



Inside

[SPECIAL EVENTS](#)
[NEWS AND EVENTS](#)
[CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE](#)
[HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT](#)
[LAICO HAPPENINGS](#)
[TRAINING PROGRAMMES](#)
[PUBLICATIONS](#)
[STAFF CORNER](#)
[AUROLAB NEWS](#)
[MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS](#)

[Aravind News Team Archives](#)

[Hit Counter 2](#)

Quote

Human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.
 - William James

Editorial

November 2011 is all set to mark yet another milestone in the annals of Aravind Eye Care System with the opening of the new hospital in Salem. Final round preparations are underway for the grand inaugural function which is due on November 27. The long - awaited book that documents Aravind's journey to a world class eye care provider was unveiled in the second week of November at Berkeley, USA.

The workshop on Molecular Diagnostic Methods conducted at Aravind Medical Research foundation answered a much felt need of microbiologists to learn and apply various molecular techniques in routine laboratory testing. As in the previous years, the prestigious AAO meet provided an opportunity for the Aravind team to meet with the peers in the field and share new ideas.

Recognising that diabetes is a chronic, debilitating disease with a lot of associated complications, several awareness programmes were arranged on the eve of World Diabetes Day. Aravind too joined in the efforts create alertness among the public on the effects of the disease and the ways to prevent it.

The first Research advisory meeting with the reconstituted members held at Aravind Medical Research Foundation in the presence of many dignitaries.

Also tune in to an interesting article on the activities of Janakiamma Child Care Centre and enjoy a poem written by a visiting doctor at Aravind in our Staff Corner.

News about many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

SPECIAL EVENTS

Launch of Infinite Vision

Berkeley, USA, November 5



Infinite Vision – the book which documents the journey of Aravind co-authored by Ms. Pavitra Mehta and Ms. Suchitra Shenoy was launched at a spectacular ceremony held at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj captured the minds of the audience sharing the success story of Aravind over the years. A powerful rendering by Mr. Steve Piersanti, the Founder – president of Berrett-Koehler itself became an apt testimonial for the book. Pavitra and Suchitra sparkled on the stage with their personal stories and many a times their touching narration literally moved the audience to tears and brought them to a standing ovation.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Workshop on Molecular Diagnostic Methods for Ocular and Systemic Pathogens

Aravind – Madurai, October 31 – November 4



The last workshop in the October Summit was jointly organised Aravind Eye Care System and the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologist, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Twenty participants and also lecturers from various colleges in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Ahmedabad attended the workshop. The invited speakers were Dr. M. Parida from DRDO, Gwalior, Dr Savitri Sharma from LVPEI Buvaneshwar, Dr.Lily Therese from Sankara Nethralaya Chennai, and Dr. Karutha Pandian, Alagappa University, Karaikudi. Apart from the invited speakers, microbiologists Dr Jayahar Barathi, Dr. Manikandan from Aravind - Tirunelveli and Coimbatore respectively, along with the

AMRF faculty gave lectures on various topics. The lab modules were conducted by the research scholars - Lalan Kumar Arya, R.Siva Ganesa Karthikeyan, J. Lakshmi Priya, V. Nithya, and S. Jeeva Rathinam from the Microbiology Department.



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy at PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research

Coimbatore, November 1

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy was at PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and Research as chief guest for the inaugural Shri G. Varadharaj Memorial Endowment Oration and delivered the oration lecture.



10th Research Advisory Committee Meeting

AMRF, November 7



The 10th Research Advisory Committee was held on 7th November 2011 at Dr.G.Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute. This is the first meeting for the newly reconstituted Research Advisory Committee.

The following members were present. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, (Chairman), Dr. Ch.Mohan Rao, Director, Centre for Cellular Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, Dr.M.R.S.Rao, President, Jawaharlal Nehru Centre of Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, Dr. Kumaravel Somasundaram, Associate professor, Microbiology and Cell Biology, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Dr. K. Dharmalingam, DBT

