Editorial

This newsletter brings you various academic and service oriented activities of Aravind to establish its excellence and effectiveness is the field of Global Eye Care. International nurses day and world retinoblastoma awareness week are observed in Tirunelveli and Coimbatore respectively.

Many senior doctors of AECS took part in symposiums and seminars. Dr.R.D.Ravindran delivered an inspiring speech at the National Symposium on Excellence in Training. Dr.P.Sundaresan was touring from China to Israel to US in this month and delivered talks, discussed future potential collaborations and presented a poster (ARVO 2016).

Kids of the Aravind staff in Madurai, had a great experience in their summer camp called ‘Kodai Kondattam’ which included Folk Dance, Drawing, Yoga, Trekking, Puppet show etc.

Staff of LAICO went on a tour to Thekkadi and had a enjoyable break from their routine.

Several informative and interesting events and news for you to cherish.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Mentorship Development Programme
Aravind – Madurai, 2nd May, 2016

A workshop to develop Mentorship Programme for Doctors was organized at Madurai. Senior medical officers from Madurai were invited to be a part of the discussion. The workshop was designed and facilitated by Mr. Larry Hulbert (Organization development expert and coach) and Dr. Devendra Tayade. There was a healthy discussion to define the purpose and approach where everyone agreed that mindset has to be aimed at uncovering, reinforcing and helping mentees to build on their greatest strengths.

State Bank Officers Donated a Medical Equipment
Aravind Madurai – 12th May, 2016
State Bank Officers of Madurai attended a meeting in Madurai Aravind Eye Hospital to donate medical equipment – "Heidelberg spectral is OCT". Dr.Kim, CMO of Madurai AEH detailed the role of this equipment.

Mr.G.Srinivasan, the president of GOVEL Trust welcomed the officials and received the sponsorship from SBI, Bank. Mr.Ramesh Babu, the chief general manager of SBI, delivered the special address. The Executive Director of AECS Mr.R.D.Thulasi Raj thanked the officials.

**A Day for Nurses**

Aravind – Tirunelveli 12th May, 2016

International Nurses day was celebrated in Tirunelveli on the 12th of May. Special programmes were organized at the evening. Sr.Pankaja Rani, supervisor, OPD welcomed the gathering and Sr. Chitra Devi did the anchoring. A speech about Florence Nightingale was delivered by Sr.Kiruba, Sr.Ishwarya and her team explained the roles and responsibilities of the nurse, by a skit.

Dr.R.Ramakrishnan, CMO and Dr.Meenakshi, Deputy CMO addressed the meeting.

**Kodai Kondattam**

Aravind Madurai May 2 - 17, 2016
Kodai Kondattam - the Summer camp for the children of the staff of Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai and Aurolab was organized for two weeks at Aravind-Madurai. 77 children aged between 6 and 14 attended the camp. From 9 in the morning to 5 in the evening, the days were packed with lively activities – that included Oyilattam (a folk dance), Australian foot ball, trekking and swimming. The camp was concluded with a grand valedictory function on Tuesday evening which was attended by all the parents of the children and Aravind senior staff.

A Press Meet to Release the Research Finding on Cataract
Aravind – Madurai, 24 May 2016

A new study conducted by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Aravind Eye Hospital and All India Institute for medical sciences, found that Indian women who cook with biomass fuels such as wood, crop residues and dried dung instead of cleaner fuels such as gas were nearly 50% more likely to have cataracts. This research finding was released in a press meet conducted on 24th May at AEH, Madurai.

Reporters from several English and Tamil Newspapers attended the press meet and the news was published in several major newspapers.

A New Showroom for the Aravind Optical
Aravind - Madurai, 26, May 2016

A new showroom was inaugurated for the sales of Opticals in the ground floor at A Block in the paying OP building, Madurai.

Dr.R.D.Ravindran Addressed the National Symposium
Aravind - Madurai, 27th May 2016

The second national symposium on Excellence in Training was conducted in the Vigyan Bhawan at New Delhi on the 27th of May 2016. Dr.R.D.Ravindran, chairman of AEH, Madurai, addressed the symposium and inspired the
participants with his motivational speech.

