



Inside

SPECIAL EVENTS
 NEWS AND EVENTS
 CONFERENCES
 ATTENDED ELSEWHERE
 LAICO HAPPENINGS
 INTERNAL CAPACITY
 BUILDING
 TRAINING
 PROGRAMMES
 PUBLICATIONS
 AUROLAB NEWS
 MONTHLY PATIENT
 STATISTICS
 ARAVIND MANAGED EYE
 HOSPITALS
 CASE STUDY

Aravind News Team
Archives

Hit Counter 1

Dear Readers

This issue of the news letter brings to you the details of Aravind staff participating in various international fora like International Council of Ophthalmology, ARVO 2010 Meeting and World Ophthalmic Congress.

Free Hospital at Aravind – Madurai created a record in performing the highest yet number of surgeries in a week as Surandai Vision Centre in attending to a highest OP.

Vizhi Vaelvi, biography of Dr. G. Venkataswamy was brought out as an apt tribute to this noble soul.

Total Quality Management (TQM) measures have been undertaken at four of the hospital departments from December 2009 onwards. Subsequently, a follow up on the implementation of these activities was also conducted.

In order to cater to the growing volume of patients, a separate Cataract Clinic was inaugurated at Aravind – Pondicherry.

News about these and other events feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Quote

Do not dwell in the past,
 do not dream of the future,
 concentrate the mind on
 the present moment.
 - Buddha

SPECIAL EVENTS

Book Release – Vizhi Vaelvi

Aravind-Madurai, May 20



Vizhi Vaelvi, the biography of Dr. G. Venkataswamy written by Mr. Sivalingam was released by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India. Dr. Mayilvahanan, Vice Chancellor, Dr. M.G.R. Medical University received the first copy. The function was held at the spacious ground floor hall of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute building.

"Vizhi Vaelvi" would trigger a big change in the youth's life, said Dr. Abdul Kalam, while releasing the book. Dr. G. Natchiar delivered welcome address in which she gave the genesis of "VizhiVaelvi" and the objectives with which the book has been brought out. She

concluded with an assertion that Aravind will continue to proceed in the direction shown by Dr. V keeping in mind Sri Krishna's Gita teaching that one should perform his duty without expecting benefits. Releasing the book "Vizhi Vaelvi" published by Vikatan publication, Dr. Abdul Kalam said that Dr. Venkataswamy's Aravind Eye Care System has created a record in its mission of eliminating needless blindness. Dr. Mayilvahanan Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor

who spoke after receiving the first copy of the book said that the biography has been aptly named as "Vizhi Vaelvi", since Dr. Venkataswamy carried out his mission of providing eye sight to the visually impaired as if he was performing an "yagna" which means "Vaelvi" in Tamil. He praised Dr. V as "Kannoli Gandhi" and suggested to bring out a book in English on his missionary journey for the benefit of the international community. Mr. Sivalingam in his introductory speech thanked Aravind leaders for having given the opportunity of writing Dr. V's life story. He explained how association with Dr. Venkataswamy transformed his life. Mr. G. Srinivasan, President, Govel Trust proposed a vote of thanks.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Congratulations

Highest Number of Surgeries in a Week
 Free Hospital, Aravind – Madurai
 performed 1020 free direct surgeries from May 3 – 8.
Cataract – 954; Others - 66; Total - 1020

Highest OP at Surandai Vision Centre
 June 7
New – 59; Review -16; Total – 75.



Motivational Talk

Aravind - Tirunelveli, May 14



A motivational talk on Conscience was arranged for the doctors, MLOPs and administrative staff. The talk was delivered by Mr. R.G. Rajendran. Mr. Rajendran, based in Courtallam has dedicated his life for social service after completing 24 years of government service. He has been instrumental in developing a model village at Mudichur in Chennai.



CME on Prophylaxis of Post-operative Ocular Infections

Aravind - Tirunelveli, May 16



In the CME arranged for the MLOPs, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer spoke on pre-operative procedures right from vision checking till giving the block. He elaborately explained the preventive steps that the MLOPs could take to avoid infection. Dr. Shivakumar spoke on Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome (TASS) and also explained how different TASS is from endophthalmitis and the preventive measures to be taken. Dr. M. Jayahar Bharathi, Microbiologist spoke on Prophylaxis of endophthalmitis - Microbiological characteristics and explained the prevention techniques.



