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Quote

The only source of knowledge is experience.

Editorial

Retinoblastoma (RB) is the tumour of the Retina, the most common intraocular tumour occurring in children. About 20% of the world's RB cases are reported in India. 40% of the RB cases are heritable. In India, due to lack of awareness patients are presented at an advanced stage of the disease, when chances of saving vision or eyes are very minimal. Apart from providing treatment, Aravind recognizes that it has an additional responsibility of preventing - loss of vision, loss of eyes, loss of lives due to the disease. On the occasion of World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week, elaborate programmes were arranged to sensitise people on the seriousness of the disease.

Aravind-Chennai ever since its opening in September 2017 has shown a steady increase in the number of patients. While the hospital had been providing all the sub-specialty services in eye care, recently a dedicated department for Glaucoma care was opened.

As part of employee welfare activity, HR department across the centres organised various programmes to engage and entertain staff children.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Best Nurse Award

Aravind-Tirunelveli, May 12



Sr. K Sangeetha, Aravind Community Clinic, Sankarankoil was felicitated by Red Cross Society with "Best Nurse Award" on International Nurses Day.



NEWS AND EVENTS

EyeTech Studio Inauguration

Aravind-Pondicherry, April 29



Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer and Mr. Mike Myers, long-time volunteer and professional photographer from Miami, USA inaugurated the new studio at Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry. The Studio contains facilities for photography, video editing and audio recording.



Inauguration of Glaucoma Department

Aravind-Chennai, April 24



Mr. G. Srinivasan, Director-Finance, Aravind Eye Care System inaugurated Glaucoma Department at Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai. Dr. Aravind, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai, Dr. Haripriya Aravind, senior doctors, admin staff and MLOPs attended the function.



Myopia Awareness Week

Aravind-Tirupati, May 11 - 18



Aravind-Tirupati arranged an exclusive exhibition to create awareness on myopia and its complications. A beautiful kolam on the theme welcomed the audience. Charts and models were displayed to make the visitors understand the importance of treatment for myopia.



Observing World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week

Aravind, May 13-20, 2019



World over May 13-20, 2019 was celebrated as Retinoblastoma Awareness Week. As part of this, Aravind Eye Hospitals, Madurai and Coimbatore organised a family meet of Retinoblastoma survivors. 110 children along with their parents participated in this fun-filled event at Madurai. Balloons were distributed to all children who came and it was always happy faces around. A few parents shared their experiences of dealing with a child having Retinoblastoma and the treatment journey. An awareness exhibition was arranged in the hospital premises which was inaugurated by Mr. G. Srinivasan in the presence of senior members of Aravind including Chairman, Dr. R.D. Ravindran. Highlight of the exhibition was the display of beautiful fruits/vegetable carvings done by Mr. Kulandaisamy, much to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Saravanan, Head Master, Dr.T.Thirugnanam Higher Secondary School, Madurai entertained the audience with his unique and captivating story telling. R. Siva, Tamil teacher from Madura School, Madurai engaged the children with his songs. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy presented gifts to all who attended. Dr. G. Natchiar shared many light moments with them. The day packed with fun and entertainment came to an end with the audience enjoying a sumptuous feast.

A total of 135 retinoblastoma survivors and their families registered at the function held in Aravind-Coimbatore. Dr. Parag K Shah welcomed the audience. Dr.Vanniarajan, Scientist-Aravind Medical Research Foundation explained the importance of genetic testing. Genetic counselling was provided to the families whose blood samples were collected two years back. Dr. Kavitha explained in detail about customized prosthetic fitting. An interactive session was also arranged for parents to clear their doubts. Yellow ribbons, lolly pops, smileys, gifts and balloons were distributed to children. Two entertainers were arranged who made the children sing, dance and play games.



Celebrating the Backbone of Aravind Eye Care System - International Nurses' Day

Aravind – Coimbatore, May 12



A strong network of mid-level ophthalmic personnel is the very foundation of Aravind's well-acclaimed eye care delivery model. More than 60% of the routine clinical tasks are being assisted by this cadre which allows the ophthalmologists to focus on their core competencies. On the occasion of International Nurses Day, Aravind-Coimbatore organized a unique programme to celebrate its dedicated band of MLOPs. The celebrations came in as a pleasant surprise to all nurses as preparations were kept as a secret. All doctors of each department/unit took initiative to organise the program. Each department organised a cake cutting followed by doctors sharing a few words of appreciation about each MLOP. Senior MLOPs, Ms. Sulochana and Sr. Radhika were facilitated by Dr.

Namperumalsamy Sir. It was a moment of pride for the staff and most of them felt motivated and recognized. The entire clinic observed this event same day and same time made a memorable event for all them.



Summer Camp for Creche Children

Aravind



The camp started with Dr. Dhanalakshmi, Medical Officer, Free Hospital lighting the lamp and sharing a short moral story. It was held in hospital premises and was scheduled for half a day for a period of two weeks. A total of 15 children took part. Trained professionals handled sessions such as Yoga, Slokams, Story Telling, Hand writing, Craft, and drawing. Children were taken to Regional Science Museum on May 18 where they got introduced to the wonderful world of science. They were taken on a field visit where they saw how plants are grown, had fun playing in water and also learnt the importance of organic farming. The children were asked to walk bare foot to give respect to the farm.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

ARVO 2019

Vancouver, Canada, April 28 – May 2



Dr.P. Sundaresan, Dr. C. Gowripriya, Dr. S. Senthilkumari, Ms. S.Yogapriya and Ms A. Divya from AMRF attended the Annual meeting of Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology. Dr. P. Sundaresan attended the signing ceremony for NEI-ICO new International Fellowship in the meeting.

Dr. Gowripriya

- *Hsa-miR143-3p regulates human corneal epithelial stem cells*

Dr. S. Senthilkumari

- *Steroid-Induced Ocular Hypertension (SIOHT) Model using Human Organ-Cultured Anterior Segment (HOCAS)*
 - *Genome-wide Transcriptome Profiling of Human Trabecular Meshwork Cells treated with Dexamethasone*

Dr. P. Sundaresan

- *Whole Exome Sequencing identifies rare gene variants and pathways in a large south Indian family with Primary Open Angle Glaucoma*

S. Yogapriya

- *Quantification of human trabecular meshwork stem cells in glaucomatous donors*

A. Divya



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Management Training Programme for Heads of Eye Hospitals/Departments

Kunming, China, May 28-June 30



Upon request from Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), China, Aravind team consisting of Dr. Shivakumar Chandrashekar and Mr. Sanil Joseph conducted the training programme for leaders and management staff of FHF partner hospitals. The programme was attended by 23 participants from 14 hospitals.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Enrolments for May 2019 at Aravind Eye Care System		
Course title	Training Centre	Enrolments for May 2019
Residency Programs		
Master of Surgery in Ophthalmology	Madurai	20
Post DO DNB	Coimbatore	5
Long Term Fellowship Programs - For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in IOL & Anterior Segment	Chennai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Paediatric ophthalmology	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
Short Term Clinical courses - For Ophthalmologists		
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	2
Short term training in vitrectomy	Madurai	1
Small incision cataract surgery	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirunelveli	1
	Coimbatore	1
Paramedical Courses		
Training for Ocularist	Madurai	1
Eye Bank courses		
Eye Bank course for technicians	LAICO	1



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MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

will be updated soon

