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Hit Counter 1

Quote

The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.

- Arthur C. Clarke

Editorial

Two months after the devastating "Thane" hit, Aravind – Pondicherry, well – known for its luxuriant greenery, has regained its lush and fully restored normalcy. Here we share the details of the same showing the cyclone – hit hospital and the current scenario. The hospital also indulged in extensive relief operations supplying basic needs for the staff who were badly hit by this calamity.

Aravind's unique service delivery model continues to inspire healthcare managements across the world and this time it was the team from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Alexandra Health, Singapore paid a week – long visit to understand more about its operational model.

The annual World Ophthalmology Congress held at Abu Dhabi witnessed outstanding participation by the Aravind group as around twenty among them presented papers on various topics and a few chaired different sessions.

As an appropriate way of acknowledging the service rendered by the international dealers in its 20 year long journey, Aurolab hosted International Dealers Meet for the very first time.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Outstanding Performance in the DNB Exams



Dr. Saket Arya, Aravind - Coimbatore secured Gold Medal in the recently concluded DNB-ophthalmology exams.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Khoo Tech Puat Hospital Team at Aravind

Aravind - Madurai, February 19 - 21





A team of seven senior management officials from Khoo Teck Puat Hospital, Alexandra Health, Singapore visited Aravind - Madurai during February 19 - 21 to learn about Aravind's business model, use of technology to reach the population and its training and staff welfare activities. The team got an opportunity to interact with the senior leadership team at Aravind. They also had discussions with the outreach team on the various strategies involved in Aravind outreach. The meeting with the HR department focused on the recruitment policies and the various employee welfare programmes. They also had interactions with the IT department on the importance and use of MIS in eye care. The team also had a tour of Aravind - Coimbatore and

Tirupur, Aurolab, Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute and an outreach camp.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy as Guest Faculty at the Rotary Conference

Coimbatore, February 11

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, AECS was invited as guest faculty for the Rotary District Conference 2012 (Triveni 2012) held at Tamilnadu College of Engineering, Karumathampatti, Coimbatore. He gave lecture on Medical Tourism in southern states of India.



Graduation Day for the Instruments Maintenance Trainees

Aravind - Madurai, February 28



There were twin specialities for the event - graduation day for the 75th batch of the trainees and Diamond Jubilee of the Instruments Course training department having run 75 courses continuously since October 1996. Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, DNB, FRCO, Cornea specialist and Director - Academics, AECS presided over the celebration and gave away certificates and tools kit to the trainees. Excerpts from Infinite Vision and Vizhivaelvi that describe the history and role of the department were read out for the benefit of those present at the function. Dr. Prajna congratulated the trainers and the trainees and emphasized the need for keeping the instruments in a very good

condition to provide best service for the patients. Miss G .G Kanagalakshmi was the chief instructor for the course.



Visitor to AMRF

February 20 - 25

Dr. Matthew Burton, ophthalmologist and senior lecturer, International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) visited AMRF during the last week of February. He is the Ph.D supervisor / guide of Dr. Jaya Chidambaram whose is currently pursuing research on the Diagnosis and Pathophysiology of severe microbial keratitis at the LSHTM, AMRF and Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai. During his visit, Dr. Burton gave a lecture on the "Immunopathogenesis of Trachoma" to AMRF students. He spoke about his extensive research work on the host immune response in end-stage scarring trachoma in Tanzania, Ethiopia and The Gambia, using techniques such as transcriptome microarray analysis, reverse-transcriptase real time PCR to investigate gene expression in patient conjunctival samples.

Dr. Burton also spoke about his research using in-vivo confocal microscopy to classify conjunctival scarring in trachoma. This programme was hosted by the Cornea Department in Madurai and the Cornea department staff from Madurai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Theni attended it via teleconferencing. A new in-vivo confocal microscope is now set up in the Cornea Clinic in Aravind Eye Hospital for Dr. Jaya's Ph.D study and Dr. Burton attended its Puja along with Dr. Lalitha and Dr. Prajna on 25th February. Dr. Burton also welcomed a new research project officer, Miss Sophia G., to assist Dr. Jaya in her Ph.D. Dr. Burton felt very happy that Aravind Eye Hospital and AMRF will provide the best combination of facilities for Dr. Jaya to successfully complete her Ph.D project.