Follow up of TQM (Total Quality Management) Initiatives

Aravind – Madurai, May 20



A seminar was organized by CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) on the follow up of TQM initiatives carried out at IOL Clinic, Medical Records Department, Operation Theatre and Ward. This was done as a follow up of the TQM workshop organised in December 2009. Representatives from Medical Records, Ward, IOL and Operation Theatre got an opportunity to share their experience on 5S initiatives (part of Total Quality Management). Mr. C. S. Nath, Quality consultant facilitated the seminar. Ms. Arumugaselvi, Coordinator – IOL Clinic presented various initiatives undertaken in these four departments. Ms. Velankani (MRD), Ms. Meenakshi (Ward) and Ms. Priya (OT)

represented their respective departments and supported Ms. Arumugaselvi during the question - answer session. The presentation consisted of a brief description of the work carried out by Aravind Eye Care System, the reason why Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai chose to implement TQM and the pre and post implementation photos and their impact in the functioning of the departments. The organisers felicitated the Aravind team and the members who attended the workshop with a memento titled "Excellent Case Study Presentation".



Graduation Ceremony of MLOP Trainees

May 23



Aravind – Madurai

Graduation Day was organised for the MLOPs who completed their two year training programme.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

Mr.Dhinakaran - Assistant Administrator, Mrs.Chidambaram – Nursing Superintendent, Mrs.Arumugam - Deputy Nursing Superintendent, Ms.Lakshmi.R - Manager HR and parents of the MLOPs attended the function. The function started with a prayer song followed by Sathiya Selvi's welcome address. MLOPs shared their two year working

experience at Aravind with the audience. There was a lamp lighting ceremony. MLOPs took pledge. Cash awards were distributed to those who scored highest marks in the exam conducted in April 2010. The programme came to an end with vote of thanks by Ms. Prema, Supervisor - Counselling Department.

Aravind – Pondicherry

The function commenced with a prayer song. Ms.Vimala welcomed the gathering. Dr.Nirmala, Ms.Selvarani, Ms.Kavitha, Ms.Dhanabakiyam and Ms.Muthulakshmi lighted the kuththuvilaku. Florence Nightingale pledge was taken by the trainees holding the lighted candle. Dr. Thiruvengkatakrishnan gave the felicitation address and motivated them for a better performance in the coming years. Dr.Nirmala distributed prize to Ms.Muthulakshmi for securing the highest marks in housekeeping. Trainees shared their experiences at Aravind. Ms.Subbulakshmi delivered a vote of thanks. The function came to an end with the National anthem.

Aravind – Coimbatore

83 MLOPs were graduated after completing their two – year training.



Training on Laser Assisted Deep Sclerectomy (LADS)

Aravind – Pondicherry, May 27 – 29

Prof. Ehud. I. Assia, Director, Department of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv University, Israel and, CEO Dr. Ami Eyal, Israel IOPTIMATE Bio Light and Mr. Allon Bogin visited Aravind, Pondicherry to provide training on the new procedure LADS (Laser Assisted Deep Sclerectomy). Glaucoma consultants from Madurai, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore and Pondicherry had hands on training after a wet lab session. Prof. Ehud I. Assia and Dr. Ami Eyal delivered a guest lecture on May 28, attended by members of Pondicherry Ophthalmic Association.



Anniversary of Punjai Puliampatti Vision Centre

Aravind-Coimbatore, May 28



Vision Centre at Punjai Puliampatti, Aravind - Coimbatore celebrated its second anniversary at Govt. Elementary Secondary School. An exhibition was conducted with a view to creating awareness on eye care and functions of Vision Centre. A Diabetic Retinopathy Screening camp was held, where the outpatient turnout was 131 with 39 known diabetes patients and 2 new. Various community leaders including Mr. Muralikrishnan- Vice Chairman, Punjai Puliampatti Municipality, Mr. Sakthivel-President, Y's mens Club, Mr. Ramasamy - correspondent, Sindhamani Vidhyalaya, Mr. Loganathan - Head Master, Sindhamani Vidhyalaya attended the programme.

