



Inside

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
 SPECIAL EVENTS
 NEWS AND EVENTS
 CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE
 LAICO HAPPENINGS
 ARAVIND MANAGED EYE CARE SERVICES (AMECS)
 TRAINING PROGRAMMES
 PUBLICATIONS
 AUROLAB NEWS
 MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS
 ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS
 CASE STUDY

Dear Readers,

Aravind Eye Care System is chosen for the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize, awarded annually to an organisation that does extraordinary work to alleviate human suffering. The award will be presented on April 20 in Redwood City, California. The official announcement came on March 5 at Los Angeles. Having completed 22 years of meritorious service, Aravind Eye Hospital- Tirunelveli stepped into its 23rd year with a grand Hospital Day Celebrations on February 13.

The hospital marked an excellent performance with the Out Patient Department registering the highest ever review OP (678), the total OP (1138), and Glaucoma OP (217) on March 4. Congratulations to the entire team.

INDEYE review meeting was held at AMRF – Madurai from February 8 – 9. Dr. Astrid Fletcher, Principal Investigator of the project and co – investigators participated in the meeting.

To continually improve the specific clinical skills and soft skills among the MLOPs in order to provide the best experience for the patients, a Glaucoma CME was conducted for them at Aravind-Tirunelveli on 21st February.

LAICO hosted the two – week course on Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers from February 8 – 20. Mr. P. Vasimalai, Executive Director, DHAN Foundation delivered the key note address.

Reports on these events and other regular features find place in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Aravind News Team

Archives

Hit Counter 5

Quote

"The future depends on what we do in the present".

- Mahatma Gandhi

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Hilton Humanitarian Prize for Aravind Eye Care System

Los Angeles, March 5

Aravind Eye Care System gains another honour as it has been selected for the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. Aravind was one of almost 200 nominees for the prize for the year 2010. The award was introduced in 1996 by Hilton foundation established by the late hotelier to help the suffering humanity. Past winners include the medical group Doctors without Borders; Heifer International, an agency that works to end world hunger; the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims; and BRAC, the NGO in Bangladesh.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6243SB20100305>



SPECIAL EVENTS

INDEYE Review Meeting

Aravind – Madurai, February 8 - 9



INDEYE Review meeting was held at Aravind Medical Research Foundation – Madurai. Dr. Astrid Fletcher, Principal Investigator of the Project and co- investigators Dr. Liam Smeeth, Dr. Dorothea Nitsch, Dr. Usha Chakravarthy, Dr. Giovanni Maraini, Dr.Monica Camparini, Dr.J.Fielding Hejtmancik, Dr.Praveen Vasisht, Dr.R.D.Ravindran, Dr.P.Sundaresan, Dr.VR.Muthukkaruppan, Dr.Badri and research scholars Ms.Ashwini, Ms.Radha, Ms.Mohana and Mr.Saravanan

participated in the meeting.



Excellence in Performance

Aravind - Tirunelveli, March 4



Congratulation

Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli set a new record with the Out Patient Department registering the highest ever review OP (678), the total OP (1138), Glaucoma OP (217) and the highest number of order at Meera Optical (259) on March 4.



Workshop on Dietary Intake Methods in India

Organised by South Asia Network for Chronic Disease (SANCD)

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 5- 6



In the workshop on Dietary Intake Methods in India Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Chief Medical Officer delivered the welcome address and Dr. Shah Ebrahim gave the introductory speech. The two day workshop brought together experts in nutritional assessment from India, Bangladesh, USA and UK. Around 20 delegates attended the workshop. Dr.Ravindran presented the dietary intake method and analysis package designed by Aravind Eye Hospital – AuroNutriSoft.



Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 20, 2010



In the 7th Hospital Day of Aravind - Pondicherry Mr. Kanakaraj, Manager-General addressed the gathering. The special guests who attended the Hospital Day Celebrations were Dr. G.Natchiar, Vice-Chairman and Director –HRD, Mr.G.Srinivasan, President - GOVEL Trust, Mr.Nallakrishnan, GOVEL Trustee. Dr. Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, presented the annual report. Dr. G. Natchiar delivered an inspiring and motivating guest address. Dr. G. Natchiar distributed cash awards to the staff who have completed 5 and 10 years of service.

