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Quote

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
- Desmond Tutu

Editorial

Commitment to a strong value system and whole-hearted dedication of the employees stand an organization in good stead and ensure its long-term success. It was truly a time of gratification for the staff of Aravind-Tirunelveli as the organisation completed its 25 years of meritorious service towards blindness prevention. Also Aravind-Pondicherry crossed one more milestone – completing one decade of service. Elaborate programmes were arranged by the hospitals to commemorate the special occasion.

Deploying information technology has really enhanced patient care and overall eye care delivery at Aravind. Many of its IT initiatives have been a subject of appreciation in different forums. Aravind's IT initiatives were once again recognized when it was bestowed the NASSCOM – CNBC award.

LAICO hosted the second learning session of Eye Care Collaborative – an initiative organized by Access Health International which brings number of hospitals together to facilitate improvement in their quality of services.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Aravind Eye Care System Bags Award for the Best IT Innovation in Healthcare

Mumbai, February 20



Aravind Eye Care System won the Best IT Driven Innovation in Healthcare Award presented by Lenovo and powered by NASSCOM and CNBC-TV18 for its Cataract Surgeries Quality Assurance system project. Mr. B.S. Ganesh Babu received this award on behalf of Aravind Eye Care System

SPECIAL EVENTS

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 16

As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Aravind Eye Hospital – Tirunelveli organized a series of activities for two weeks starting with mega eye camp followed by motivational talks, press meet, eye care awareness exhibition and competitions for school children.



A speciality mega camp was conducted at M.D.T School, Tirunelveli on February 3. A total of 565 patients were screened, of which 70 patients were admitted for cataract surgery, 43 patients were diagnosed as having Glaucoma, 19 patients with retinal problems, 12 with Diabetic Retinopathy, 7 with Childhood blindness, 5 with Corneal disease and 6 with Orbital disorders. The patients were referred to base hospital for further treatment. The camp was sponsored by Nellai Motor TVS and Pandian Grama Bank. Mr. R. Ganesan, Founder - Life Improvement Mind Engineering (LIME) delivered a motivational lecture on February 2 for the MLOP staff.

A grand eye care awareness exhibition for the public was organized in the hospital from February 7 – 10. The exhibition provided insights into basic eye diseases and treatment options. Various models and posters were used to drive home the structure of the eye and the various parts of eye. Posters were put up by different departments and the MLOPs explained the information to the audience. The exhibition was officially inaugurated by Smt. Vijila Sathyanand, Mayor – Tirunelveli in the presence of Aravind's senior management team. She delivered an inspirational speech regarding eye donation and importance of proper eye care. The exhibition received wide response from the public and as many as 2000 people visited the exhibition. Along with the exhibition, competitions like essay writing, poster making, elocution and quiz were conducted for the school children. Various schools from in and around Tirunelveli district participated with great enthusiasm and won prizes. The prizes were distributed by Chief Guest, Mr.V.Balan, RTO - Deputy commissioner. Around 27 schools participated in the competitions.

A CME titled "EYE OPENER 2013" was organised for general practitioners, general physicians, pediatricians, gynecologists and ophthalmologists on 10th February. The purpose of this CME was to provide participants with the fundamentals of ophthalmology, practice and advances within the field, as well as to provide an opportunity for networking with professionals of diverse backgrounds in health care.

At the hospital day celebrations, Dr. R.Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer, welcomed the the audience. Dr. Padmavathy, Medical Officer presented the milestones of the hospital. Dr. R.D.Ravindran, Chairman and Dr.P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus - AECS, addressed the gathering. Shri. T. Karumuthu Kannan was the chief guest for the function. Guests who offered felicitations during the programme included Mr.Ramakrishnan, Mr.Gunasingh Chelladurai, Mr.A.P.C.V.Chockalingam, Dr.Vijaya Kumar. Service awards were distributed to staff by Dr.R.D.Ravindran, Dr.G.Natchiar, Dr.Namperumalsamy and Mr.R.D.Thulasiraj. Cultural programmes were performed by the students of Shri.Jayendra S.S.Golden Jubilee Matric.Hr.Sec.School. The function came to an end with vote of thanks by Dr.Meenakshi, Medical Officer, Paediatric clinic. Ms.Uma Kanagaraj from All India Radio anchored the entire show in a truly interesting manner. [Video](#)