Mr.Murugaraju, Camp Manager welcomed the gathering and briefed on the functions of Primary Eye Examination Centre in the community. Ms. Ushadevi, Vision Centre Coordinator presented the annual report of the centre. Mr.Senniappan- Maintenance Manager honoured the chief guests. Dr. Jeyasri-Retina Fellow and Dr. Pradeep - Senior Resident and Incharge of Punjai Puliampatti centre were the key persons in making the whole event a successful one.



Paediatric Awareness Exhibition

Srivaikuntam, May 28 – 29



A Paediatric Exhibition was conducted to create awareness among the public especially parents and children. Posters, charts and models were displayed. Around 120 persons visited the exhibition.



Excursion Programme

Aravind – Tirunelveli, June 6



Technicians and staff members of Optical Sales went on a one day tour to Bay Watch, amusement park at Kanyakumari.



Inauguration of Cataract Clinic

Aravind-Pondicherry, June 7



Cataract clinic was inaugurated in the presence of Dr.R.D.Ravindran, CMO, Dr.Venkatesh, Deputy CMO, Dr.Thiruvengkatakrishnan, Consultant, Dr.Badrinath, Medical Officer, Mr.Kanagaraj, Manager and the entire Cataract team. All the pre operative and post operative cataract cases will be handled in this clinic hereafter.



66th Instruments Maintenance Course

Aravind-Madurai, June 11



The 66th Instruments Maintenance Course was concluded on June 11. Participants included three from India and one each from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Madagascar. This has taken the total number of technicians trained by the department to 401. Prof. J. Vasanthan, Rtd. Professor of English, The American College, Madurai gave away the certificates and tool kits to the trainees and congratulated them for their achievements in the course. Miss J. Merlin Meena was the chief instructor of the course.



Mr. Nobert Kamaleu of Cameroon, alumnus of the Instruments Maintenance Course visited Aravind. He is one of the successful trainees of the course. He interacted with the trainees of the 66th course during his visit. At LAICO meeting he also gave a brief talk on his experiences during and after the completion of instruments maintenance course when he was back in his country.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

International Council of Ophthalmology Meetings



Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna attended the International Council of Ophthalmology Marking / Question setting meeting and advanced examination meeting in London from May 11 - 17.

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj attended the ICO Board Meeting and Refractive Error Meeting at Berlin. He also attended the meeting on Research inputs in School Screening, IAPB-HR Committee meeting and also held discussions with the team of Nigeria Catholic Eye Hospitals.



IAPB Workshop

New Delhi, May 13 - 14

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director -LAICO and Ms. Preethi Pradhan, Senior Faculty attended the IAPB workshop on Creating an Actionable Advocacy Roadmap for Eye Health in India.



Drug Trial Meeting

Frankfurt, May 21 – 22

Dr. V. R. Saravanan participated in the meeting on drug trial, "Interleukin antagonist in treatment of posterior uveitis".

World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC)

Berlin, June 2 – 11



Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna

- *Challenges and Solutions from India*
- *The Need for and Approach to Teaching Manual Cataract Surgery*

Dr. V. Narendran

- *Chief Instructor for the course, Current trends in management of ROP*
- *Risk factors and screening of Retinopathy of Prematurity*

Dr. Parag. K. Shah

- *Pathogenesis and classification of Retinopathy of Prematurity*

Dr. Kalpana Narendran

- *Rehabilitation of Retinopathy of Prematurity*

Dr. Rodney J Morris

- *Tele-ophthalmology as a screening tool for diabetic retinopathy in rural population*
- *Anatomical and visual outcome following posterior segment intra ocular foreign body removal (poster)*

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

- *The Aravind Telemedicine System for Detecting and Treating DR*

He also chaired the session on

- *New challenges to Vision 2020: Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy.*

Dr. Vijayalakshmi

- *Optimising the visual outcome in paediatric cataract surgery - clinical aspects*
- *Paediatric infectious eye diseases - prevention and management*

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj

- *Role of large NGOs*
- *Neglected areas in Research*

He also chaired the session on Changing Realities in Eye Care

LAICO HAPPENINGS

Vision Building and Strategic Planning Workshop

LAICO, May 17 – 22

At the inauguration of the workshop, Ln. N . A. K. Gopalakrishna Raja delivered the welcome address which was followed by Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj's keynote address. Ms. Sashipriya presented the workshop objectives and overview. A total of 15 persons attended the workshop.