The cultural programme by the kids and staff, added beauty to the function and received a standing ovation. Vote of Thanks was delivered by Dr. Tiruvenkatakrishnan, Consultant-Cornea.



At Aravind-Tirunelveli

Aravind-Tirunelveli, February 21

In the 22nd Hospital day celebrations at AEH – Tirunelveli, Dr. Natarajan, Former Scientific Advisor, Ministry of Defence, Government of India was the Chief Guest. Mr. G. Srinivasan, Dr. M. Srinivasan, Director – AECS and Dr. Kim, Chief – Retina and Vitreous Clinic, AEH –Madurai were guests of honor.

The gala function started with a prayer song followed by the Chief Medical Officer Dr.R.Ramakrishnan welcoming the



gathering. Dr. Ashish Bachav presented the annual report for the year 2009. As a mark of respect and recognition of the efforts put in by some of the members, cash awards and certificates were distributed to them by the Chief Guest Dr. Natarajan. Dr. M.Srinivasan and Mr. G. Srinivasan gave an inspiring speech. Later Dr. Natarajan addressed the gathering. After a cultural programme, Dr. Shivakumar proposed the vote of thanks.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Guest Lecture on Simplified Approach to Phaco Emulsification

Aravind Madurai, February 8, 2010



A guest lecture on Simplified Approach to Phacoemulsification was given by Dr. Richard Koplin, Senior Consultant, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary . The programme was followed by an Ophthalmology Challenge Quiz. The session was attended by doctors across the Aravind Eye Hospitals through teleconference.



Community Clinic Participates in the Science Exhibition

Tuticorin, February 19 – 20



Aravind's Community Clinic at Tuticorin participated in the science exhibition organised by the Heavy Water Project, Tuticorin. District Collector Mr. M. Prakash inaugurated the exhibition. Dr. Vanitha Stephen, Chief Medical Officer, Harbour project, Tuticorin had invited Aravind to put up a stall on eye Care. Various posters and models on eye diseases and eye care were displayed. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind - Tirunelveli visited the exhibition and appreciated the efforts of the staff members.



Glaucoma CME for MLOPs

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 21



Nearly 90 MLOPs representing base hospital, Tuticorin Community Centre and 5 Vision Centres participated in the Glaucoma CME. Important topics and recent developments in the treatment of Glaucoma were shared with the MLOPs in the form of lectures and discussion. An exhibition showing various Glaucoma medicines, instruments, counselling aids, new fundus photos and pamphlets were displayed.



Medi Expo – 2010

Nagercoil, 26 – 28 February

Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli participated in the Exhibition organised by Dinakaran, a unit of Sun



Network. Charts, models and pamphlets on eye care and eye diseases were displayed. 520 persons were registered as outpatients and out of this 12 were recommended for cataract surgery.



Talk by Prof. V. Srinivasan

Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Chennai, February 24

Prof. V. Srinivasan gave a talk on the Instruments used in Ophthalmology and Management of Hospital Instruments to the third and final year students of Bio Medical Engineering at Rajalakshmi Engineering College, Vadalam, Chennai.



Lecture on Sub Tenon's Anesthesia in Ophthalmic Surgery

Aravind – Madurai, February 26



An inspiring lecture on Sub Tenon's Anesthesia in Ophthalmic Surgery was given by Dr. Helen Li, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Texas, USA at AEH Auditorium.



One Small Step

Instruments Maintenance Department, January

In January 2010, during one of the grand rounds presentation made by Prof. V. Srinivasan (Instruments Maintenance Department), Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director - LAICO invited the medical officers, fellows and residents to come up with ideas for clinical research including improving the existing instruments or development of new instruments and procedures to improve the different tasks in the hospital.