Distinguished Research Professor, School of Biotechnology, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Dr. Kirushna Kumar, Sr.Consultant Head, Radiation Oncology, Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Madurai, Dr. Kim, Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna and Prof. VR. Muthukkaruppan (Member Secretary). Dr.P.Namperumalsamy welcomed and introduced the new members. Prof.VR.Muthukkaruppan has presented an over view on the activities of Aravind Medical Research Foundation on various aspects (PhD awarded by Madurai Kamaraj University, Papers published in peer reviewed journals, Awards received and conferences attended by the faculty members and research students, Workshops conducted). This was followed by the presentation on the achievements and future projects by Dr.SR.Rathinam, Dr.Lalitha Prajna, Dr.Gowri Priya, Dr.Senthil Kumari, Dr.Lini and research scholar Ms.Prasanthi on behalf of Dr.P.Sundaresan. During the presentation Dr.Mohan Rao, Dr. M.R.S. Rao, Dr.Kumaravel Somasundaram, Dr.K.Dharmalingam specifically identified newer approaches on various research projects. The members also stressed the need for more participation by Clinician Scientists to carry out PhD programme.

The committee members went through the posters presented by the research students and interacted with them on the various aspects of research. This is a new feature added this year and among the 26 posters presented three were selected for the award.

The award winning posters are:

1. "Molecular Genetics and Functional analysis of genes involved with Albinism in India" and "Molecular Diagnosis of Oculocutaneous Albinism in South Indian Population: Candidate gene based approach" by **Ms. Renuka Devi**, Department of Genetics.
2. "Molecular based – Identification of Procerovum species (Trematode: Heterophyidae) in human eye causing

granulomatous uveitis in children of South India" by **Mr. Lalan Kumar Arya** of Department of Microbiology
 3. *"Understanding the pathogenesis of human mycotic keratitis – A Proteome wide approach"* by **Ms. S. Ananthi**,
 Department of Proteomics



Presentation on Aravind Model at Centre for Global Mental Health

Goa, November 12

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer of Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry presented about Aravind model at the short term course, Development and Evaluation of Complex Health Care Interventions conducted at Centre for Global Mental Health, Sangath, Goa, India.



World Diabetes Day Celebrations



The theme for this year's Diabetes Day Celebrations being "Diabetes Education and Prevention" extensive programmes were organized by Aravind Hospitals to make the public aware of the escalating problem of diabetes and its associated diseases, especially diabetic retinopathy.

Aravind – Pondicherry

On the occasion of the World Diabetes Day, Aravind- Pondicherry conducted an awareness exhibition which was inaugurated by Dr. R.Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer. All the staff members of Retina Vitreous Clinic enthusiastically took part in the exhibition and created awareness among public regarding diabetes mellitus and diabetic retinopathy. Charts, posters, and models were displayed. An awareness exhibition was arranged at Gandhi Thidal on 13th November. Around 450 persons visited the exhibition. An awareness video was also shown to the diabetes patients regarding diabetic retinopathy. Live programmes on diabetes were conducted on All India Radio and Dr. K. Jayasudha gave a talk on diabetic retinopathy awareness, prevention and management on Suriyan FM.



Aravind – Tirunelveli



Mr. L. Morston Leo, Assistant Commissioner for Law and Order, Tirunelveli and Mr. M. Jayabalan Assistant Commissioner for Transport inaugurated the awareness human chain formed by the staff holding placards with messages on diabetes. Pamphlets were distributed to the public to create awareness about diabetes and its prevention. Dr.R.Ramakrishnan inaugurated the opening ceremony of the awareness exhibition for the public which was visited by around 280 participants. The exhibition displayed a great deal of information about the disease through posters and models. Representatives from Progaiit Company displayed various foot care products for Diabetes patients like Prophylactic footwear, silver socks etc. Awareness seminar for the patients focused on the complications of the diabetes. Members of Rotary and Lions clubs and Senior Citizen's Forum and patients attended the Seminar. Dr.Manakavala Perumal, physician and Dr. J. Balasubramanian, nephrologist spoke in the seminar about Diabetes and the precautionary steps to be taken to prevent the disease. Dr. Syed Mohideen Kader, Retina Services spoke about Diabetic Retinopathy and how to prevent the same. Nearly 120 persons attended this seminar and got benefited. Diabetic screening camps were also organized at three different places.

Notices on Diabetic Retinopathy and diet to be followed by diabetes patients were distributed to all those who visited the hospital during November 7 – 15. Dr. Syed Mohideen gave a talk on All India Radio about diabetes and diabetic retinopathy. Nearly 10,000 flyers were distributed to public with messages on the importance of the disease. Free Blood test for 125 persons was also arranged in the hospital.