Aravind – Pondicherry Returns to Normalcy

 afterthanepondy

Aravind –Pondicherry always had a prime place among the other Aravind centers o account of its impressive landscape. The severe cyclonic storm, Thane which hit the Tamilnadu coast late December 2011 caused devastating damage to the hospital surroundings, especially its beautiful garden and building. Now, almost after two months since the cyclone hit, the hospital has again revived its greenery and hardly one can believe this change that too happened within a short span of time.

The Thane also caused widespread destruction in the Pondicherry and Cuddalore areas resulting in many families becoming homeless. Many of Aravind Hospital staff living in the surrounding villages suffered to a very great extent deprived of basic needs of life. Due to the swift response from Dr.V.P. Ravichandran of Aravind-Madurai and making use of funds collected by selling handmade greeting cards and earrings by the House keeping staff and staff children, the Aravind – Pondicherry could indulge in extensive relief works and distributed 10kg of rice each to 83 workers 8th January 2012.

As per the discussions evolved out of the meeting with Dr. G.Natchiar during her visit to the hospital on February 20, it was decided continue this service for a few more months. Accordingly the first installment containing 30 kg of grocery items was distributed by Dr. K. Veena, Chief – Pediatric Clinic and Mr. Poobalan, Manager-Administration on March 3. This will be continued for a period of 6 months according to the service put in by each worker for the hospital.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

CME on Super Specialty Oculoplasty – The Razor's Edge

Chennai, January 22

Dr. Usha Kim

- *Management of eyelid injuries*
- *Congenital Ptosis and its management*
- *Cosmetic blepharoplasty – principles and practices*

She was also the panelist for the discussions during the audience forum.



World Ophthalmology Congress

Abudhabi, February 16 - 20



R.D. Thulasiraj

- Invited speaker for the session, *Challenges and perspectives in prevention and control of blindness in India*
- Chaired the sessions, *Pursuit of Vision 2020 through the general health system and development agendas and integrating eye care with the health care aystem: A debate - In favor of "Not for total integration"*

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

- *Eales' disease, clinical features and presentation*
- *Chaired the session on vasculitis Retinie and Eales' disease*

- *DR and ARMD – the emerging causes of blindness in India and strategies for tackling them*

Dr.Rajesh Prabu

- *Management strategies of vertical strabismus (DVD, MED, Pattern, SO Palsy)*

Dr.Ramakrishnan

- *Paralytic strabismus (Transposition procedures, ASI, Vessel sparing)*

Dr.Sandra

- *Consecutive deviations and resurgeries* (including adjustable sutures)

Sanil Joseph

- Chaired a free paper session on *Ophthalmic epidemiology and presented gender issues in cataract surgical population in south India*

Dhivya T. Ravilla

- *Putting community eye health into practice*

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan

- *Trabeculectomy with releasable suture* (Changing trends in trabeculectomy - Video assisted skill transfer course)

Dr. Devendra Maheswari

- Chaired the free paper Glaucoma session and presented *Assessing quality of life in patients with glaucoma using the glaucoma quality of life -15 questionnaire*

Dr. Neelam Pawar

- *Cortical visual impairment : Etiology, associated findings and prognosis in a tertiary eye care setting in south India*

Dr. Anand Rajendran

- *The role of Anti-VEGF agents in diabetic retinopathy* (seminar conducted by AIOS on DR)

- *Novel optical coherence predictive factors for macular hole closure*

- Chaired the free paper session on *Intravitreal bevacizumab for choroidal neovascularization secondary to non-AMD aetiologies*

Dr. P. Sathyan

- *Trab with ologen* (video)

Dr. Ganesh V Raman

- *Trabeculectomy with antimetabolites* (instruction course)

- *Trab with ologen* (instruction course)

Dr. Parag K Shah

- *Role of anti VEGF in paediatric retinal disease*

- *Role of anti VEGF in Retinopathy of prematurity*

- *ICO fellowship experience in ICO fellowship reunion meet*

Dr. Rodney J Morris

- *Diabetic Retinopathy practice debate - For shift in Diabetic retinopathy management from retina specialist to general ophthalmologist.*

- *Strategies adopted for awareness creation on Diabetic retinopathy and its impact*