**Fifth Workshop on Instrument Maintenance Course**

Aravind Salem, 27 – 29, May 2016

Aravind Eye Hospital at Salem organized Fifth Workshop on Instruments maintenance. Twenty four participants from eight different hospitals in and around Salem, Karur & Namakkal districts attended this course. The participants were invited with a warm welcome by Dr.Anuja. Dr.Manohar Babu set the context for the workshop. Mrs.Susila of CBE Instruments Department presided over the training program for three days. The team serviced more than 40 Ophthalmic equipments and the instruments brought by the participants to the workshop. Dr.Manjunath distributed the certificates to the participants.

**World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week**

Aravind - Coimbatore, 21st May, 2016

For the second year in succession, to highlight and spread awareness on Retinoblastoma, Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore, held an interactive programme on Saturday, the 21st of May, at the hospital premises. It began with a welcome address by Dr. Parag Shah, who spoke elaborately regarding this dreadful disease causing needless blindness. Dr. Viji Rangarajan explained in layman’s terms about the rehabilitation of these cases with a detailed presentation.
This was followed by an interactive session where Dr. Parag and Dr. Viji patiently answered queries of anxious parents. Mrs. Bindu, a volunteer from AROH, counselled the parents in Malayalam and discussed the prospect of starting a Parents Support Group.

A vote of thanks by Ms. Ramyadevi was followed by exciting games for the children (passing the parcel, balloon team games, etc.) and ended with a singing competition.

An impromptu birthday party was held to celebrate a child’s birthday in an unique manner. Later gifts were distributed to all the children. This was followed by lunch. 150 people (41 retinoblastoma survivors, their families, volunteers and general public) participated in this very informative and eventful day.

**Sichuan Academy of Medical Sciences & Sichuan Provincial People’s Hospital**

Chengdu, Sichuan, China, April 20-27, 2016

Dr.P.Sundaresan was invited to deliver a talk on Molecular genetics of Inherited eye diseases and gene discovery through Next Generation Sequencing. He also gave a guest lecture in Sichuan Provincial Key Laboratory for Human Disease Gene Study. In addition, he interacted with research students and his collaborators especially Dr. Zhenglin Yang Dr. Xianjun Zhu at Sichuan Provincial People’s Hospital, Chengdu and discussed about on going and future collaborative projects.

**Dr.P.Sundaresan visits Israel**

Jerusalem, Israel, May 13-28, 2016

Under the deputation of Scientists in the agreement of scientific cooperation (Indo-Israel programme), Dr.P.Sundaresan visited the Hadassah Hebrew University Medical center, Department of Ophthalmology, Jerusalem, Israel. As part of the visit Dr.P.Sundaresan gave a departmental research talk and met Ophthalmologists and researchers including Prof. Pe’er, Dr. Yahalom, Prof. Chowers, Prof.Banin, Prof. Dror Sharon and Dr. Anat Blumenfeld. On these meetings Dr.P.Sundaresan discussed future potential collaborations.

**14th Research Advisory Committee Meeting**

Aravind Madurai 27- 28, May 2016

The 14th Research Advisory Committee meeting of Aravind Medical Research Foundation was held on 27th and 28th May 2016. At this meeting the faculty members of AMRF presented their work and received feedbacks. This meeting included a poster session too. It was inaugurated by Dr.D.Karunagaran, Professor & Head, Department of Biotechnology, IIT, Chennai. Twenty four posters made by students of AMRF and Clinicians from Aravind were exhibited for the competition. Dr.Sundar, Professor & Head, Department of Biotechnology, Kalasalingam University and Dr. S.Thiyagarajan, Faculty Scientist, Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB) Bangalore were invited to assess the posters. The selected best poster will be considered for Prof. VR. Muthukkaruppan Endowment Award for the year 2015.
MLOP Tours to Strengthen their Commitment (2016)

MLOPs from the first year to more than five years went on tour, on different days in March, April, May 2016, for recreation and team building. All of them enjoyed their trip, had a lot of fun and relaxation.

The first and second years went on a half day trip to Alagar Kovil in three groups on three different days. A large number of III & IV year students went to Kodaikanal in four groups on four days. They enjoyed one full day in visiting various places in Kodaikanal. Rest of them went to Srirankam and had fun visiting Kallanai dam and Mukumbu dams.

