Editorial

As the banyan of eye care spreads its roots, Aravind is all set to enter Chennai. The construction of this facility, the biggest of all Aravind centres is in the final stage and the hospital will be opened soon.

It has been almost three decades that Aravind Eye Hospital Tirunelveli embarked on its journey to eliminate needless blindness. It was an occasion of joy and gratitude as the staff members joined hands to celebrate the annual day. It was a proud moment for Aravind when Prof.VR. Muthukkaruppan was honoured by The Indian Immunology Society at its annual conference. At the annual conference of All India Ophthalmologists Society, Aravind doctors came out in flying colours.

Continuing education programmes are being arranged on a regular basis for both the clinical and non-clinical cadres of staff members. For the third consecutive year, a similar programme was arranged for the staff of Accounts and finance departments across the Aravind centres.

LAICO’s consultancy activities were in full swing with visits made to different hospitals in India and abroad.

News about these and many more feature in this issue

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Special honour for Prof.VR. Muthukkaruppan

Visakhapatnam, February 16

Indian Immunology Society honoured Prof.VR. Muthukkaruppan Advisor-Research, Aravind Medical Research Foundation at its 43rd annual meeting held on February 16 at GITAM University, Visakhapatnam. He was recognised for his contributions as the founding member, past president and architect of the Society. He was the pioneer in introducing teaching and research programmes in Immunology in Madurai Kamaraj University as early as 1975, the first of its kind in India.

Award at the 5th National Conference on Emerging Trends and New Challenges in Biotechnology

Hosur, February 2-3

Ms. G. Prakadeeswari, Junior Research Fellow, Department of Molecular Genetics won first prize for her oral presentation titled Association Study on homocysteine gene polymorphisms in South Indian individuals with Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome. The conference was sponsored by DST-SERB and ICMR and conducted by PG and Research Centre in
Awards at All India Ophthalmic Society Conference
Jaipur, February 16-19

Dr. Karthik Srinivasan was presented with the Best Innovator Award – South Zone at Think under the Apple Tree Programme. He was also one of the team that was adjudged the Best Zone Award.

Dr. Abhijit and Dr. Sindhusree of Aravind – Tirunelveli were awarded Fellow of All India Collegium of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Sheth Vanee, Dr. George J Manayath, Dr. V.R. Saravanan, Dr. V. Narendran of Aravind – Coimbatore won award for the Best Paper, Retina Session.

Dr. Siddharth Narendran, Dr. Soham Basak, Aravind - Coimbatore won Third Prize in PG Thesis presentation.

Dr. Bahgya Sudheer, Aravind - Madurai won award for Best Paper in Uvea.

Dr. Nilam Gohil, Aravind – Madurai won award for the Best Poster in Cornea session.

Dr. Komal Mehta, Aravind - Madurai – Best Poster, Community and Social Ophthalmology.

Dr. Kirandeep Kaur, Dr. Surbhi Saboo from Aravind – Pondicherry won the IJO YOSI Essay Writing Competition.
**Aravind Receives Madurai Management Association Award**

Madurai, February 21

Madurai Management Association presented Public Service Excellence Award to Aravind Eye Hospital on the occasion of National Management Day Celebration. Dr.Aravind Srinivasan received the Award from M.Shunmugasundaram, President of the Association.

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Hospital Day Celebrations**

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 4

Aravind – Tirunelveli celebrated 29th annual day in a grand manner. Chief Guest, Dr.K.Dharmalingam, Director - AMRF gave an inspiring talk and showed a video about AMRF. Dr.P.Namperumalsamy, Chairman - Emeritus, Dr.G.Natchiar, Director - Emeritus, Dr.R.D.Ravindran, Chairman, Dr.Prajna, Chief- Medical Education were the guests of honor. Dr.Maneksha welcomed the gathering. Dr.Padmavathy, Chief - Neuro Ophthalmology Services gave an update on the major happenings in the hospital in the last year. Dr.R.D.Ravindran and Dr.R.Ramakrishnan gave inspiring speeches. As a way of acknowledging their service, cash awards and certificates were distributed to the senior staff members.

Cultural programmes included traditional, folk and contemporary style dances, poem recitation, and instruments playing. Dr.Meenakshi proposed a vote of thanks. Ms.Lakshmi, Manager - HR was the master of ceremony.

**Observing Low Vision Awareness Month**

Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 17-18
February month is observed as Low vision awareness month. In connection with this, Aravind, Tirunelveli conducted an exhibition to create awareness among patients and public. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr.R.MeenaKshi, Deputy CMO. Nearly hundred patients visited the exhibition.

**Continuing Professional Education (CPE) for Standardized Accounting and Control System**
Madurai, February 18

For the third consecutive year, staff members of Finance and Accounting departments across the Aravind centres were brought in for a continuing professional education programme. The CPE aimed to standardize the Accounting process across all Aravind hospitals and to ensure error free, accurate and timely reports to management. It also took steps to strengthen Accounting Controls across the system. Above 40 participants attended.