Aravind – Theni



Aravind – Theni organized rally, meetings, seminar and screening camps to create awareness on diabetes at Periakulam with support of Indian Medical Association and other voluntary organizations and clubs. The DR screening camp arranged as part of the programme was inaugurated by Mr. O. Raja -Chairman, Periyakulam Municipality. A total of 646 patients were screened of which 528 were diabetics and 61 persons were found to have diabetic retinopathy. Awareness rally was flagged off by Mr. Selvaraj - Additional Superintendent of Police, Theni in the presence of Mr. Sivabalan - President Lion's club of Mango city, Mr. Suriyanarayanan -District Chairman, Periyakulam Lions club,

Inspectors of Thenkarai and Vadakarai Police stations, Dr. Selvaraj, Dr. L.V.K. Moorthy and Dr. P.Namperumalsamy-Chairman Emeritus, AECS. There were 400 participants which included students and members of self help groups. The rally was followed by meeting which was attended by general public, doctors and the members of different clubs. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Dr. C.P. Rajkumar - MD, Nalam Hospital, Theni, Dr. Mohan Venkatraman, MD-Diabetes Foundation, Theni delivered talks on diabetic retinopathy diabetes and the physicians stressed the importance of routine health check-up.



Aravind - Coimbatore

Massive arrangements were made by Aravind -Coimbatore on the eve of the World Diabetes Day. Free blood screening camps were conducted. Patients detected to have diabetes and known diabetics, were referred to the Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camps conducted by the Aravind Eye hospital. Press meet and patient interactive sessions on diabetic retinopathy were held. A special exhibition and awareness exhibition were also arranged.



Children's Day Celebrations at Paediatric Clinic

November 14



Aravind – Pondicherry

An awareness exhibition on paediatric eye diseases was arranged by the MLOPs on the occasion of Children's Day at the hospital. Drawing and Quiz competition were conducted and prizes were distributed by Mr. P. Poobalan, Manager –Administration and Dr. K. Veena, Chief – Paediatric Services.

Aravind –Tirunelveli, November 14

Drawing Competition was conducted for the children of the paediatric clinic and the winners were given prizes. Dr. Meenakshi, Chief-Paediatric Clinic presented the prizes and gave an informative talk on paediatric eye diseases and how to prevent them.



A Home Away from Home

Homeaway

A corner of the third floor of the Aravind Hospital – Madurai takes the visitors to an entirely different world of baby talks, soft screams and playful activities with the inquisitive little ones peeping through the glass door wondering as to what is happening beyond their world. Started in 1992 at Madurai for the children of women employees of Aravind, Janakiammal child care centre provides a pleasant and enjoyable environment for the tiny tots. The centre itself is an excellent plotpharm where the kids gets introduced to early learning through imbibing basics skills like holding, stacking and balancing things, identifying alphabet and numbers grouping animals and birds etc., Almost all special days are festivals as for as the kids are concerned. They celebrate with pomp Navarathri, Sri. Krishna Jayanthi, children's day etc. The hallmark event being the "Graduation Day" conducted on every March 27, as many as 95 kids have graduated from the centres so far.

[click here to view the funtime at creche](#)



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Annual Meeting of American Academy of Ophthalmology

Orlando, USA, October 22 – 25

Dr. S.R. Krishnadas

- *Aravind's approach to glaucoma management in the developing world*

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna

- *An evidence-based approach to managing fungal keratitis*

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj was one of the panelists for the course on "Sustainable development" organized as part of the meet. Dr. T.P. Vignesh (Aravind – Madurai), Dr. Padmavathy (Aravind – Tirunelveli) and Dr. Kiruba Paul (Aravind – Coimbatore) participated in the conference.



International assembly of community ophthalmologists & Second annual conference of association community ophthalmologists of India

Guwahati, October 28 - 30



Dr.P. Vijayalakshmi was awarded the Dr. Kali Das Bhattacharya Memorial Award 2010 at the conference. She also delivered a lecture on *Promotion of paediatric eye care*.



Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj at the meetings of Seva Board, Help Me See, Orbis and Acumen Fund

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj during his short stint in the US he attended the Seva Board meeting held in bay Area. He also participated in the meetings of Help Me See and Orbis. He also attended the first Acumen Fund meeting after his being appointed as the board member of the organisation.