MLOPs who are in AECS for above five years, went in two groups to visit, Pegasus in Pondicherry and spent two days there. These trips helped them to exchange their innovative ideas and strengthen their relationship. The team building approach was rebuilt through various games, they played in the tourist spots.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)

Seattle, Washington May 6-9, 2016

Dr.P.Sundaresan presented a poster entitled "Identification of six gene variants in Indian Primary Open Angle Glaucoma patients" in the ARVO 2016 meeting. He interacted with eminent scientists and his collaborators and discussed about the trouble shots in the on-going projects and future collaborative projects as well as he participated in the Asian Eye Genetics Consortium meeting.

After the ARVO meeting (May 6-9, 2016) Dr.P.Sundaresan visited the Department of Physiology and Biochemistry, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York and met Drs. K.Varadaraj and Sindhu Kumari and discussed about cataractogenesis in mouse and human.

From Aravind Medical Research Foundation, Prof.K.Dharmalingam, Director-Research, Dr.P.Sundaresan, Senior Scientist and Mr.Naveen, Proteomics Department attended the meeting. Theme of the meeting is "Research: A vision for hope". About 10,000 people attended the meeting. Some of the upcoming areas of research such as Gene
Therapy for Retinal Disorders, Genome Editing, Stem Cell Biology, Proteomics and Metabolomics were discussed at length. A large contingent of scientists and clinicians from Aravind Eye Care System attended the meeting. Mr. Naveen presented a poster entitled “Antifungal defence proteins induced in tear fluid of mycotic keratitis patients – A quantitative proteomics study.

Dr. P. S. Vivek
- Comparison of intraoperative injection of Mitomycin (MMC) versus conventional sponge-applied MMC during double site phaco-trabeculectomy

Dr. Haripriya
- Aravind Pseudoexfoliation (XFS) Study (APEX): 3 year post-operative results” in the ARVO 2016 Meeting. Attended the ARVO/Champalimaud Vision Award Lecture.

Dr. Manish
- Role of Intravenous Methyl Prednisolone in closure of recent post traumatic full thickness macular hole-A case series

Dr. Siddharth
- Evaluation of macular and peripapillary choroidal thickness using enhanced depth imaging spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT) in patients with essential hypertension

Dr. R. Venkatesh
Paper Presentation:
- Environmental Life Cycle Assessment and Costs of Phacoemulsification at Aravind Eye Hospital in Pondicherry, India

Poster Presentation:
- Comparison of New Visual Disturbances after Superior vs Nasal/Temporal Laser Peripheral Iridotomy: a prospective randomized trial
- The photographer’s learning curve: Image quality over time in non-mydriatic fundus photographs taken with a portable camera
- Intraocular pressure reduction following phacoemulsification vs. manual small incision cataract surgery: A randomized controlled trial

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)
New Orleans May 6-10, 2016
Dr. Haripriya

Instructional Courses Faculty
- **Course 07-304 Preparing for Surgical Missions: Video Course on Manual-SICS Technique and Panel Discussion of Humanitarian Work by Members of the ASCRS International Foundation**
- iTrace Educational Symposium New Orleans Downtown Marriott @ the Convention CTR 859 Convention Center Blvd., River Bend 2 Ballroom, New Orleans,
- **Course 09-306 Femtosecond Laser–Assisted Cataract Surgery: Where Are We Today?**
- **Course 09-404 Challenging Phacoemulsification Cases: Combining Techniques and Technology**
- **Course 10-211 High Volume, High Quality, Cost-Effective Cataract Surgery for the Developing World**

Paper Sessions Panelist
- **ASCRS Paper Session 2-E CATARACT: Cataract Surgery Complications**
- Efficiency of Intracameral Moxifloxacin Endophthalmitis Prophylaxis at Aravind Eye Care System
- Aravind Pseudoexfoliation Study: 3-Year Postoperative Results

ASCRS Skills Transfer Lab: Co-instructor
- **STS-5 ECCE/SICS**

Dr. R. Venkatesh

Paper Presentation
- **IOP Lowering after Cataract Surgery: Randomized Trial Comparing Phacoemulsification and Manual Small-Incision Cataract Surgery Instruction Course**
- Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery: Where are we today?
- **High Volume, High Quality, Cost-Effective cataract surgery for the developing world**