The first step in this direction has been initiated by Dr. Sripathy of Aravind – Combatores. He has come up with a procedure for measuring the axial length of the eye using the slit lamp and 90D lens. The measurement was refined using a digital tachometer attached to a slit lamp by the staff of Aravind – Combatores instruments maintenance laboratory (Susila & Gokul) under the guidance of Prof. Srinivasan. Dr Sripathy's measurements were verified using the conventional A-Scan and the agreement was very good. Further trials are going on in Coimbatore. With this measurement and calculation of IOL power using a lap top that many doctors have these days, the need for A-Scan machine could be eliminated. Prof. V. Srinivasan is working out the optics involved in the measurement.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Conference on Ophthalmic Blizzard in Gulmarg

Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, February 20 – 21

Dr. R. Kim
- Management of Post Operative Endophthalmitis



Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) Registry Meeting

New Delhi, ICMR February 25

Dr.R.Kim attended the RP registry Meeting held to create a national registry of RP patients.



Chennai Glaucoma Forum Meet

Chennai February 28, 2010

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry was invited as a Guest Speaker and he delivered a lecture on Interesting Case Presentation.



National Convention of Management Libraries Network (MANLIBNET)

Hyderabad, February 15 – 17



Mr. Kirubanithi, Senior Librarian, Aravind – Madurai
- A Peep into Aravind Library Automation.

The conference focused on the trends and challenges in management and corporate libraries in digital era.



Workshop on Advanced Techniques in Genomics of Type 2 Diabetes

Organised by Madras Diabetes Research Foundation in Collaboration with University of Minnesota

Chennai, February 18 – 23



Mr. Gowthaman.G, Junior Research Fellow, Department of Genetics, attended the workshop which mainly dealt with hands on training in several advanced techniques in Genomics like Mass ARRAY Sequenome analysis, MICRO ARRAY – Genotyping, REAL – TIME PCR, DNA SEQUENCING.



One-day National Seminar on Therapeutic Avenues with Stem Cells

CMS College of Science and Commerce, Coimbatore, March 1

Dr. C. Gowri Priya, Aravind Medical Research Foundation
- Adult Stem Cells in ocular Surface Reconstruction



8th National Conference of Society for Human and Animal Mycologists

New Delhi, March 4 – 6

Dr.S.Lalitha Prajna

Oral Presentation:

- Study of the host response in Fungal Corneal ulcers in humans (won the first prize)

P. Manikandan, Microbiologist, Aravind - Coimbatore won Dr. Pankajalakshmi Venugopal Glaxo Meritorious Award for outstanding work in the field of medical mycology.



5th International Conference on Ocular Infections

Florida, February 18 – 21

Dr. M. Srinivasan

- Steroid vs No Steroid in Bacterial Keratitis

- Prevention of Suppurative Keratitis

- Newer Antifungals and Anti protozoals

He also moderated the sessions on

- Fungal Keratitis

- Global Infectious Blindness



Dr.S.Lalitha Prajna

- Comparison of Natamycin and Voriconazole for the Treatment of Fungal Keratitis
- Realtime Quantitative PCR in the Diagnosis of Tubercular Uveitis.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers

LAICO, February 8 - 20



The two week course was jointly inaugurated by Mr. M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director of DHAN Foundation, Madurai, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman, AECS, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Mr. Simon Hampel, Right to Sight. Mr. M. P. Vasimalai gave the key note address. Mr. Simon Hampel, an alumnus of the course shared his experiences to the audience. Dr. David Green and Dr Astrid Fletcher, who were here at Aravind to participate in the INDYE and INDEGEN review meeting were invited as guest faculty for the course. The other guest

faculty include Prof. Balasubramaniam and Mr. Nagarajan and Mr. Keerti Bhushan Pradhan. Around 36 participants from Africa, East Mediterranean region, South East Asian region and West Pacific region attended the programme.



Visit to L V Prasad Eye Institute

Hyderabad, February 13

Mr. Kirubanithi visited L. V. Prasad Eye Institute for installing library software CDS/ISIS and GSDL. He built an archive in GSDL for the library catalogue, journals and general articles. He also had a brief discussion with the librarian about services including Current Awareness Service (CAS), Selective Dissemination of Information (SDI), resource materials, identification of the library resources (classification, labelling, subjectwise arrangement etc).