Valedictory Function

LAICO, May 22



At the Valedictory Function of the Course on Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj gave the valedictory address and distributed certificates to the participants. A total of nine participants attended the course. Mr. M. Prasanth proposed a vote of thanks.

Melody Friday

LAICO, May 28

This month's Melody Friday held in LAICO Auditorium brought in some promising new singers. A duet by Dr. Divya and Dr. Vivekanandan from the film "Varumaiyin Niram Sikappu" was beautifully rendered and well received. The internationally popular Tamil song "Chinna Chinna Aasai" and its Hindi version "Chotti Chotti Aasha" were rendered partly by Dr. Divya and Dr. Aditi very nicely to the delight of the audience. Dr. SriDevi, First Year Resident, Ms. Seema, Orthoptist trainee, and Ms. Vanitha, Refractionist also pleased the audience with their melodious numbers. Mr. Sanil Joseph, Faculty who compered the programme sang two Hindi numbers which made the listeners wonder whether they were hearing the original film songs. Mr. K.V.S. Lakshmanan, Consulting Editor as usual sang a devotional written and tuned by him. The theme for the next Melody Friday was announced as "Colours".

Visit to Tampere University Hospital

Finland



Aravind team consisting of Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj and Dr. Kalpana Narendran visited Tampere University Hospital to help improve its operational efficiency. The team was invited to demonstrate project for clearing the backlog and help integrate efficiency process employed in the demonstration project into their regular day-to-day work.

INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Dr. P. Sundaresan's Visit Abroad

France, USa, April 3-May 11



Dr. P.Sundaresan, Senior Scientist, Aravind Medical Research Foundation visited Dr. Renier A.Veitia research laboratories to INSERM and Institute of Jacob and Monod, Paris under the Indo-French-ICMR-INSERM project entitled "Genetic and functional dissection of FOXL2 gene involved in the pathogenesis of the Blepharophimosis Syndrome (BPES)" from April 3-14, 2010. He discussed with Dr. Reiner on BPES - genetics and FOXL2 gene expression. Paris Tamil Sangam felicitated him and he gave a special talk on Age related eye diseases and role of Aravind eye care system to eliminate needless blindness.

He got travel award from Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) for a two week visit to Prof. John W Crabb, laboratory Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland. During the two weeks period (April 15-30, 2010), he discussed with Dr. John Crabb and his lab members on the glaucoma biomarker study and learned the technology for proteomic biomarker discovery and validation. Dr. P.Sundaresan also visited Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on April 2010	Enrollments for May 2010
Residency Programmes			
Diploma Course in Ophthalmology	Madurai	188	4
Master of Surgery in Ophthalmology	Madurai	66	6
Long Term Fellowship Courses-For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment/Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	95	1
	Tirunelveli	10	0
	Coimbatore	18	0
	Pondicherry	10	0
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Madurai	88	0
	Tirunelveli	1	0
	Coimbatore	21	1
	Pondicherry	3	0
Fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty	Madurai	24	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	109	0
	Tirunelveli	98	1
	Coimbatore	77	1
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	697	0
	Tirunelveli	265	2
	Coimbatore	203	0
	Pondicherry	8	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	114	2
	Tirunelveli	61	1
	Coimbatore	74	0
	Pondicherry	14	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	137	3

	Tirunelveli	97	1
	Coimbatore	112	1
	Pondicherry	13	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	231	2
	Coimbatore	218	2
Instrument Maintenance Course - Non Clinical Courses			
Instrument Maintenance for Technicians	Madurai	396	9
	Coimbatore	2	0

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



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- Indian Journal of PATHOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY IJPM / Vol. 53 / Issue 2 / April - June 2010
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- *Prevalence of bacterial pathogens causing ocular infections in South India*

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AUROLAB NEWS

Teachers' Get Together

Aurolab, May 8



To strengthen the relationship that Aurolab has established with various schools for recruiting production trainees, a Teachers' Get Together was arranged in its premises. Heads and teachers from twenty – five schools attended this interactive programme. The guests were taken on a tour to the various divisions of Aurolab. The teachers shared their experience about the whole event and appreciated the efforts taken by the production trainees, the ex-students of their own schools in conducting this programme.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