Video Presentation
- My Second Inning with Femtosecond Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery
- Eye on Emissions: Carbon Footprint of Cataract Surgery in Aravind Eye Hospital
- Traumatic Cataract Memoirs
- Vacuum-Assisted whole-Globe Holder: New Simple, and Cost-Effective Device for wet-Lab Training

Dr. K. Veena

Instruction Course
- **High Volume, High Quality, Cost-Effective cataract surgery for the developing world “Basics of SICS”**

Poster Presentation
- Seeing the World through new lens - Siblings Screening to tackle childhood refractive error with sibling motivation card

Dr. Seema Ramakrishnan
Instruction Course-
- High Volume, High Quality, Cost-Effective cataract surgery for the developing world
- Management of surgically induced astigmatism and conversion

Video Presentation
- Comparison of the Effect of Nepafenac 0.1% and Ketorolac Tromethamine 0.4% on Post-Phacoemulsification Macular Thickness: Prospective Randomized Study

Visited UCSF Cornea Clinic and Proctor foundation with Dr Tom Leitman, Dr. David Hwang and Dr. Jennifer Rose Nussbaumer from 11th May to 17th May 2016
Visited Dr David Chang's operating room on 12th May 2016
Visited UCLA Jules Stein Eye Institute and observed under Dr Anthony Aldave and Dr. Sophie Deng from 18th May to 24th May 2016

LAICO HAPPENINGS

Hospital Administrator and Managers
Aravind – Laico 7th April to 6th May 2016

The 32nd batch of one month course for Eye Care Hospital Administrators and Managers was conducted. Seven participants from India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia attended the course. We have so far trained 299 participants from 33 countries.

Needs Assessment Visit to PUN HLAING SILOM HOSPITAL
Yangon, Myanmar, 10-14 May 2016
LAICO team including Mr. Sanil Joseph, Senior Faculty and Dr. Manoranjan Das, Cornea Consultant, AEH, MDU visited PUN HLAING SILOM HOSPITAL, Yangon, Myanmar from 10th to 14th May, 2014. The purpose of the visit was to do Needs Assessment as part of the consultancy project that LAICO is going to engage with the hospital. The team also visited few other hospitals in Yangon to understand the healthcare/eye care scenario in the country, since this is going to be the first LAICO consultancy project in Myanmar.

LAICO TOUR
Aravind – Laico May 21- 22, 2016

It was a memorable trip to Kumuly and Thekkady for the staff members of LAICO. In all 32 staff members joined the tour. On the way to Kumuly the team had been stopped by a vineyard and had the breakfast under the vines. After reaching Kumuly, everyone went to visit a spice garden which is followed by a scintillating performance of Kalaripayatru. Post-dinner, there was a campfire night with music and games. On Sunday the team went to Parunthu paara a fantastic hill resembling an eagle and a valley view-point. Afternoon everyone enjoyed a boat ride in the Thekkadi tank, watching wild animals like bison, wild boars and deer. It was a great weekend, bringing in the team more closer and provided a meaningful break from the routine.

UP Government Team Visits
Aravind Madurai May 19 – 21, 2016

A team of 5 members from State Blindness Control Society, Government of Uttar Pradesh visited Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. The objective of the visit is to learn about setting up telemedicine supported vision centres in Uttar Pradesh. During their stay they visited Vision centre at Alanganallur and had a detail discussion on the operations of that centre. They also interacted with Our Executive Director Mr R.D Thulasiraj, Vision Centre management team, IT Team, Field workers and Managers of key support systems like Optical, Stores and Instrument Maintenance. The Ophthalmologists Dr. Sanjay Kumar and Dr. Mohammed Aktar also visited the paying operation theatre to observe cataract Surgeries and the OT flow. The team went back with a commitment of developing a plan for setting up 4 Vision centres in 4 districts as a Pilot project.
Dr. Y. K. Patak - State Programme officer, NPCB and Mr H.B Misra – Chief Optometrist interacted with the field workers and Mrs Shoba- Stores Manager.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Training Centre</th>
<th>Enrolments for May 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residency programs</strong></td>
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<td>Master of Surgery in Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Diploma in Ophthalmology</td>
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<td><strong>Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
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<td>Madurai</td>
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<td>Paediatric Ophthalmology &amp; Strabismus</td>
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<td>Retina - Vitreous</td>
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<td><strong>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
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<td>Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma</td>
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<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td>Phacoemulsification</td>
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<td>Coimbatore</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
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<td>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</td>
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<td>Pondicherry</td>
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<td>Fundus Fluorescein Angiography &amp; Ultrasonography</td>
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<td>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training for Ocularist</td>
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PUBLICATIONS

