundram, Alagarkovil, Meenakshi Amman temple, Pazhamuthirsolai and Aurofarm.

Letter from Mexico about Replicating Aravind Model

Javier Okhuysen and Carlos Orellana from Mexico were at LAICO to draw out a business model for their new eye hospital. These former investment bankers aspire to build a social healthcare enterprise in Mexico City, that is self-sustainable and caters to the needs of the community. Having heard of the Aravind model from one of their teachers, they came to Madurai. During their time here they visited the Theni and Dindigul hospitals and worked on shaping their model through extensive discussions with the different staff at Aravind. They have put together a team and are working on renovating the building that will house the new clinic, "salaUno". They will also be conducting outreach camps and working with telemedicine refractive centres. salaUno will provide both paying as well as free services.

[Please click here to see the letter of appreciation](#)

CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Joint Congress of European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) meeting

Geneva, Switzerland, June 4 – 7, 2011

Dr. Mohideen Abdul Kader, Glaucoma Consultant, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli was invited as speaker at a session jointly organised by AIOS, titled "View from India - Management of Co-existing Cataract with Glaucoma". He visited Dr. Tarek Shaarawy at Geneva university Hospital (HUG) and also Dr. Pararajasegaram at WHO (OMS) office.



Cataract Initiative Meeting

Baltimore, USA, June 27



International Council of Ophthalmology recently adopted a policy statement regarding the need to address barriers to cataract surgical care. Coincidentally, the Hilton Foundation had agreed to support a "strategic landscape analysis" of the current status of cataract services and needs in Sub-Saharan Africa, the obstacles to increasing access and cataract surgical rates to appropriate levels, and opportunities for overcoming them. In this context, a small group of individuals were invited for a two day meeting to identify and gather existing data and experiences that describe the present status, and plan the agenda for action to reduce cataract blindness in sub-

Saharan Africa. Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the meeting which was organised by Prof. Alfred Sommer at the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, US.

RETNET India Meet

Bangalore, June 9 – 10

Dr. V.R Saravanan and Dr. Abhishek R. Kothari participated in the RETNET India Meet held at Bangalore.

LAICO HAPPENINGS

Instruments Maintenance Course

Aravind – Madurai, June 11



The valedictory function of the 71st Instruments Maintenance course was held on 11th June. Ms. G K Veni, Administrator - LAICO gave away the certificates and the tools kit. This course turned out to be a good example of a trainee centered course. There were only four trainees and each one had a problem and they were all tackled well by the Chief Instructor of the course Ms. D. Ganga without compromising on the training. The trainees were from Bangladesh, Zambia, Bihar and from Aravind. The trainees had their Instruments Maintenance Camp at the Coimbatore Hospital.

Aravind's Instruments Maintenance team at KCCO (Kilimanjaro Centre of Community Ophthalmology)

Moshi, Tanzania, June 20 - July 8

Prof. V. Srinivasan, Mr. S. Poornachandran and Mr. J. Gowthaman were at KCCO to run an Instruments Maintenance Course sponsored by IAPB (International Agency for Prevention of Blindness). Seventeen participants from 8 countries such as Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia participated. Since



there were participants from Francophone countries, the course was run in English and French.

Many instruments of the eye unit of KCMC (Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center) used for the course were serviced and made functional during the course. A few instruments brought by the trainees from their respective hospital were also serviced. The trainees were given a set of essential tools at the end of the course. A visit to Kilimanjaro National Park (UNESCO Heritage center) was organised as a refreshing interlude.



Visit to Kham Eye Centre

Dartsedor, China, July 2-10



Aravind team consisting of Dr. K.Tiruvengkatakrishnan, cornea consultant, Ms. K.M. Sashipriya, LAICO faculty and Mr. Praveen, programmer made a follow up visit to Kham Eye Centre to set directions for developing it into a centre of excellence. Discussions revolved around standardisation of protocols, improving MLOP training and patient flow management.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on May 2011	Enrollments for June 2011
Residency Programmes			
Diplomate of the National Board	Madurai	58	0
	Tirunelveli	35	0
	Coimbatore	18	4
	Theni	8	0
	Pondicherry	6	3
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment/Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	99	1
	Tirunelveli	12	0
	Coimbatore	21	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	39	1
	Coimbatore	20	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Madurai	93	0
	Tirunelveli	2	0
	Coimbatore	25	1
	Pondicherry	5	0

Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	99	1
	Tirunelveli	124	2
	Coimbatore	93	0
	Pondicherry	1	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	704	1
	Tirunelveli	275	1
	Coimbatore	209	0
	Pondicherry	10	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	128	2
	Tirunelveli	69	2
	Coimbatore	86	2
	Pondicherry	17	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	155	1
	Tirunelveli	106	1
	Coimbatore	122	1
	Pondicherry	20	1
	Theni	1	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	246	2
	Coimbatore	237	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
Low Vision	Madurai	31	1
Ocularist	Madurai	19	1
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	39	1
Management Courses			
Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye Care Services	LAICO	242	11

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



PUBLICATIONS

- **MIDDLE EAST AFRICAN J OPHTHAL VOL: 18(2) 2011 APR.-JUN. P.102-108**
Thualsiraj, R D; Sanil Joseph
- *How can hospital programs be strengthened to enhance achievement to Vision 2020 objectives?* [article view](#)
- **IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MEDICAL IMAGING VOL: 30(6) 2011 JUN. P. 1192-1205**
Gopal Datt Joshi; Jayanthi Sivaswamy; S. R. Krishnadas
- *Optic disk and cup segmentation from monocular color retinal images for glaucoma assessment* [article view](#)
- **OCUL. IMMUNOL. INFLAMM VOL: 19(4) 2011 P.240-245**
Wender, Jon D; Rathinam, Sivakumar R; Shaw, Richard E; Cunningham, Jr., Emmett T
- *Intraocular cysticercosis: Case series and comprehensive review of the literature* [article view](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

June - 2011

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS								
Paying (New & Review)	47,255	6,987	22,797	30,827	21,265	5,053	3,224	137,408
Free (Direct walk-in)	15,500	1,926	6,355	10,157	6,513	6	-	40,457
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS								
Regular Eye Camps	7,715	1,293	5,332	5,284	5,535	-	-	24,759
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	267	148	-	934	498	-	-	1,847
Refraction Camps	697	88	498	1,547	146	-	-	2,960
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	564	-	-	-	-	-	564
School Screening	-	-	1,255	-	-	-	-	1,255
Paediatric Camps	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	113
Vision Centres	7,384	4,000	3,429	2,495	2,024	-	-	19,332
Community Eye Clinics	3,589	1,670	4,296	-	-	-	-	9,555
Total Examinations OP	82,520	16,676	43,962	50,844	35,965	5,059	3,224	238,250
SURGERIES								
Paying	3,112	472	1,262	1,604	1,061	157	105	7,773
Free (Direct)	3,954	267	890	1,744	715	42	34	7,646
Camp	2,547	224	1,507	1,474	1,925	-	-	7,677
Total Surgeries	9,613	963	3,659	4,822	3,701	199	139	23,096



CASE STUDY

Vision Centre's role as a review facility helps a patient regain vision

The Vision Centres established by Aravind Eye Care System at various places in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry serve not only as a permanent outreach set up for preliminary eye examination but a reviewing facility that enables prompt intervention for resolving postoperative complications. In the absence of Manamadurai Vision Centre, the postoperative complications of a cataract patient would have worsened due to the patient's possible delay in approaching the hospital in Madurai.

Mariyayee (real name shielded) who belongs to a village near Manamadurai came to the vision centre a few months back for eye checkup. The preliminary eye examination revealed cataract in both of her eyes. The vision centre personnel advised surgery on the left eye immediately and sent her to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai.

At Aravind, Mariyayee was operated upon and discharged with an advice to visit Manamadurai Vision Centre for review after 15 days. During the review visit the patient complained pain and diminished vision in the left eye. On examination, the eye was found to have developed postoperative complications like redness, swelling of cornea, congestion etc.

What was the reason for the postoperative complications? When enquired, Mariyayee, a fruit seller, said that she started her business by carrying the fruit basket on her head a few days after operation contrary to hospital's advice. Her irregular and unhygienic way of instilling antibiotic eye drops, could have been an additional cause of the complications.

According to the patient's case sheet, she had a pinhole vision of 6/9 in the operated eye on the 1-st day after surgery. Now, after 15 days, her visual acuity had fallen to 6/36. The Vision Centre personnel consulted the base hospital. As advised by the doctor, the patient was referred back to Aravind-Madurai.

After detailed examination at IOL clinic, Mariyayee was admitted as inpatient and given intensive treatment to resolve her postoperative complications. When treatment was completed the patient's vision was found to have improved to the same level as it was on the 1-st day after operation. Now her vision with corrective glasses was 6/6.

She was very happy to regain clear vision and ordered for glasses. The satisfied patient brought 3 new patients to the Vision Centre for eye test. All of them underwent cataract surgery at Aravind-Madurai.

Source: Vision Centre, Manamadurai

Script: K.V.S. Lakshmanan

