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Editorial

Aravind's initiatives in enhancing eye donations have always been a matter of appreciation from different corners. Adding to that, Aravind opened a new eye bank facility at Pondicherry with a view to further promoting the eye banking activities on a large scale.

Focusing on the eye health of children under 17 years who form a major proportion of the visually impaired in India, Aravind joined hands with A2Z: The USAID Micronutrient and Child Blindness Project to effectively address this issue. In this regard a regional workshop was conducted at LAICO which was attended by chief officials from different eye care organisations.

LAICO's consultancy services were in full swing with a lot more visits carried out in the month.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Aravind News Team Archives

Hit Counter 1

Quote

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does".

- William James

SPECIAL EVENTS

Inauguration of Eye Bank

Aravind – Pondicherry, May 11



Aravind Eye Bank was inaugurated at Aravind-Pondicherry by Dr.Dilip Kumar Baliga, Director - Health family and Welfare Services, Government of Pondicherry. The holy Kuthuvilakku was lighted by Dr.Vijaya Balakandan, Dy. Director (Public Health), Government of Pondicherry. Dr. K.Tiruvengkatakrisnan, Medical Director, Eyebank welcomed the gathering. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer briefed about the eye collection details and utilisation report and also thanked the volunteers for their consistent support. MJF. Lion K.Kuppusamy, District Governor, Ln-324-A3 offered felicitations. Mr.Poobalan, Manager, Administration proposed a vote of thanks. The

programme came to an end with National Anthem.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Opticals division at Aravind – Madurai sets record

Optical Division at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai sets a new record in April as it received 1513 orders for



progressive lenses which is the highest number taken in a month across all the Aravind Hospitals.



Visit by Sarvam children from Poonthurai

Aravind – Pondicherry, May 6



A total of 89 children from "Sarovam", Poonthurai, an organization for rural children under the aegis of Sri Aurobindo Society visited Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry. Mr. Poobalan welcomed the gathering. Genesis and Infinite vision were shared with the children and a session about the importance of food and nutrition was conducted. A lecture on eye care awareness was also arranged for them. A free eye checkup was conducted in which 9 children were identified with defective vision and glasses were prescribed for them.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Tuck India business conference

Hanover, United Kingdom, April 29

Dr. S. Aravind attended the conference as one of the panelists for the discussion on Emerging Innovations in Health Care Delivery organised by the Tuck School Centre for International Business.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Valedictory function of summer camp

Aravind - Madurai, May 12



The three - week summer camp organised for the kids at Janakiamma Child Care Centre came to an end with a spectacular cultural evening. The drawings and handicrafts made by the kids were displayed at the occasion. The kids enthralled the audience with their dance, gymnastics and various cultural performances.



Nurse's day celebrations

Aravind – Tirunelveli, May 12



Aravind - Tirunelveli has always been keen on observing special days and celebrating them accordingly. This month they celebrated Nurses' Day with a variety of programmes.

The celebrations started with a welcome address by Sr. Tamilselvi followed by a talk by the Nursing Superintendent Sr. Chidambaram. Sr. Chidambaram pointed out the qualities of a good nurse and also briefed about patient satisfaction. Sr. Petchiammal spoke about the history of Nurse's day celebration worldwide. Various cultural programmes were staged by the MLOPs. Dance by Sr. Amutha and team, Sr. Karthiga and team, song by Sr. Raajini, Sr. Suganya, Sr. Vaneeswari, skit on Florence Nightingale by Sr.

Yogeswari and team really delighted the audience. Sr. Suganya recited a poem written by herself about Nurses. Dr. R.Ramakrishnan gave a motivational talk and congratulated the welfare committee members for organizing such a wonderful program. Dr. Shivakumar also gave a thought provoking speech. Sr. Mageswari proposed a vote of thanks. Sr. Uma Parvathy co-ordinated the entire program.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Visit to Eye Health Foundation

Lagos, Nigeria, March 24 – April 14



Following the request from Eye Health Foundation, Mr. Ganesh Babu, Sr. Manager, IT and Systems and Mr. Karthikeyan, Programmer visited Eye foundation Ikjea Lagos, Deserat Hospital Lagos, Victoria Island and Abuja, Ijebu Musin to assess their workflow and IHMS installation and to provide training to the users. Based on their requirement, the team customised the software and provided training in using the software and generating reports. Suggestions were given to the management regarding networking, hardware procurements and stationary design.



Needs Assessment Visits

Visit to Trilochan Netralaya

Sambalpur, Orissa, April 20 - 24

Aravind team consisting of Mr. Suresh Kumar, LAICO Faculty and Dr. Marie Frederick made a needs assessment visit to Trilochan Netralaya, Sambalpur, Orissa. The challenges and weaknesses were identified and the necessary recommendations were made by the team.



Visit to Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, April 28 - 30



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO and Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry along with Shavoz, Patient care manager, Aravind - Madurai and Ms. Dhivya, Faculty - LAICO visited Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology for a needs assessment under the IAPB Capacity Building Grant Fund Project. The visit gave insight into the work systems adopted by the hospital and discussions helped to share ideas for improvement. Following this visit a team from Srikiran will be coming to LAICO to attend a Vision Building Workshop in June 2011.



A2Z Child blindness program's regional capacity building workshop

LAICO, April 29 - 30



Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai hosted the workshop that focused on building participating organizations' capacity in executing the program design in fact, the way of evaluating their application. It was designed to improve the capabilities of eye care organisations, expanding access to other funding opportunities, and ultimately increasing the overall quality and impact of pediatric eye care programs. This workshop provided a forum for regional networking and knowledge - sharing. Ms Kelly Josiah, Grants Manager of Academy for Educational Development, Mr John Barrows, Director of Programs, International Eye Foundation, Mr. Raheem Rahmatullah, Sustainability Specialist,

International Eye Foundation and Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Chief -Paediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Department, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai were the facilitators of this workshop. Twenty participants from Philippines, Bangladesh, Indonesia and India attended the workshop.