  Article View

- Thulasiraj D. Ravilla, Sanjeev Gupta, Ravilla D. Ravindran, Praveen Vashist, Tiruvengada Krishnan, Giovanni Maraini, Usha Chakravarthy, and Astrid E. Fletcher. Use of Cooking Fuels and Cataract in a Population-Based Study: The India Eye Disease Study. Environ Health Perspect; 2016 May 25. [Epub]  
  Article View
  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

  Article View

• Soham Basak, Prajna NV. A Prospective, In Vitro, Randomized Study to Compare Two Media for Donor Corneal Storage. Cornea. 2016 Jun. [Epub] 
  Article View

AUROLAB NEWS

Indian society of Reconstructive and Microsurgery (ISRM)
Kochi, May 13-14th

ISRM – Indian society of Reconstructive and Microsurgery was held at Kochi during May 13-14th. Aurolab participated with a stall and promoted products such as Microsurgical sutures, Aurogreen, and Antiseptics and disinfectants. Approximately 120 delegates attended the conference. Mr. Selvaganapathy, Mr. Premanand, Mr. Karthick and Mr Prem kumar were represented Aurolab during the conference

Toric CME
Kolkata May 28, 2016
Aurolab organised a CME on Auroflex Toric in Hotel Big Boss, Kolkata on 28-5-2016. The CME was attended by 22 doctors, Aurolab staffs and Dealers. Dr. Arup Chakrabarti, Chakrabarti Eye Care centre, Trivandrum & Dr. Archana Khetan, Priyamvada Birla eye hospital were shared their experience on Auroflex Toric IOLs.

The CME covers the diagnosis of astigmatism, patient selection, counselling, pre & intra op marking, alignment & post op evaluation. It also highlighted the features of Auroflex Toric and Truedge technology to prevent PCO.

The speakers were honoured with a memento by Dr. Bhaskar Roy Chowdury & Dr. Asim Sil.

**US FDA Audit**

Aurolab May 30th -June 2nd

USFDA inspection has been completed successfully from US Investigator and the inspection was carried out in Suture needle division for FDA approved products i.e Nylon, Silk and PGA products.

**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**

### May - 2016

<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>
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<td><strong>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</strong></td>
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<td>Paying (New &amp; Review)</td>
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<td>29,824</td>
<td>37,659</td>
<td>29,535</td>
<td>6,445</td>
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<td>11,538</td>
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<td>Free (Direct walk-in)</td>
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<td>10,689</td>
<td>8,252</td>
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<td>565</td>
<td>712</td>
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<td><strong>OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS</strong></td>
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<td>Regular Eye Camps</td>
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<td>Diabetic Retinopathy camps</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>526</td>
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<td>Refraction Camps</td>
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<td>414</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>1,299</td>
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### Refraction Unit

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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>4,302</td>
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<td>Community Eye Clinics</td>
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<td>1,785</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>8,291</td>
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</table>

| Total OP Examinations | 1,06,033| 17,843| 50,770| 56,303| 46,909| 5082| 13071| 5213| 6154| 3,13,830|

### SURGERIES

| Paying | 3,600| 401| 1,374| 1,812| 1,523| 259| 117| 614| 167| 227| 10,094|
| Free (Direct) | 3,956| 229| 937| 1,854| 866| 89| 107| 124| 185| 98| 8,445|
| Camp | 1,250| 121| 843| 1,825| 827| NA| 22| 145| 2| 42| 5,077|

| Total Surgeries | 8,806| 751| 3,154| 5,491| 3,216| 348| 246| 883| 354| 367| 23,616|

Note: NA - Not Applicable