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## Quote

The Divine's love can generate in all peace and the satisfaction that comes from benevolence - the Mother

## Editorial

Retinopathy of Prematurity is a complicated sight-threatening condition developing in babies born prematurely. Unfortunately, awareness about this condition is very limited and so, many babies are doomed to lead a life of darkness. To address this issue, Aravind -Tirunelveli has come up with an innovative approach. With the support of Standard Chartered Global Business Solutions Ltd (formerly known as Scope), the hospital has started a new initiative to screen new born pre-mature babies in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Virudunagar Districts for through telemedicine platform.

As in the previous years, Aravind observed the birth anniversary of its legendary founder, Dr. G. Venkataswamy with a series of deliberations. Dubbed as October Summit, this year too, the programme focused on several issues faced in the effective delivery of eye care.

Aravind hosted the prestigious annual conference of the Oculoplastic Association of India. The conference paved way for rich sharing of ideas as well as meaningful interaction between the experts in the field.

News about these and many more are in this issue.

## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

### Dr. M. Srinivasan delivers the Dr. U. V. Raman Raju Lecture

Vijayawada, October 13-15



Dr. M. Srinivasan delivered the Dr. U. V. Raman Raju Lecture at the 3rd Conference of the Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society.



### Vocational Service Award for Dr. V. Anitha

Tirunelveli, October 22

Dr. V. Anitha, Chief - Cornea Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli was awarded "Vocational Service Award" for her selfless work and service by the Rotary Club of Kovilpatti.



## NEWS AND EVENTS

### October Summit 2017 : Workshop on Architectural Design of Eye Hospital

Aravind –Madurai, October 4-5



In India and in other developing countries there is a paucity of architects who are specialized in hospitals. It is even rarer to find an architect who specializes in eye hospitals. This is in spite of having over a thousand standalone eye hospitals. Quite often neither the architect nor the promoter (ophthalmologist or directors/trustees) are knowledgeable about all the details that have to be considered in designing the building and the specific workspaces. So very often, one finds eye hospitals that are not functional in meeting the needs by way of patient flow or workflow. Thus it is not uncommon to see frequent breaking and remodeling of hospitals to make it more functional. The workshop was designed as a forum to pool all learning of what worked and what didn't, so that going forward the participants will have a growing body of knowledge and expertise for designing eye hospitals that work well, promote efficiency and appeal to the patients and their relatives. The workshop aimed to recognize all the factors that influence efficient and effective delivery of eye care services and translate them into architectural specifications and building design. 53 participants participated.



### October Summit 2017 : Workshop on Improving Patient Compliance with Cataract Services

Aravind –Madurai, October 6-7





The conference brought together eye care organisations to collaborate in finding innovative solutions for the problem of patient non - compliance and how we can make cataract services more effective. The intention was that solutions identified to address non-compliance around cataract surgery and follow up will have some application for other eye conditions. Close to 40 participants participated.



## October Summit 2017 : Workshop on Study Design and Manuscript Writing

Aravind –Madurai, October 10-11



This was planned more like an internal event for the staff of Aravind members who already have a research background and have some important research projects in pipeline to publish in international journals. The objectives were to enable researchers discuss and apply appropriate and scientifically rigor methods in their proposed research study. It also helped the researchers gain more skills in scientific writing and apply those in preparing their manuscript. A total of twenty two Aravind staff from various centres participated.



## Observing World Sight Day

Aravind, October 12



World Sight Day is observed every year on the second Thursday of October. Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai and Madurai Ophthalmologists' Association jointly observed this year's World Sight Day on October 12 organising an awareness rally from Goripalayam to Aravind Hospital. The rally was flagged off by Dr. Sashi Mohan IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police. Close to 300 people consisting of doctors and paramedics joined the rally. The participants held placards with messages on the importance of proper eye care. Senior leaders of Aravind - Dr. R.D Ravindran, Chairman; Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Director - HR; Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, Chief - Cornea Services also participated.

