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## Quote

*Believe, when you are most unhappy, that there is something for you to do in the world. So long as you can sweeten another's pain, life is not in vain.*  
 - Helen Keller

## Editorial

Taking forward the organizational mission of expanding eye care services, Aravind opened its tenth hospital in the small town of Udumalpet. With its state-of-the-art facilities and services offered, the hospital is poised to cater to the growing eye care needs of the Udumalpet community.

The changing paradigm in the field of healthcare and more specifically eye care has brought out the need for all stakeholders to come together to understand current situation and their potential and how they could gear themselves up to achieve higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness. The National Workshop on Achieving Excellence in Eye Care Delivery organized by Centre for Innovation in Public Systems and LAICO provided a platform for engaging discussions and learning from each other.

New batch of mid level ophthalmic personnel joined Aravind after completing two years of in-house training. Graduation day was conducted at the different centres towards this end. As part of employee developmental activities, felicitation programmes were arranged for the staff children who passed secondary school examination.

It became a matter of pride for the Instruments Maintenance team as a report on their recent innovation – a magnification system that can be connected to a local television – was published in the Journal of Community Eye Health.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

*Aravind News Team*

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Aravind Opens its Tenth Hospital

Udumalpet, June 10



Considering the growing eye care needs of Udumalpet community which was met only through camps, Aravind opened a new hospital at Udumalpet in the second week of June. This facility was made into a reality by the generous contribution of Mr.G.Venkataraman-Managing Trustee, G. Rudrappa Educational Trust, popularly known as "Mr.R.G Mani". The hospital serves a population of 8 lakhs in 25kms radius around Udumalpet town. The hospital facility has been planned to serve paying walk in, free walk in and patients from eye camps.

The facility was inaugurated by Ms. Vanitha Mohan, Executive Director, Pricol Ltd and Managing Trustee, Siruthuli in the presence of Thiru. G. Venkataraman, Managing Trustee, G. Rudrappa Educational Trust. The function was felicitated by Ln. C. Saji David MJF, Lions District Governor –324 B1 and

Rtn. Dr. P. V. Ravi, Rotary District Governor–Dist.3202. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System gave special address. The inaugural function was graced by the presence of senior leaders and many well wishers of Aravind. On the first day, the hospital examined 40 paying and 43 free patients and issued 29 glasses.

The sprawling campus including the residential facility has a built in area of about 22,000sq.ft and a bed capacity of 62. The hospital has state-of-the-art operation theatres which can effectively handle about 60 surgeries a day. Services available include management of refractive errors, cataract surgery, Medical Retina and Glaucoma. A well equipped optical processing laboratory to deliver world class spectacles and a contact lens clinic are also in place. The hospital also provides its service through eye camps.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Course on Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye Care Services

LAICO, June 15



The 31st batch of the course began on June 15 with welcome address by Dr. K. Ilango, Camp medical officer, Aravind – Madurai. Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer delivered the inaugural address and Mr. R Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior manager – Outreach provided the course overview. In total, twelve participants from India, Nepal, Kenya, Ireland and Bangladesh are attending this one-month course.



### Outstanding Performances

Outreach department of Aravind Eye Hospitals at Madurai, Theni, Tirunelveli, Pondicherry and Coimbatore showed remarkable performance in 2011 – 2012 in the number of outpatients screened and admitted for surgery through the different camps organised by these departments.

The free section at Aravind – Madurai recorded the so far highest number of outpatient cases (789) and admitted cases for surgery (352) on June 25. Lasik procedure was performed on 406 eyes in the month of June at Aravind, Madurai – the highest ever number for a month, the previous record being 324 eyes.



### Innovation by the Instruments Maintenance Department



Using locally available CCTV cameras, the Instruments Maintenance Department at Aravind – Madurai has come up with an innovative magnification system that can be connected to a local television. The details of this innovation has been published in the Journal of Community Eye Health, Volume 25; No:77. [Click here to see the full article](#)



### Guest Lecture

Aravind – Madurai, June 26

Ms. Vasumathi Sriganesh, CEO, QMed Knowledge Foundation, Mumbai delivered an overview of importance and methodology of literature search and an introduction of QMed Knowledge Foundation, Mumbai.