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on March 2011	Enrollments for April 2011
Long Term Fellowship Courses			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	98	1
	Tirunelveli	12	0
	Coimbatore	21	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	97	1
	Tirunelveli	122	1
	Coimbatore	90	1
	Pondicherry	1	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	703	0
	Tirunelveli	275	0
	Coimbatore	208	1
	Pondicherry	8	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	244	1
	Tirunelveli	0	0
	Coimbatore	234	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
Orientation to Paediatric Ocular Anesthesia for Anaesthetist	Madurai	10	1
	Tirunelveli	0	0
	Coimbatore	0	0
	Pondicherry	0	0
	Theni	0	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	124	1
	Tirunelveli	69	1
	Coimbatore	84	2
	Pondicherry	17	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	152	2
	Tirunelveli	105	2
	Coimbatore	121	0
	Pondicherry	19	1
Ocularist	Madurai	18	1
Management Courses			
Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators / Managers	LAICO	206	9

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

PUBLICATIONS

• J CATARACT REFRACT SURGERY

VOL: 37(5) MAY 2011 P.814-818

Aravind Haripriya, Colin S.H. Tan, Rengaraj Venkatesh, Srinivasan Aravind, Anand Dev, Kah-Guan Au Eong
 - *Effect of preoperative counseling on fear from visual sensations during phacoemulsification under topical anesthesia* [View article](#)

• BR J OPHTHALMOL

VOL: 95(5) MAY 2011 P.744-745

Prajna Lalitha, Brett L Shapiro, Allison R Loh, Annette W Fothergill, N Venkatesh Prajna, M Srinivasan, Catherine E Oldenburg, David A Quigley, Jaya D Chidambaram, Stephen D McLeod, Nisha R Acharya, Thomas M Lietman
 - *Amphotericin B and natamycin are not synergistic in vitro against Fusarium and Aspergillus spp. isolated from keratitis* [View article](#)

• BR J OPHTHALMOL

VOL: 95(5) MAY 2011 P.750-751

Catherine E Oldenburg, Venkatesh N Prajna, Lalitha Prajna, Tiruvengada Krishnan, Jeena Mascarenhas, C M Vaitilingam, Muthiah Srinivasan, Craig W See, Vicky Cevallos, Michael E Zegans, Nisha R Acharya, Thomas M Lietman
 - *Clinical signs in dematiaceous and hyaline fungal keratitis* [View article](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

April - 2011								
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS								
Paying (New & Review)	41,073	6,313	20,356	28,235	18,459	4,496	2,748	121,680
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,114	1,922	5,433	9,405	5,498	4	-	35,376
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS								
Regular Eye Camps	5,887	1,101	1,472	4,196	2,180	-	122	14,836
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	84	326	-	790	-	-	-	1,200
Refraction Camps	576	426	873	675	120	-	-	2,670
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	237	-	-	-	-	-	237
School Screening	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vision Centres	6,836	3,474	3,109	2,065	1,848	-	-	17,332
Community Eye Clinics	3,374	1,534	4,064	-	-	-	-	8,972
Total Examinations OP	70,944	15,333	35,307	45,366	28,105	4,500	2,748	202,303
SURGERIES								
Paying	2,498	376	1,052	1,465	774	172	115	6,452

Free (Direct)	3,190	251	745	1,550	645	-	-	6,381
Camp	1,640	179	427	1,118	537	-	-	3,901
Total Surgeries	7,328	806	2,224	4,133	1,956	172	115	16,734



CASE STUDY

The old woman who became a glaucoma patient by self medication

It is yet another case of an induced glaucoma by prolonged use of steroid eye drops. The old woman who had a minor problem of eye irritation sought cure from a medical shop where she got a medicine. Now she has been afflicted with the blinding disease of glaucoma as a result of self – medication.

The 65 year old patient Rakkamma (name changed) belongs to a village near Alanganallur. She had irritation in her left eye for the past two months. In the beginning, she thought it will get resolved on its own. But, as it persisted for long she went to a medical shop and told the salesman about her problem. He gave her an eye drop medicine without any advice as to how long it should be used. Rakkamma applied the medicine and found relief. However, she continued to use the drops even after she had no irritation. As the medicine had steroid content, it affected her eye in course of time, causing much pain. She did not know what to do.

Her neighbours advised her to go to Aravind's eye camp being held in that village. Rakkamma visited the camp where her eyes were examined by a doctor. He found increased intra-ocular pressure in left eye and referred her to the base hospital.

The patient counsellor brought the old woman to Aravind-Madurai. In the glaucoma clinic, she was thoroughly examined by a doctor. She had increased eye pressure but her optic nerve was not affected. The doctor prescribed her a glaucoma eye drop medicine with an advice that it should be used for life long.

As the patient belongs to a poor family, she was given two small bottles of eye drop medicine and was instructed to use it daily without fail. The counsellor informed Rakkamma about Aravind's primary eye examination centre at Alanganallur that functions for the benefit of people in the surrounding villages. She could get two bottles of glaucoma medicine from the centre every month free of charge.

"As your eye pressure increase is in the earlier stage, it has not affected your eye. However, if you fail to apply the medicine regularly, your vision will decrease gradually leading to irreversible blindness" - the counsellor cautioned the patient.

Rakkamma lamented that "My ignorance is responsible for my present condition. If I had not come to Aravind, I would have lost my eye sight". She thanked Aravind Eye Hospital and medical staff for their kindness in helping her to save her vision.

Source : R. G. Varalakshmi
Aravind – Madurai
Script : K.V.S. Lakshmanan