Aravind-Tirunelveli along with District Science Centre, organized an exhibition and Special Seminar at District Science Centre. Smt. G . Dhanamani, Chief Educational Officer of Tirunelveli was invited as the Chief Guest for the seminar. She inaugurated the four-day exhibition at District Science Centre. Nearly 500 people (including school children) visited the exhibition and got benefitted. Various Posters, models and charts were displayed in the Exhibition. Dr R Ramakrishnan, CMO welcomed the gathering to the seminar. Mr K Navaram Kumar, District Science Officer offered felicitation. Tmt G Dhanmani spoke about the significance of vision and also congratulated Aravind for its our yeomen service to the society. Dr Meenakshi, Chief of Paediatric Ophthalmology Clinic handled an interactive session on Eye care in school children. Mr Mari Lenin, Program associate of District Science Centre proposed a vote of thanks. Lakshmi R, Manager HR was the master of ceremony.



## Diwali Celebrations

Aravind-Tirunelveli, October 10



All the staff members including Doctors, MLOPs and Admin staff members attended this grand celebration. The evening was marked with glittering diyas, dazzling fireworks, dinner and cultural programmes. The celebration started with prayer song. Welcome address was given by Ms. Muthulakshmi, MRD. Various cultural programmes like dance, singing and a skit were staged. Mr Balakrishnan, Co-ordinator - Free Hospital amused the audience singing an old song. Ms. Kamaladevi, OPD spoke on the significance of celebrating Deepavali. Dr. R Ramakrishnan, CMO gave a motivational speech on this special occasion. Ms Kavitha, Refractionist proposed vote of thanks. Ms. Rajalakshmi, Refractionist was the master of ceremony. At the end of celebrations, MLOPs and staff members burst crackers and had a good time.



## Inauguration of Seeing is Believing – Scope "Retinopathy of Prematurity" Project

Aravind-Tirunelveli, October 6





"Seeing is Believing" programme was established by Standard Chartered Bank in collaboration with leading eye care organizations with the objective of contributing to sight restoration and eye health care. With the support of Standard Chartered Global Business Solutions Ltd (formerly known as Scope), the department of Retina and Paediatric Ophthalmology have taken a new initiative to screen new born pre-mature babies in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) in Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Virudunagar Districts for Retinopathy of Prematurity" (ROP) through telemedicine platform.

The aim of the project is to use customized tele-Ophthalmology platform using a RetCam (A digital imaging system specially designed to capture the paediatric retina) by the trained ophthalmic technicians to screen the babies at the NICUs and providing remote diagnosis by experts at Aravind Eye Hospital through tele-ophthalmology. It provides for management protocols of these babies in the periphery without the need for these babies to travel to base hospital. Babies identified with ROP will be referred to Aravind Eye Hospital at Tirunelveli for further investigation and treatment. Treatment will be done in a subsidiary rate to the babies at risk. The ROP screening has to be completed before 30 days of life (sometimes at 2-3 weeks of life). This project is expected to screen at least 1500 babies during the project period of two years.

The project was formally inaugurated by Mr. Sandeep Nanduri IAS, District Collector- Tirunelveli. Felicitation speech was given by Dr. Adam Ali, President -IMA-Tirunelveli and Dr. Raju, Paediatrician. Dr. Mohamed Thambi, Senior Paediatrician, Tirunelveli; Dr. Ramalakshmi and Dr. Rukmani from Tirunelveli Medical College also attended. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan welcomed the audience. Dr. Syed made a presentation on the prevalence and clinical significance of RoP. Project management was presented by Mr. Vijayakaumar. Dr. A. Fathima delivered a vote of thanks.



## AGES 25 (Aravind Glaucoma Education Services)

Aravind-Pondicherry, October 13-15



The glaucoma CME was organised to mark the silver jubilee celebration of the initiation of glaucoma training at Aravind and also as a part of Dr. V's centenary celebration. The first day was a special get together of glaucoma alumni. The meeting had around 35 alumni, trained from various branches of Aravind. There was a wet lab session on AADI and GATT (Gonio Assisted Transluminal Trabeculotomy) exclusively for the alumni.