May - 2010						
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS						
Paying (New & Review)	45,591	6,825	23,186	29,938	20,600	126,140
Free (Direct walk-in)	14,189	1,865	5,575	9,057	5,341	36,027
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS						
Regular Eye Camps	6,991	1,779	4,444	7,680	5,136	26,030
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	232	433	-	2,431	205	3,301
Refraction Camps	940	374	432	1,510	189	3,445
School Screening	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vision Centres	5,039	3261	2,741	1,783	1,682	14,506
Community Eye Clinics	3,260	1,428	3,512	2,508	-	10,708
Total OP Examinations	76,242	15,965	39,890	54,907	33,153	220,157
SURGERIES						

Paying	2,995	571	1,300	6,130	1,048	12,044
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	3,195	231	717	2,967	1,956	9,066
Camp	1,864	184	1,141	1,839	1,354	6,382
Total Surgeries	8,054	986	3,158	10,936	4,358	27,492



ARAVIND MANAGED EYE HOSPITALS

Cooking Competition

Sudarshan Netralaya, Amreli, June 6



As a part of employee welfare activities, a cooking competition was organised in which the staff members including medical officers participated very enthusiastically and prepared colourful, decorative and tasty dishes.



Sudarshan Netralaya gets New Optical Equipment

Amreli, May 1



Sudarshan Netralaya Optical has expanded its capacity of delivering high quality spectacles by adding Semi Automatic Edging Machine as well as three piece machines to its inventory. The machine which was installed on May 1 helps to fit three piece frames and CR lenses with high quality.



Priyamvada Birla Aravind Eye Hospital

Dr.Dipanjan Pal and Mr. Suman Saha (Microbiologist) have been selected for scientific paper and video presentation at World Ophthalmology Congress 2010 at Berlin-Germany from June 5-9.

8 MLOPs of the sixth batch completed their training and celebrated the Graduation Day.



CASE STUDY

A mentally challenged man undergoes Cataract surgery: Both eyes consecutively!



A 31 year old male patient Subramanian (real name shielded) suffering from a clinical condition called the "Down's Syndrome" was operated upon for cataract consecutively on both of his eyes at Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry recently. Down's syndrome is associated with some impairment of cognitive ability and physical growth and a particular facial characteristics. It is named after John Langdan Down, the British physician who described the syndrome in 1866.

When Subramanian, the patient was a child, he was admitted to a primary school. As the very look of him betrayed that he was a mentally challenged one, the other children kept

away from him. The teacher who noticed the seclusion of Subramanian called in his parents after 3 days of his admission and asked them to take back their son with an advice not to send him again to the school. Other schools too refused to admit him. Hence, they brought him up with much love and affection and trained him at home to take care of his needs without others help.

Now in his thirties, Subramanian will take his bath every morning and stand in front of pictures of gods to pray. Without finishing prayer he will not take his breakfast. He watches T.V. regularly. Listening to songs from FM Radio was his most favourite hobby. Though he could not speak fluently, he liked chatting very much, and relished playing with children. The 31 year old man is being taken care of by his parents as if he were a one year child.

However, since the last 3 months, the parents noticed a marked change in his activities. He stopped going out to the temple daily and always stayed at home. He avoided playing with children. He had difficulty in walking and exhibited confusion in picking out things. However, he managed to move inside his house, since it was an accustomed place. But, when the family visited a relative's house, he stumbled down and got injured.

Only then his parents realised that Subramanian had developed eye problem and took him to a private eye doctor. After examination, the doctor found out cataract in both the eyes, but refused to do the surgery, since he was a mentally challenged person. Hence, they took him to Aravind -Pondicherry.

Dr. Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, who examined Subramanian, after discussing with his parents, decided to remove his cataract in both eyes consecutively i.e. in the same sitting after giving a sedative injection. Day before surgery, the patient was told by his sister that "This uncle will bring you a new chair and bed tomorrow". In the operation theatre next day, he was shown a chair as being the new one. He calmly sat on the seat. The doctor did the surgery successfully in both eyes.

Next day, after the bandage was removed, Subramanian was able to see with both eyes clearly. He walked to the place in the hospital ward where pictures of gods were fixed on the wall. He could use the toilet alone. His parents and sister informed this to the hospital staff with full of joy.

It was really a happy moment not only for the patient, his family members but also for the Aravind employees!

Source: A. Nitya

Aravind- Pondicherry