## Case Study on Aurosiksha among the Top 4 Papers at SEARC 2011 Seminar

The case study 'When Technology Meets Health Care in Knowledge Society... Aurosiksha: online learning platform for blindness prevention workers' has been selected among the top 4 papers at SEARCC 2011 seminar (South East Asia Regional Computer Confederation, Mumbai, December 2011). [Click here to see the full article](#)



## Valedictory Function of the Instruments Maintenance Course

Madurai, June 28



Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Outreach, presided the valedictory function and gave away the certificates and tools to the trainees. Ms. Veni, Administrator, LAICO felicitated the trainees during the occasion. For the first time, in the 16 year history of this course, the department had two trainees from China, thanks to the efforts of Ms. Veni. This has taken the total number of countries benefitted from Aravind's instruments maintenance courses to 43. There was sharing of experience by the participants.



## CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

### Association of Physician of India Conference

Tuticorin, April 29

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan

- *Ocular Manifestation of DM and HT – what more*



### World Association of Eye Hospitals (WAEH)

Bangkok, Thailand June 5 - 7

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan

- *Role of vision centres in providing primary eye care – Aravind model*



### Glaucoma Surgical Symposium

Chennai, June 9

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan performed live surgery and led discussions on surgical management of Glaucoma held at Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Chennai.



### Eighth Pacific Health Summit

London, UK, June 12- 15



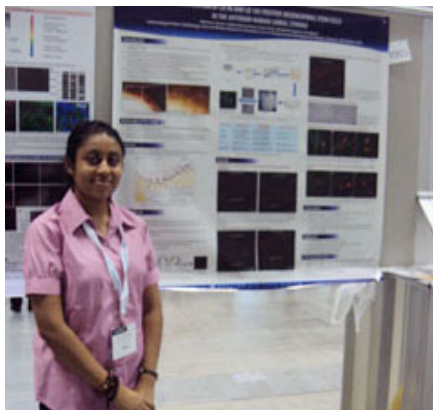
Dr. R. Venkatesh participated in the Eighth Pacific Health Summit and presented the following paper

- *Aravind model of using technology for prevention of blindness.*



### 10th Annual Meeting of International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR)

Pacifico Yokohama, Yokohama, Japan, June 13-16



Ms Saumi Mathews, Junior Research Fellow, Aravind Medical Research Foundation had the opportunity to attend 10th Annual Meeting of ISSCR and present poster titled Identification of CD 90 and CD 105 positive mesenchymal stem cells in the anterior human limbal stroma. She was awarded travel fellowship by the Indian Council of Medical Research and other support from Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Aravind Medical Research Foundation to attend the meet.



## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### Melody Friday

LAICO, June 15

The 31st edition of Melody Friday was held at LAICO in the second week of June. The programme was anchored by Mr. Sanil Joseph, Faculty – LAICO. Mr. Anhsuman Varma and Ms. Nithya from Dr. GVERI, Ms. Kowsalya, Counsellor, Ms. Logan, project student from the United States, with their pleasing renditions added colour to the whole event.



### Graduation Ceremony of MLOPs

June 24



#### Aravind – Madurai

Dr. R. Kim delivered the welcome address for the MLOP graduation ceremony conducted at Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute, Madurai. All the newly graduated sisters took the Florence Nightingale Oath. A few of them shared their experiences during the training period at Aravind. Dr. Usha Kim distributed prizes for the best performers and delivered a talk on the major responsibilities and the roles of the MLOPs. Dr. S.R. Krishnadas offered felicitations during the occasion.



#### Aravind – Pondicherry



Ms. Iyyammal, Counsellor welcomed the gathering at the graduation ceremony of the MLOPs. Ms.Selvarani and Ms..Subbulakshmi, lighted the kuthuvilaku. The Florence Nightingale pledge was taken by all the trainees by holding the lighted candle. Dr. K. Veena gave the felicitation address; congratulated all the MLOPs and motivated them to work well in the coming years. She distributed the prize to Sr. Maria Rekha for securing the highest score. Some of the trainees shared their experiences during the training.



#### Aravind – Tirunelveli

The function started with a prayer song followed by Welcome address by Sr. Arumugam. A few of the IInd year MLOPs shared their experiences of working at Aravind. The sisters took the Florence Nightingale Pledge. Cash awards were distributed to Ms. Janaki, OP Trainee, Sr. Karthiga, counsellor trainee and Sr. Prema, Lab trainee by Dr. Meenakshi, Dr. Shivakumar and Sr. Chidambaram for having scored the highest mark in the exam conducted in April 2012. The program came to a happy end with vote of thanks by Ms. Chitra, Refraction Trainee. Dr. Meenakshi, Dr. Shivakumar, Sr.Chidambaram, Sr.Arumugam and Ms. Lakshmi. R, second year MLOPs and their parents facilitated



the function.