NEWS AND EVENTS

Awareness Programme for School Head Masters

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 2



As an appropriate start to the 10th year celebrations, Aravind - Pondicherry organized an awareness session on "Why eye problems in school children are a priority" for school Headmasters. Headmasters from 117 schools participated and got benefited. This is the first of its kind conducted across the Aravind centres.



Aravind Paramedics appear for DOT Exam

Aravind – Madurai, February 4

Students of Diploma in Optometry and Diploma in Medical Records Science took their final examination at LAICO. The exams, conducted in two batches were taken by around 20 students.



Training on the use of Fire Extinguisher

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 5

Mr. Sankar- Regional Manager from Usha Fire Safety Services demonstrated all types of fire extinguishers, usage of these



and how to manage fire during accidents. Mr. Krishnamoorthy, Transport Manager and Mr. Balamurugan, Electrical Manager facilitated the programme. Clinical and non-clinical staff actively participated in the training programme.



Awareness Session on Bronchial Asthma

Aravind – Madurai, February 9

An Awareness session on bronchial asthma was conducted at Aravind – Madurai which was handled by Dr. Alim – Seva volunteer from Canada.



Eye Donation Awareness Programmes

Karur, January 20



Awareness programme on the need and importance of eye donation was conducted at Iyyappa seva Trust, Karur. Mr.D.Saravanan, Manager, RAIEB handled the session which was attended by around hundred participants.

February 19

A similar programme was arranged at St.Joseph ITI, Koodalnagar, Madurai which was attended by 50 students. Mr. Saravanan handled sessions on various aspects of eye donation.



Dr. Jenny visits AMRF

AMRF, February 2



Dr. Jenny Best, one of the long term collaborators of Aravind on Congenital Rubella syndrome project visited AMRF. She had several discussions with the research team and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Melody Friday

Aravind – Madurai, February 15

After a long wait of almost 6 months, LAICO hosted Melody Friday with the theme "Nature". Ms. Siva karthika, management intern – LAICO and Ms. Anjana, patient care manger anchored the show. Along with Sivakarhika and Anjana, many of the staff entertained the audience with their melodies. The performers of the day included Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Camp department, MLOP sisters – Kalai, Babitha and Vanitha, Anshuman Verma from AMRF and Ms. Sangeetha, Fellow in eye hospital management. The hosts carried the show forward engaging the audience and thus making it a highly interactive one.



Hospital Day Celebrations

16th Hospital Day Celebrations

Aravind – Coimbatore, February 9



At the annual day celebrations, Dr. Viji Rangarajan, Chief, Orbit clinic welcomed the audience. Dr. V.Narendran, Chief Medical Officer presented the annual report for the year 2012. Dr. R.D.Ravindran, Chairman-AECS addressed the gathering wherein, he highlighted the reasons behind the hospital's success -sincerity, commitment, hard work and teamwork.

Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj, Executive Director –LAICO, in his address, appreciated all the staff members' contribution to help Aravind excel and marvel among its competitors. Service awards were distributed to the staff by Chinthani Kavingnar Dr. Kavidasan, Director- Roots Industries, Dr.R.D.Ravindran and Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj. The function then was followed by many cultural events. Dr. V. Rajesh Prabu, Medical officer, Paediatric Clinic proposed a vote of thanks.



10th Hospital day Celebrations

Aravind – Pondicherry, February 23



Dr. T.S. Ravikumar, Director-JIPMER, Pondicherry was invited as guest of honor for the hospital day celebrations. Senior Aravind members including Dr. G. Natchiar, Emeritus HR Director, Dr. R.D. Ravindran Chairman, AECS, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, AECS, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, CMO, Aravind-Tirunelveli, were also present for the occasion.