11th International AMD and Retina Congress

Lisbon, Portugal November 2 - 6

Dr. V. Narendran and Dr. Rodney J. Morris from Aravind - Coimbatore participated in the 11th International AMD and Retina Congress held at Lisbon, Portugal.



CME on Regenerative and Transplantation Medicine in Ophthalmology

Bangalore, November 12 – 16



A five day CME and Doctoral course on "Regenerative and Transplantation medicine in Ophthalmology" was organized by Narayana Nethralaya Post Graduate Institute of Ophthalmology, Bangalore and Karolinska institute, Sweden on November 12-16, 2011. Prof.VR.Muthukkaruppan, Dr.C.Gowri priya, Saumi Mathews, Jhansi Rani, and Tilak Prasad from stem cell laboratory attended the meeting. Prof.VR.Muthukkaruppan gave invited talk on "Biology of Adult Human limbal epithelial stem cells".

Totally 50 participants including Scientists, research scholars, Clinicians and students attended course. There were 26 talks by 20 invited speakers from Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Uni More, Modena, Italy, University of Nebraska Medical Centre, Nebraska, USA, University of Linkoping, Sweden, Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai, National centre for Biological Science, Bangalore, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Trivandrum, Aravind Medical Research Foundation, Madurai.

The focus of this course was on the therapeutic potential of stem cells in regenerative medicine and the transfer of basic research from bench to bed side. Practical demonstrations on stem cells were organized.



11th International Ocular Inflammation Society (IOIS) Congress and International Assembly of Ocular Inflammation Societies

Goa, November 13 - 16

Dr. SR. Rathinam

- *Uveitis epidemiology of south India and the subcontinent - Pearls for domestic and International ophthalmologists*
- *Epidemic Ocular trematode diagnosis and management.*

She also participated in the panel discussion on Intraocular TB - general consideration and Clinical presentation of intraocular TB.

Dr. S. Balamurugan

- *A case of sub retinal abscess associated with tuberculid reaction without clinically detectable pulmonary tuberculosis.*



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Recreation Activity for MLOPs

Aravind - Pondicherry, November 11



Recreation activities were organised by the HR department as part of the employee developmental activities on the occasion of Children's Day. The participants divided into different teams actively participated in the competitions organized as part of the programme. The team Rose won the event.



Orientation for Newly Joined Supervisors, Tutors and Technicians

Aravind - Madurai, November 10



A 3- day orientation programme for the newly selected supervisors, tutors and technicians aimed to orient them on their new role. Dr.Krishnadas, Dr.Kim, Dr.G.Natchiar, Dr. Usha Kim, Dr. S. Aravind, Dr.R.D.Ravindran and Dr.V.PRavichandran handled sessions in the orientation programme which ignited the thoughts and helped the participants understand their roles, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities. The orientation programme ended up with the presentation of action plan by the newly selected supervisors and tutors.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

MIS Implementation at Fundacion Paraguay

Paraguay, October 7 - 20

Mr BS Ganesh Babu and Mr SP Praveen Kumar, IT Systems Department visited Fundacion Vision as part of the IAPB - Capacity Building Grant Fund - MIS Implementation project. During this visit, the team assessed their system, customized and demonstrated the key features of the proposed software solution meeting their requirements. The team will work on the software further to include their requirements, demonstrate them using internet facilities and



plan for implementation early next year.



Follow up visit to Drashti Netralaya

Dahod, Gujarat, November 3 - 5



Dr Saravanan, consultant –Retina and Vitreous Services and Mr BS Ganesh Babu, Faculty – LAICO visited Drashti Netralaya as part of the follow up visit to assess the status of the strategies and actions plan developed during the workshop at LAICO after the initial needs assessment visit in February 2011. The team discussed the outcome and impacts of the strategies and the challenges the hospital face currently. Recommendations were made to develop and customize their action plan to implement the pending activities. Mr .V. Vijayakumar from LAICO was part of the team to assess the impact of the Diabetic Retinopathy project supported by Sight Savers.