Dr. V. Narendran

- *Retinopathy of prematurity – An overview*

- *Screening of retinopathy of prematurity*

Free papers

Dr. Mahesh Kumar

- *Chaired the Neuro ophthalmology session and presented Dural venous sinus thrombosis – a clinical profile.*

Dr. Rajesh Prabu

- *The effect of teacher's training programme in screening for refractive errors among school children*

Dr. Ramakrishnan

- *Optical iridectomy- Safe and Effective option for central corneal opacity management in very young children*

Dr. Shilpa Taneja

- *Unusual orbital tumours: Clinicopathological findings in 7 cases*



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy at the Bodhi Tree Initiative

Chennai, February 24

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy delivered a lecture on Aravind Model - "*Inspiring innovations / expanding horizons*" at the Bodhi Tree Initiative organized by the Murugappa Group wherein eminent personalities from different fields are invited to share their success stories to the different groups of the Murugappa conglomerate.



FUSION 2012 - International Masters' Course

Hyderabad, February 12-14

Dr. Parag K Shah

- *Plaque brachytherapy*

Dr. Bhagwati Wadwekar participated in the conference held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 18



The 9th Hospital day was celebrated at Aravind-Pondicherry in the presence of Dr. R.D. Ravindran Chairman, AECS, Dr. Kim.R, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai, Dr. Usha Kim and Ms. Aster Patel, Advisory Board Member, Auroville. The function started with prayer song followed by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. R.Venkatesh welcoming the gathering. Dr. Dayakar Yadella presented the activity report for the year 2011. Dr. R. D. Ravindran, Dr. Kim.R and Ms. Aster Patel gave inspiring lectures. Service awards and certificates were distributed by Dr. Ravindran, Dr. Kim, to the staff members. Dr. Usha Kim presented award of appreciation to the staff whose service was really invaluable when the hospital was hit by the cyclone. Following this a few cultural programs were also staged. Dr. S. Kavitha, Glaucoma Consultant proposed a vote of thanks.



Tour for MLOPs

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 19



MLOPs and lady staff members with 5 - 6 years of experience were taken on a one day tour to Thovalai Murugan temple and Bay Watch - water theme park at Kanyakumari. The wax museum at Baywatch, the first of its kind in Asia, was really attractive. They also visited the Kumari Amman temple and Gandhi Museum at Kanyakumari.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Follow up Visit to Eerste River Eye Hospital

Cape Town, South Africa, February 13 – 15



Mr. Sanil Joseph, Faculty - LAICO and Dr. Dayakar Yadella, Medical Officer, Aravind - Pondicherry visited Eerste River Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa. This was a follow-up visit under the IABP Capacity Building Grant project.



Visit to Al Noor Foundation

Cairo, Egypt, February 20 – 25

Aravind team consisting of Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Dr. Sivakumar and Ms. K.M. Sasipriya visited Al Noor Foundation as



part of IAPB Capacity Building initiative to support Al Noor/EICO (Egypt Institute of Community Ophthalmology) in their mentoring initiative and also participate in a roundtable meeting to outline strategy and action plan for EICO in Egypt and the Middle East Region. The team also made visit to two hospitals in Luxor Governorate in Upper Egypt to get a better understanding about the eye care delivery system and the type of hospitals EICO would be working with. LAICO team also outlined the support LAICO would extend through IAPB Capacity Building Grant that would strengthen EICO in the mentoring process. This meeting was also participated by EICO's partners – Seva

Foundation, International Eye Foundation, CBM International, KCCO and Dr. Pararajadegaram and representatives from the Ministry of Health, Egypt.