The function started with prayer song followed by chief Medical Officer, Dr. R. Venkatesh welcoming the gathering. Dr. Dayakar Yadalla presented the activity report for the year 2012. Dr. G. Natchiar, Dr. R.D. Ravindran and Dr. T.S. Ravikumar gave inspiring lectures. Cash awards and certificates were distributed by Dr. R.D.Ravindran, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan and Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj to the staff members and Dr. G. Natchiar, presented the award of appreciation to the staff who achieved the target in Outreach activities. Following this a few cultural programs were also staged. Dr. K. Thiruvengadakrishnan, Chief – Cornea and Refractive Surgery consultant proposed a vote of thanks. An exhibition detailing the development of the hospital over the past 10- years was arranged at the base hospital. Screening camps were conducted at Pothy's Textiles and a total of around 1500 staff were screened.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Eye Care Collaborative: Learning Session 2

LAICO, February 1-3



The second session of Eye Care Collaborative for improving hospital performance was hosted by LAICO and organised by ACCESS Health International. Prof. Ramendra Singh from IIM – Calcutta was the guest speaker for the workshop which was attended by 15 participants.

Ms. Sofi Bergkvist the Managing Director of ACCESS Health International gave the welcome address and provided an overview of ACCESS.



Onsite training for staff of Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, January 21- February 21



As part of the capacity building exercise, Ms. Ushalini, Manager – Quality Assurance visited Srikan Institute of Ophthalmology for a period of 1 month. During her term, there she concentrated to identify the areas where the institution needs support and facilitated implementation of required changes so as to ensure the smooth running of the hospital. She helped in initiating performance review practices in all the departments and expense monitoring in all the purchase and outreach activities. Stores software was redesigned in terms of categorization and reports generation.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on February 2013	Enrollments for March 2013
Long term Fellowship Programmes for Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	66	1
	Coimbatore	35	0
	Pondicherry	8	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	713	1
	Tirunelveli	278	0
	Coimbatore	220	1
	Pondicherry	12	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	178	1
	Tirunelveli	119	0
	Coimbatore	145	1
	Pondicherry	26	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	277	2
	Coimbatore	275	1
	Pondicherry	7	0
Phacomulsification	Madurai	161	1
	Tirunelveli	87	1
	Coimbatore	119	2
	Pondicherry	24	1
Short Term Training in Vitrectomy (Virtual)	Madurai	18	0
	Coimbatore	7	1

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



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

February - 2013										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	40,893	6,404	20,760	25,290	19,627	4,998	3,167	4,069	2,168	127,376
Free (Direct walk-in)	11,410	1,681	5,888	8,863	6,352	16	193	3,386	894	38,683
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	10,634	3,152	4,746	8,351	6,945	-	239	602	-	34,669
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	508	285	494	888	177	-	-	-	-	2,352
Refraction Camps	1,570	290	3,559	166	2,425	-	-	-	-	8,010

Mobile Refraction Unit	-	475	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	475
School Screening camps	20,856	-	2,446	1,387	15,165	-	-	-	-	39,854
Paediatric Camps	187	-	206	410	681	-	-	-	-	1,484
Vision Centres	9,387	4,178	4,744	2,889	2,224	-	-	-	-	23,422
Community Eye Clinics	3,588	1,607	1,726	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,921
Total OP Examinations	99,033	18,072	44,569	48,244	53,596	5,014	3,599	8,057	3,062	283,246
SURGERIES										
Paying	2,422	323	974	1,252	935	140	113	361	58	6,578
Free (Direct)	2,120	233	791	1,265	631	47	29	62	62	5,240
Camp	3,001	266	1,019	1,493	1,541	-	19	186	-	7,525
Total Surgeries	7,543	822	2,784	4,010	3,107	187	161	609	120	19,343