### Staff Children Felicited

Aravind – Madurai, June 16



As part of employee welfare activities, HR department organised a meeting for the staff children who have successfully passed their secondary school examination. In total 12 children and their parents participated in this meeting. Ms. Meera, Daughter of Dr. N.V. Prajna and Dr. Lalitha Prajna was a special invitee for this function, since she was the top scorer in the Higher Secondary Examination. She gave valuable tips to the students related to studies and how to prepare for the higher secondary public exams.

Dr. S.R.Krishnadas, Director HR gave the special address and distributed prizes to the children.



### Training Programme for Housekeeping Staff at Pegasus

June 8



As part of employee development activities the Housekeeping and Catering Department of Aravind – Pondicherry were taken to visit Pegasus training institute to develop their skills.



## LAICO HAPPENINGS

### National Workshop on Achieving Excellence in Eye Care Delivery

LAICO, June 16 – 17



The workshop organised by CIPS (Centre for Innovation in Public Systems), Hyderabad was hosted by LAICO. CIPS has been set up by Govt. of India that would explore transformation of education, health care and governance in public systems by learning within or across the sectors (govt non-government). They are placed at ASCI, Hyderabad.

The country's continued economic growth has led to a spurt of innovations happening across the country cutting across different disciplines. These have the effect of redefining the potential and possibilities in eye care. These coupled with proactive health care programmes such as NRHM and welfare measures being implemented by the government present greater opportunities of reaching out and serving the community effectively. Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology, being the apex institutions, for eye care services in the respective States, have the mandate to play a vital role in developing key policies, training the staff from the government hospitals at district and primary levels in addition to carrying out

research. This dynamically changing paradigm in recent times has brought out the need for all stakeholders to come together to understand current situation and their potential and how RIOs and others could gear themselves up to achieve higher levels of efficiency and effectiveness – all these through engaging discussions and learning from each other. This workshop aimed at doing this.

Directors of Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology, senior leaders from government hospitals and medical colleges and NPCB State Programme Officers and key people from a couple of NGO hospitals participated in the workshop. As a result of this workshop, CIPS would like to come up with a document that would be widely circulated both at the levels of central government and State government officials.

The workshop began on June 16 with welcome address by Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System. Mr. D Chakrapani, IAS (Retd.), Director, Center for Innovations in Public Systems, Hyderabad provided an overview of CIPS and introduced the objectives of the workshop to the participants. Mr. R. D. Thuaisiraj, Executive Director – LAICO set the context and the workshop was officially inaugurated by Ms. Sujaya Krishnan, IAS Joint Secretary, Administration, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.



### SF 1588 Workshop

June 3- 8

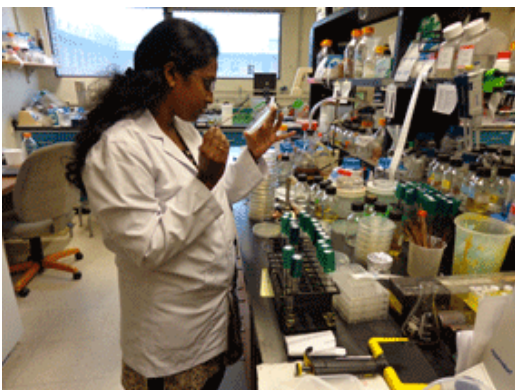


The fifth vision building workshop conducted as part of the SF 1588 project was held at LAICO in the first week of June. The workshop was marked by the presence of many eminent Lions leaders including Ln. Ashok Mehta, Ln. Dr. Jatin Shah, Ln. Jayant Parekh and Ln. Divyesh Shah. A total of 14 Lions Eye Hospitals participated in this workshop.



## INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

### Visit to Geisel School of Medicine, Hanover, USA



Ms. J.Lakshmi Priya, Department of Ocular Microbiology, AMRF participated in the ARVO Conference at fort Lauderdale, Florida and presented the poster titled "Characterization of Pseudomonas aeruginosa Type Three secretory system (TTSS) effector molecules (Exo U/S/T) from human keratitis".

After the ARVO, she visited Geisel school of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Hanover, USA, for 3 weeks in May 2012. The purpose of the visit was to learn different types of assay in characterising the phenotypes of Pseudomonas aeruginosa from ocular isolates, under the guidance of Dr. Michael Zegans. Pseudomonas aeruginosa causes poor visual outcome in patients with ocular infection. Hence detailed study in understanding the pathogenesis of this organism is needed.