Melody Friday

Aravind- Madurai, February 26

After a gap of almost three months Melody Friday was held with great enthusiasm at LAICO Auditorium on February 26, 2010. There was no specific theme for this session and hence it was a variety musical programme. An assortment of songs – film, folk, devotional and album literally pleased the ears of the audience. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan's Chief Medical Officer, Aravind – Tirunelveli song was the hallmark of the whole event. Other staff who participated in the programme were Mr. K. V. S. Lakshmanan, Dr. Aditi Poojari, Mr. Ganesh Babu, Mr. Kirubanithi and family, Mr. Sanil Joseph, Subhasree and Nethra. The next Melody Friday would be held on March 26, 2010 and the theme is seasons.



ARAVIND MANAGED EYE CARE SERVICES (AMECS)

Annual Parameter Meeting

Sudarshan Netralaya, Amreli, February 18 - 19

Parameter meeting for the year 2008-09 was held at Sudarshan Netralaya. Dr. V. Narendran Chief Medical Officer, Aravind - Coimbatore attended the meeting along with the trustees of the hospital, Mrs and Mr. Jayesh Shanghvi. All the departments presented their parameters in which optical department received special appreciation for their performance.



CME on Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy

Sudarshan Netralaya, Amreli, February 18

As part of creating awareness among the physicians and ophthalmologists in and around Amreli, a session was arranged in which Dr. V.Narendran elaborated on Diabetes, how it affects eye and the various treatment modalities. Around 20 doctors attended the CME.

Restore Surgery

For the first time in Amreli District, cataract surgery with Restore lens (multifocal) was conducted at Sudarshan Netralaya by the team under Dr. Pandurang Nikam.

Bhatidam Trip for the Staffs

Sudarshan Netralaya, Amreli, February 27

As part of refreshment and relaxation from the hectic schedule, a trip was organised to a temple near by the hospital in which the staff including doctors participated enthusiastically.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on January 2010	Enrollments for February 2010
Long Term Fellowship Courses-For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment/Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	92	1
	Tirunelveli	10	0
	Coimbatore	18	0
	Pondicherry	10	0
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	24	1
	Tirunelveli	8	0
	Coimbatore	10	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	106	1
	Tirunelveli	93	2
	Coimbatore	73	0
IOL Micro surgery	Madurai	695	2
	Tirunelveli	264	1
	Coimbatore	199	1
	Pondicherry	8	0

Phacoemulsification	Madurai	108	2
	Tirunelveli	56	1
	Coimbatore	70	1
	Pondicherry	14	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	133	0
	Tirunelveli	95	0
	Coimbatore	109	1
	Pondicherry	13	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	229	0
	Coimbatore	212	2
Paramedical Course			
Ocularist	Madurai	12	1
	Madurai	12	1
Instrument Maintenance Course - Non Clinical Courses			
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	Madurai	393	7
	Pondicherry	2	0
Management Courses - Non Clinical Courses			
Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers	LAICO	202	36



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AUROLAB NEWS

CME Programme

Calicut, February 14

Aurolab participated in the CME program organized by Comtrust Eye Hospital at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Calicut. Mr. Pradeep Stanley, Area Development Manager represented Aurolab during the CME programme. Aurolab promoted its new products "Nanocut - superior technology blades, metal injector for Aurovue lens - Hydrophobic foldable lens, Auroflex - EV" - Negative Aspheric IOL, Polycryl - absorbable sutures and needles and strongly suggested its existing products to the ophthalmic community.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

February - 2010						
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS						
Paying (New & Review)	36,829	5,792	19,776	24,379	17,467	104,243
Free (Direct walk-in)	10,710	1,600	5,519	7,109	5,408	30,346
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS						
Regular Eye Camps	12,478	1,929	4,844	7,093	7,108	33,452
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	-	282	432	-	201	915
Refraction Camps	1,713	224	-	207	968	3,112
School Screening	3,660	-	955	-	1,150	5,765
Paediatric Camps	541	-	-	-	-	541
Vision Centres	3,829	3,561	3,106	1,656	1,544	13,696
Community Eye Clinics	3,166	1,329	2,533	2,357	-	9,385
Total OP Examinations	72,926	14,717	37,165	42,801	33,846	201,455
SURGERIES						
Paying	3,000	420	961	5,029	742	10,152
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	2,006	220	687	2,278	1,780	6,971
Camp	2,888	430	1091	1,686	1,282	7,377
Total Surgeries	7,894	1,070	2,739	8,993	3,804	24,500



ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS



- Dr. B. Sivapratap Reddy, Lalitha Eye Hospital, Nellore and Dr. J. K. Reddy, Sankara Eye Centre, Coimbatore visited on February 6.
 - Dr. Helen K. Li, University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston visited on February 23.
 - Dr. Malleswari Medikonda, Dr. M. Shiraz Ali and Dr. Saumendranath Ghose, Clinical fellows of AEH visited on February 24.
- Ms. Susan Spinola, SEVA Volunteer is visiting us from 22nd February till March 23, 2010. The main purpose of visit is to train the existing senior MLOPs in preliminary ocular examination. She also started a new training programme for the MLOPs who have completed 2-5 years of service.

- Mr. Imran Chowdhury, research scholar from INSEAD and ESSEC School of Business, France visited us from February 28 – March 11, 2010 to learn about the Aravind model of eye care treatment and to study the working of the transferred Aravind model both in Fundacion Paraguay and Netra Niramaya Niketan, West Bengal.
- Dr. Eric Pearlman and his student Sisto Zeal visited Aravind from February 21st-March 1st. He gave a lecture on Innate Immune Response of Fungal Keratitis an ongoing collaborated project.
- Mrs. Lan from National Institute of Ophthalmology, Vietnam attended a training related to Microbiology Techniques and Quality Control Maintenance from March 1st-25th.
- Dr. Koplin and Nedra Koplin visited Aravind to update on the recent developments at AECS.
- Dr. Christine Melton and her husband Dr. Richard Hirschman, long time friends of Aravind family visited Aravind in February. to further their contribution to the Ring of Hope programme. Dr. Christine met with the senior management and identified the need to restructure the FOA board and identify new projects that can be funded by Friends of Aravind.



CASE STUDY

The Agricultural worker who has become totally blind due to negligence



Even after losing sight in one of his eyes, a man remained negligent and failed to take care of another eye that was recently operated upon. As a result he lost not only the sight in that eye but the eye ball too.

An agricultural worker Mthusamy (real name shielded), aged above 40 belongs to Tiruppur district. Two Years ago, he suffered a hit on his left eye which he neglected to attend. In due course the eye lost its sight. Subsequently, his vision in the right eye began to diminish.

Mthusamy came to Aravind Eye Hospital at Coimbatore to have his right eye examined. Even then it did not occur to him to seek treatment for the left eye. The doctor who examined his eyes asked as to how the left eye lost vision. Mthusamy was unable to explain the reason. He was informed that his right eye had developed cataract which should be removed by surgery. The patient - counsellor counseled the need for operation and the patient consented for the surgery. After the successful operation, Mthusamy was given eye drops to be administered at home with an advice to come back for a follow up examination.

One month later, when he came back to the hospital, his vision in the right eye was found to be good. Mthusamy returned home happily. But after sometime, he had another problem in the same eye. When he was cutting a log of wood, a small piece got splinted and fell on the right eye. As usual, he remained negligent without immediately going to the hospital. He thought, the traumatic injury would resolve on its own.

One week later Mthusamy had a bath in the garden well by jumping into the water. It caused severe pain and irritation in the right eye which made him rush to the hospital. On examination, the doctor found the entire eye ball engulfed with pus. And the vision was diminished to a great extent. The doctor gave him medicine for reducing the pus and advised the patient to come back after 10 days. However, Mthusamy's right eye lost vision completely within two days. Since medication failed to solve the pus and pain problem, the right eye ball had to be enucleated.

"Due to ignorance I lost vision in my left eye at first. Now I have lost the entire eye ball of my right eye due to my negligence. And today I am standing here as a totally blind man"-Muthusamy said with a grief stricken voice.

There are large number of people in our society who fail to consult an ophthalmologist even when they have serious eye problems. And those who rush to an eye hospital even if they have a minor eye problem are far lesser in number. This is a matter of concern for the society.

The only way to prevent the escalation of blindness in our country is to bring the people with eye problem to an eye hospital without delay.

Source : V. Annapakkiyam Aravind-Coimbatore

Script : K.V.S. Lakshmanan