Consultancy visit to Gomabai Netralaya

Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh, November 7 - 9



Dr.V.R. Saravanan and Mr. V. Vijayakumar visited Gomabai Netralaya for analysing the impact of the Diabetic Retinopathy project funded by SSI during 2006 - 2012. He also engaged in a needs assessment and capacity building analysis as part of the plan to upgrading this hospital from a secondary care center to a tertiary center. [Click here to view Consultancy statistical report](#)



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on September 2011	Enrollments for October 2011
Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment/Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	101	1
	Tirunelveli	13	0
	Coimbatore	24	0
	Pondicherry	11	0
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	28	1
	Tirunelveli	9	0
	Coimbatore	16	0

	Pondicherry	3	0
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	27	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	103	2
	Tirunelveli	129	1
	Coimbatore	98	0
	Pondicherry	1	1
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	704	1
	Tirunelveli	276	0
	Coimbatore	210	1
	Pondicherry	11	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	136	2
	Tirunelveli	74	2
	Coimbatore	92	0
	Pondicherry	17	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	162	0
	Tirunelveli	108	0
	Coimbatore	123	1
	Pondicherry	22	0
	Theni	1	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	253	1
	Coimbatore	244	2
	Pondicherry	3	0
Paediatric Nurse	Madurai	55	1
Ocularist	Madurai	22	1
Short Term Course in OT Techniques	Madurai	21	6

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



PUBLICATIONS

- **BR J OPHTHALMOL 2011 OCT 6. [Epub]**

Krishnan T, Prajna NV, Gronert K, Oldenburg CE, Ray KJ, Keenan JD, Lietman TM, Acharya NR.

- *Gender differences in re-epithelialisation time in fungal corneal ulcers.* [article view](#)

- **J PEDIATR OPHTHALMOL STRABISMUS 2011 NOV 1;48(6):341-6.**

Anand Kumar, Sashikant Shetty, Vijayalakshmi P, Hertle RW

- *Improvement in visual acuity following surgery for correction of head posture in infantile nystagmus syndrome.* [article view](#)

- **INT J INFECT DIS. 2011 NOV 16. [Epub]**

Shukla J, Saxena D, Rathinam S, Lalitha P, Joseph CR, Sharma S, Soni M, Rao PV, Parida M.

- *Molecular detection and characterization of West Nile virus associated with multifocal retinitis in patients from southern India.* [article view](#)



STAFF CORNER

A short poem written by a San Francisco-based ophthalmologist named Rishi Doshi while he was at Aravind -- from the perspective of an ophthalmologist performing cataract surgery on a person from the village.

"Cataract Camp"

As the rings of a tree
 Mark its soiled, woody history
 Stumped at last by the lumberer's axe
 So do these layers
 Tell of new skin swaddled by sky
 Suckling the milk of a barren land
 Soft and young
 Then baked in the village sun
 Grazing now, between rainclouds
 For what prayers felt certain
 Would be delivered from deliberate hands
 As I remove you from the shade
 I deliver a last drop
 Then return you to rays forgotten
 The sun-cracked soil of your roots
 Where your story rings in
 A new day
 - Dr. Rishi Doshi

**AUROLAB NEWS****Continuous Technical Education for Production Staff**

Aurolab, November 13



Aurolab organized Continuous Technical Education (CTE) for production staff and the employees were briefed on the new products of each division, microbiology and sterilization procedures, validation, calibration, laser, phaco etc. Ms. Girija Sathyasankar handled a session on the importance of positive thinking.

**MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS**

October - 2011								
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS								
Paying (New & Review)	35,149	6118	18,610	25,901	16,112	4,433	2,902	109,225
Free (Direct walk-in)	10,372	1655	4,993	8,153	5,172	11	11	30,367
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS								
Regular Eye Camps	12,075	1,912	2,970	7,145	3,626	-	-	27,728
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	-	-	-	656	125	-	-	781
Refraction Camps	986	417	293	1,162	323	-	-	3,181
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	237	-	-	-	-	-	237

School Screening camps	15,795	-	2,529	14,038	-	-	-	32,362
Paediatric Camps	268	-	1,336	1,025	-	-	-	2,629
Vision Centres	6,850	3,717	3,006	2,143	1,794	-	378	17,888
Community Eye Clinics	3,292	1,593	3,635	-	-	-	-	8,520
Total Examinations OP	84,787	15,649	37,372	60,223	27,152	4,444	3,291	232,918
SURGERIES								
Paying	1,675	247	800	1,072	557	94	82	4,527
Free (Direct)	1,300	140	516	1,006	391	16	25	3,394
Camp	1,029	201	504	1,431	481	-	-	3,646
Total Surgeries	4,004	588	1,820	3,509	1,429	110	107	11,567