**Excursion**
Aravind – Tirunelveli, February 19
As part of Employee welfare activity, staff of Housekeeping Department and Aravind - Tuticorin were taken on a one day tour to Tuticorin harbour, beach and a park. The team had an opportunity to tour a cargo ship.

**CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE**

**6th Annual Conference of the Society for Mitochondrial Research and Medicine (SMRM)**
New Delhi, February 10-11

![Conference photo]

**Dr.P.Sundaresan**
- Mitoscriptome analysis to understand Diabetic Retinopathy.

**Annual Conference of All India Ophthalmic Society**
Jaipur, February 16-19

**Dr.R.Venkatesh**
- Mastering the Basics and Avoiding the Pitfalls in Accurate Diagnosis of Glaucoma
- Gonioscopy: technique, interpretation and its role
- Innovative Solutions for Complex Anterior Segment Situations: A Video Assisted Course
- Vitreous decompression in cataract surgery with shallow A. C.
- Glaucoma Drainage Device Implantation: Practical Tips & Tricks
- Tubes in complex situations - sulcus/pars plana placement previous failed drainage device
- Managing Cataract and Glaucoma – Tips to Deal With This Uneasy Relationship
- Managing difficult situations like small eye, crowded iris and weak Zonules
- Rafting in the Rapids: Phaco Basic to Advanced
- Rafting the Stages of Transition From Manual SICS To Phaco

**Dr.Manas Nath**
- Traumatic Cataract Memoirs (video)

**Dr.Girish Bharat Vells**
- A Case Series of Acute Retinal Necrosis in a Tertiary Eye Care Centre in South India
- Predictors of Clinical Outcome in Ophthalmia Nodosa in Tertiary Eye Centre in South India
- Case Series of Toxoplasmosis in a Tertiary Eye Care Centre in South India.

**Dr.Raghuraman B**
- Clinical Profile of Patients Presenting to Low Vision Clinic in a Tertiary Eye Hospital

**Dr.Kirandeep Kaur**
- Multifactorial Long Term Retrospective Analyses of Traumatic Cataract in Tertiary Eye Care Hospital

**Dr.Bharat Gurnani**
- Retrospective Analyses of Eyes That Underwent Vitreous Lavage for Post vitrectomy Vitreous Hemorrhage.

**Dr.Spurthi G. Reddy**
- Case Series of Ocular Toxocariasis (Ot) in a Tertiary Eye Care Centre in South India
- Community Acquired Retinitis

**Dr.Ronak Solanki**
- Clinical Characteristics of Fuchs’ Heterochromic Iridocyclitis in a South Indian Population.
E-Posters

Dr. Kirandeep Kaur
- Multifactorial Retrospective Analysis of Multiple Cranial Nerve Palsies in Tertiary Eye Hospital.
- Recurrent Anterior with Posterior Scleritis – How Challenging it is?

Dr. Bharat Gurnani
- A Rare Case Report of Giant Cell Angiofibroma of Orbit
- A Rare Case Report of Angiomatoid Fibrous Histiocytoma of Lacrimal Sac Area

Dr. Anushri Agrawal
- Can Hla B27 Uveitis Mimic Endophthalmitis with a Granular Hypopyon?
- Recurrent Anterior with Posterior Scleritis – How Challenging It Is?

Dr. Jivitesh Singh
- Double Trouble Leading to Corneal Melt with Resistant Scleritis – A Clinical Challenge!

Dr. Surbhi Saboo
- Uncommon Differential Diagnosis of Conjunctival Cyst.

Dr. Ronak Solanki
- Diagnosis while Operating : on Table Diagnosis of Brittle Cornea Syndrome
- A Case of Basal Cell Carcinoma with Free Skin Graft Reconstruction

Dr. George J Manayath
- Current role of TTT in Retina practice

Dr. V.R. Saravanan
- X Files- Retina Pearls
- Persistent Fetal Vasculature - practice patterns

Dr. Rodney J Morris
- Macular hole- conventional ILM peel v/s inverse flap- Outcomes & indications

Dr. Anant Bhosale
- Microbiological analysis of Retina cubicles with examination of 20 D, 90 D, Slit lamps & Mobile phones
- A case of solitary vitreous cyst in adult male

Dr. Swapnil Shankar
- SFIOL with 26G needle
- As trainer for SICS, Phaco and Toric IOL marking at surgical skill transfer course [SSTC]

ASIA-ARVO Conference
Brisbane, Australia, February 4-8

Dr. Ramprasad and Aloysius Abraham attended the ASIA-ARVO 2017 conference at Brisbane, Australia. Aloysius Abraham presented a poster on the “Effective and Comprehensive Genetic Analysis of Retinoblastoma by Next Generation Sequencing”. After the conference, he gave an invited talk on “Efficient genetic testing of Retinoblastoma in South Indian population” at Centre for Eye Research, Australia and visited Peter MacCallam Cancer Centre, Melbourne. Dr. Ramprasad visited the lab of Prof. Traian Chirila, Chief Scientist at the Queensland Eye Institute (QEI) to gain knowledge related to the use of silk proteins as biomaterials in ophthalmic tissue engineering.
Annual Conference of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh  
Bangladesh, February 7-8  
Mr.R.D.Thulasiraj delivered the prestigious Alim Memorial Lecture.