Vision Building and Strategic Planning Workshop

LAICO, February 27 – March 3



A total of nine participants from Rajasthan Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are attending the vision building workshop which is underway at LAICO and is supported by Sightsavers International.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on January 2012	Enrollments for February 2012
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Theni	5	2
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	42	1
	Coimbatore	24	0
	Pondicherry	3	0
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	27	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	110	1
	Tirunelveli	143	1
	Coimbatore	101	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	711	0
	Tirunelveli	276	0
	Coimbatore	212	3
	Pondicherry	11	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	167	3
	Tirunelveli	113	0
	Coimbatore	128	1

	Pondicherry	23	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	260	2
	Coimbatore	255	2
	Pondicherry	5	0
Phacomulsification	Madurai	144	0
	Tirunelveli	84	1
	Coimbatore	98	0
	Pondicherry	20	0
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	40	1
Short Term Training in Vitrectomy (Virtual)	Madurai	13	1
	Coimbatore	8	0

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



PUBLICATIONS

- **Cornea 2012 Feb 13**

Lalitha P, Prajna NV, Oldenburg CE, Srinivasan M, Krishnan T, Mascarenhas J, Vaitilingam CM, McLeod SD, Zegans ME, Porco TC, Acharya NR, Lietman TM

- *Organism, minimum inhibitory concentration, and outcome in a fungal corneal ulcer clinical trial.* [article view](#)

- **Expert Rev. Ophthalmol 2012 / Vol. 7(1) / Pages- 1-3**

Muthaiah Srinivasan

- *Corticosteroids: a possible treatment for corneal ulcers?* [article view](#)

- **Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2012 Feb 24**

Lalitha P, Lin CC, Srinivasan M, Mascarenhas J, Prajna NV, Keenan JD, McLeod SD, Acharya NR, Lietman TM, Porco TC.

- *Acanthamoeba keratitis in South India: A longitudinal analysis of epidemics.* [article view](#)



AUROLAB NEWS

KARUNA 2012

Aurolab, February 8 - 9



Karuna 2012- Aurolab's first international dealers meet was held during the first week of February at the Aurolab facility. 'Karuna' is a Sanskrit word that means "compassionate action". This meet is aptly named and it reflects the overall mission of Aurolab and Aravind Eye Care System. – To provide care and and tools that educate, inspire and empower people to participate in the elimination of needless blindness. This year marks yet another historical moment in the history of Aurolab as it completes 20 years of service and production of 2 million lenses. There were a total of 13 participants from 8 countries.

The meeting focused on:

- Brief overview of the relationship with Aurolab and Aravind Eye Care System
- Culture and values of Aravind Eye Care System
- Challenges faced by distributors in their markets
- Product training for all divisions.
- One to one discussion with the marketing team to discuss future business strategies.

A special cultural evening was organized at Kadambhavanam to introduce the participants to the Tamil culture and tradition.

**Special Bhajan for Production Staff**

February 17

Mr.Rajasekaran and team led the special bhajan organized for the production staff at Aurolab. He delivered a motivational talk on the topic "Samuthaya Munnetrathil Pengalin Panggu" (Role of women in the development of society). Prasatham was offered to all the staff members at the end of the programme.

**Training on Developing Communication Skills**

February 18

A special training session on developing and finetuning communication skills was held for the production staff and Quality Analysis managers and chemists at Aurolab. The session was handled by Mr.Parameshwaran from ZTQM Institute, Bangalore.

**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**

February - 2012									
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Salem	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS									
Paying (New & Review)	38,385	5,608	20,151	24,771	18,040	4,749	2,957	5,122	119,783
Free (Direct walk-in)	10,878	1,564	5,433	7,929	6,094	9	-	-	31,907
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS									
Regular Camps Eye	10,902	2,475	3,752	8,134	5,941	-	169	-	31,373
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	307	147	34	2,159	-	-	-	-	2,647
Refraction Camps	1,844	-	943	636	406	-	-	-	3,829
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	743	-	-	-	-	-	-	743
School Screening camps	1,600	-	2,049	-	3,137	-	-	-	6,786
ICDS Children	-	-	2,941	-	114	-	-	-	3,055
Paediatric Camps	137	367	-	-	-	-	-	-	504
Vision Centres	7,727	3,929	4,246	2,481	2,138	-	431	-	20,952
Community Eye Clinics	3,395	1,609	4,297	-	-	-	-	-	9,301
Total Examinations OP	75,175	16,442	43,846	46,110	35,870	4,758	3,557	5,122	230,880
SURGERIES									
Paying	2,264	271	1,012	1,229	891	168	98	247	6,180
Free (Direct)	2,161	201	819	1,310	605	45	52	-	5,193

Camp	2,970	209	854	2,008	1,504	-	-	-	7,545
Total Surgeries	7,395	681	2,685	4,547	3,000	213	150	247	18,918