The CME started with Dr.P. Namperumalsamy's inaugural address which was inspiring and thought provoking. There were 240 delegates from all over the country. 6 renowned international faculty from USA and Canada (Dr. Alan L. Robin, Dr. Davinder Singh Grover, Dr. Wallace L.M. Alward, Dr. Neeru Gupta, Dr. Paul P.Lee, and Dr. Pradeep Y.Ramulu), twelve national faculties and seventeen host faculty shared their rich expertise. Highlight of the event was GATT – Live surgery, which was performed for the first time in India. The scientific session covered not only the basics and current trends but also the future of glaucoma care. It was well appreciated by all the delegates.



## CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

### AGES 25

Aravind –Pondicherry, October 14-15

#### Dr. R. Ramakrishnan

- Trab + Trab - Tips for the beginners, how different is it From Trab (Panelist – Glaucoma Grand Rounds)

#### Dr. Mohideen Abdul Kader

- Trabeculectomy with Antimetabolites, Getting it the right way

#### Dr. Devendra Maheswari

- Bleb Needling - When and How?

#### Dr. Shylesh Dabke

- Clinical Trials in Glaucoma - Ahamed Vs Baerveld Study



## Aravind Hosts the Annual Conference of Oculoplastic Association of India (OPAI)

Aravind – Madurai, October 27-29



Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai hosted the 28th annual conference of the OPAI in the last week of October. The field of Orbit, Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology has expanded its horizon with advancements in medical management, investigative modalities, surgical techniques and multi-disciplinary approaches. The platform provided an opportunity for the specialists in the field to come together and share their innovations. The conference served as a potpourri of basics, current topics and advances. The conference included relevant sub specialities like pathology, radiology, plastic surgery, oncology, ENT, maxillofacial surgery and neurosurgery. Scientific sessions encompassed case reports, video assisted as skill transfer, live surgeries, workshops, case discussions, presentations, debates, keynote lectures, photography competition and quiz.



Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus – AECS was the chief guest for the function. Close to 290 participants attended.



## LAICO HAPPENINGS

### Hilton Cataract Initiative: Follow up Visits

Kitwe, Zambia, October 25-26



LAICO team consisting of Mr. R.D Thulasiraj, Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy, Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram and Mr. Kumar made follow up visit to Kitwe Eye Hospital Zambia as part of the second phase of Hilton Cataract Initiative project. Mr. Senthil Kumar spent almost a month helping with the installation and training on the IHMS software.

Mr. Ganesh Babu, Dr. Rohan and Mr. Praveen Kumar visited Eye Foundation, Nigeria from October 20-25.

Ms. K.M Sashipriya, Dr. V.R. Vivekanandan and Mr. Oliver Selvam visited Fitsum Birhan Eye Hospital as part of implementing the Cat QA software.



## TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Enrolments for October 2017 at Aravind Eye Care System		
Course title	Training Centre	Enrolments for October 2017
<b>Long Term Fellowship Programs - For Ophthalmologists</b>		
<b>Fellowship in IOL &amp; Anterior Segment</b>	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1
<b>Comprehensive Ophthalmology</b>	<b>Salem</b>	1
<b>Cornea</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	2
<b>General Ophthalmology</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	3
	<b>Theni`</b>	1
	<b>Madurai</b>	2
<b>Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists</b>		
<b>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	3
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1
	<b>Madurai</b>	2
<b>Phacoemulsification</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	2
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	2
	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	2
<b>Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders</b>	<b>Coimbatore</b>	1
<b>Neuro ophthalmology</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1
<b>Small incision cataract surgery</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1
	<b>Pondicherry</b>	1

	<b>Tirunelveli</b>	1
	<b>Coimbatore</b>	1
<b>Paramedical courses</b>		
<b>FFA &amp; USG</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1
<b>Ocularist</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	1
<b>OT techniques</b>	<b>Madurai</b>	4
<b>Instruments Maintenance courses for Technicians</b>		
<b>Instruments Maintenance courses for Technicians</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	2
<b>Management Courses</b>		
<b>Eye bank techniques</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	1
<b>Research Methodology</b>	<b>LAICO</b>	51



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