**LAICO HAPPENINGS**

**Consultancy Visits**  
Bangladesh, February 3-4  
Dr.Frederick and Mr.R.Meenaikshi Sundaram made a needs assessment visit to OSB Eye Hospital, Bangladesh during February 3-4.

Mr.Sanil Joseph visited Kankurgachhi Netralaya & Research Institute, Kolkata during February 16-18.

**Vision Building Workshop**  
Aravind – Pondicherry, February 22-26  
As part of SCALE Project, vision Building and strategic planning workshop was held for Aravind eye Hospitals – Udumalpet, Tirupur and Salem.

**TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Training Centre</th>
<th>Enrolments for February 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Segment &amp; IOL Surgery</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Ophthalmology</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tirunelveli</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orbit &amp; Oculoplasty</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatric Ophthalmology &amp; Strabismus</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pondicherry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phacoemulsification</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Incision Cataract Surgery</td>
<td>Coimbatore</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Short Term Courses - For Paramedics</strong></td>
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Refraction Techniques  
Training for ocularist  
Instrument Maintenance- Non Clinical Courses  
Instrument Maintenance for Technicians  
Management Courses - Non Clinical Courses  
Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<td>Refraction Techniques</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training for ocularist</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instrument Maintenance- Non Clinical Courses</td>
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<td>Instrument Maintenance for Technicians</td>
<td>LAICO</td>
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<td>Management Courses - Non Clinical Courses</td>
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<td>Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers</td>
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PUBLICATIONS

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AUROLAB NEWS

Aravind Alumni Meet at All India Ophthalmological Conference
Jaipur, February 16-19
One of the major sponsors of the conference, Aurolab launched its Hydrophobic Multifocal IOL – Aurovue Dfine and New range of surgical blades - Auroslim.

Aravind Alumni meet was held on 18th February at Hotel Royal Orchid. Around 75 alumni attended and interacted during the meet. The meet was organized by Dr. Sukesh Tanden, Dr. Abhishek Kothari and Dr. Siddharth Kothari and Aurolab. The meeting began with Rajasthani music and cultural dance. The show was presided by Dr. Venkatesh and he made the Alumni meet interactive.

MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

February - 2017

<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>
<th>RS Puram</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paying (New &amp; Review)</td>
<td>49,039</td>
<td>7,325</td>
<td>25,610</td>
<td>30,538</td>
<td>24,392</td>
<td>5,887</td>
<td>3,441</td>
<td>10,110</td>
<td>2,475</td>
<td>4,681</td>
<td>2,401</td>
<td>1,65,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free:Direct walk-in (New &amp; Review)</td>
<td>13,477</td>
<td>1,870</td>
<td>6,331</td>
<td>9,074</td>
<td>7,607</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>911</td>
<td>712</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>41,701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS**

**OUTREACH OUT PATIENT**

Comprehensive Eye Camps | 9,386 | 1,592 | 4,481 | 8,727 | 6,743 | NA | NA | 1,240 | NA | 109 | NA | 32,278 |
Diabetic Retinopathy camps | 863 | NA | 335 | 957 | 535 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2,690 |
Refraction Camps | 708 | NA | 1,203 | 1,356 | 1,023 | NA | NA | 723 | NA | NA | NA | 5,013 |
Mobile Refraction Unit | NA | NA | NA | 2,307 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 2,307 |
School Screening camps | NA | NA | 816 | 1,155 | 3,537 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 5,508 |
Paediatric Camps | NA | NA | NA | NA | 794 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 794 |
Vision Centres | 17,788 | 5,316 | 9,726 | 5,146 | 5,704 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 43,680 |
Community | 8,501 | 2,094 | 2,432 | 2,061 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 15,088 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centres / City Centers</th>
<th>Total OP Examinations</th>
<th>Total Number of Camps</th>
<th>Surgeries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>99,762 18,197 50,934 59,260 52,396 5,887 3,441 13,164 3,386 5,502 2,401 3,14,330</td>
<td>40 10 31 39 NA NA 11 NA 1 NA 162</td>
<td>Paying 2,811 364 1,194 1,473 1,197 310 149 544 117 139 51 8,349</td>
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<td>Free (Direct) 2,271 270 877 1,353 930 NA 112 166 156 82 NA 6,217</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Camp 2,548 237 760 2,184 1,730 NA 41 231 38 21 NA 7,790</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Cataract Surgeries 7,630 871 2,831 5,010 3,857 310 302 941 311 242 51 22,356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: NA - Not Applicable