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



## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on	Enrollments for June 2012
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May 2012

<b>Long Term Fellowship Courses</b>			
<b>Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology &amp; Strabismus</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	60	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	23	0
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	3	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	3	0
<b>Fellowship in Cornea</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	47	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	28	0
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	0	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	5	0
<b>Fellowship in Retina Vitreous</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	105	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	36	0
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	3	0
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	9	0
<b>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>			
<b>Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	111	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	133	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	104	2
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	2	1
<b>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	172	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	115	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	134	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	23	0
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	265	2
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	261	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	6	0
<b>Phacomulsification</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	149	1
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	86	0
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	103	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	20	0
<b>Ocularist</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	24	1
<b>Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	44	1
<b>Paediatric Nurse</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	57	1
<b>Non-Clinical Course</b>			
<b>Community Outreach and Social Marketing for Eye Care Services</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	258	12
<b>Instrument Maintenance for Technicians</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	388	3



## PUBLICATIONS

- **Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed. 2012 May 18. [Epub]**  
Parag, K Shah; Narendran, V; Kalpana Narendran  
- *Aggressive posterior retinopathy of prematurity in large preterm babies in South India.* [article view](#)
- **Hum Mutat. 2012 Feb; 33(2):419-28.**  
Vilas GL, Loganathan SK, Quon A, Sundaresan P, Vithana EN, Casey J.

- *Oligomerization of SLC4A11 protein and the severity of FECD and CHED2 corneal dystrophies caused by SLC4A11 mutations.* [article view](#)

• **J Ophthalmic Inflamm Infect. 2012 [Epub]**

Davis EJ, Rathinam SR, Okada AA, Tow SL, Petrushkin H, Graham EM, Chee SP, Guex-Crosier Y, Jakob E, Tugal-Tutkun I, Cunningham ET Jr, Leavitt JA, Mansour AM, Winthrop KL, Hills WL, Smith JR.

- *Clinical spectrum of tuberculous optic neuropathy.* [article view](#)

• **INT OPHTHALMOL. 2012 JUN 30. [Epub]**

Mascarenhas J, Srinivasan M, Chen M, Rajaraman R, Ravindran M, Lalitha P, Oldenburg CE, Ray KJ, Glidden DV, Costanza S, Lietman TM, Acharya NR

- *Differentiation of etiologic agents of bacterial keratitis from presentation characteristics.* [article view](#)

• **EYE (LOND). 2012 Jun 29. [Epub]**

Prajna, N Venkatesh; Thiruvengakrishnan, T; Jeena Mascarenhas; Srinivasan, M; Oldenburg CE; Toutain-Kidd CM; Sy A; McLeod SD; Zegans ME; Acharya NR; Lietman TM; Porco TC.

- *Predictors of Outcome in Fungal Keratitis.* [article view](#)



## MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

June - 2012										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Total	
<b>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</b>										
Paying (New & Review)	47,247	6,930	22,265	30,939	21,231	5,448	3,352	7,366	144,778	
Free (Direct walk-in)	14,778	1,929	5,940	9,769	6,733	14	-	-	39,163	
<b>OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS</b>										
Regular Eye Camps	7,723	1,823	4,723	3,993	5,320	-	-	-	23,582	
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	-	325	369	608	184	-	-	-	1,486	
Refraction Camps	307	162	1,545	1,208	712	-	-	512	4,446	
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	640	-	-	-	-	-	-	640	
School Screening camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ICDS Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Paediatric Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vision Centres	8,801	4,261	4,800	-	2,229	-	-	-	20,091	
Community Eye Clinics	3,596	1,652	1,782	-	-	-	-	-	7,030	
<b>Total OP Examinations</b>	<b>82,452</b>	<b>17,722</b>	<b>41,424</b>	<b>46,517</b>	<b>36,409</b>	<b>5,462</b>	<b>3,352</b>	<b>7,878</b>	<b>241,216</b>	
<b>SURGERIES</b>										
Paying	4,160	503	1,123	1,632	984	166	118	370	9,056	



Free (Direct)	4,445	289	928	1,618	772	36	63	38	8,189
Camp	2,349	263	1,388	979	1,365	-	-	60	6,404
<b>Total Surgeries</b>	<b>10,954</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>3,439</b>	<b>4,229</b>	<b>3,121</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>23,649</b>

