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Quote

We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.
 - Maya Angelou

Editorial

For the fourth consecutive year, Aravind joined hands with INTACH, Madurai chapter to host a music night in commemoration of birth anniversary celebrations of Padmashri Dr. M.S. Subbalakshmi. The function elicited wide response from the public and indeed, it was a fitting tribute to the legendary singer.

Aravind kick started its October Summit programmes, an event held annually in memory of Dr. G. Venkataswamy, in the last week of September. Altogether, three major consultations are arranged this year with a view to improving the quality of eye care delivery. Workshop was also held internally for the staff and employees of Aravind towards improving patient compliance.

Retina Clinic at Aravind - Madurai moved to new premises in the second floor of the outpatient building. The clinic which attends to the maximum number of patients was too cramped earlier owing to restricted space. The new facility is expected to benefit patients as well as staff immensely. Aravind's senior doctors and scientists were recognized with various awards, the most important one being Dr. M. Srinivasan conferred the FNAMS by the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

FNAMS Awarded to Dr. M. Srinivasan

Aravind - Madurai

Dr. M. Srinivasan has been selected Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India). The ceremony will be held on October 26.

RustomRanji Oration Award for Dr. R.D Ravindran

Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, September 28-29

Dr. R.D Ravindran was conferred the RustomRanji Oration Award at the Andhra Pradesh State Ophthalmic Conference. He has also been conferred ACOIN Award (MehraAcoin Award). The ceremony will be held on November 9-10.

ICMR Award for Outstanding Clinical and Biomedical Scientists for the Year 2009

September 29

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, ShriGhulamNabi Azad presented the ICMR Awards to 51 outstanding clinical and biomedical scientists for the years 2009 and 2010 for their work in communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health and various other medical and biomedical fields.

The ICMR Prize for "Biomedical Research conducted in underdeveloped areas" was presented to Dr. P. Sundaresan, Senior Scientist, AMRF for his research work on "Congenital Blindness in India: A Cluster Study on Ocular Anomalies in Ara, Bihar".



The Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize for the year 2009 was presented to Dr. ManikandanPalanisamy, Scientist and Head, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Biology, Aravind – Coimbatore for his research work on "Epidemiological, Clinical and Laboratory Investigations of Ocular Infections".



NEWS AND EVENTS

Eye Donation Awareness Programmes

Madurai, September 11



D.Saravanan, Manager, RAIEB handled a session for creating awareness on eye donation at Mannar College and Thiagarajar College, Madurai. Topics covered included anatomy of eye, Prevalence of corneal blindness, demand and supply of corneas, concept of eye donation and eye bank services.



MadhuraGeetham

Aravind – Madurai, September 16



The fourth season of Madhura Geetham, an annual musical event held commemorating the birth week of Dr. M.S. Subbalakshmi was co-hosted by LAICO with INATCH, Madurai in the second week of September. Mr. Gomathinayagam from Chennai gave an interesting lecture demonstration on how certain popular cine classics have the shades of certain ragas.



Inauguration of Retina Clinic

Aravind – Madurai, September 16



Retina Clinic at Aravind – Madurai moved to new premises in the second floor of the main outpatient building. The new spacious area is expected to benefit the patients tremendously.



Annual Day Celebrations

Aravind – Madurai, September 21

Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai celebrated its 37th anniversary with a variety of programmes. All the senior leaders were



present at the occasion. Cultural programmes were staged by kids from the crèche and MLOP staff. Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai celebrated its 37th anniversary with a variety of programmes. Chairman, Dr. R.D. Ravindran in his special address congratulated the staff on this special occasion and exhorted them to work towards the noble cause of eliminating needless blindness. All the senior leaders were present at the occasion. Cultural programmes were staged by kids from the crèche, MLOP staff as well as doctors and Admin team.



Aravind – Dindigul Celebrates its Third Anniversary

Dindigul, September 21

Dr. M. Srinivasan, Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Dr. S. Aravind and Dr. Haripriya were the invited guests at the occasion. Mr. SKC Kuppusamy, president, Chamber of Commerce was the chief guest. Celebrations started with prayer song. Mr. R. Balasubramani, Manager welcomed the audience. Dr. M. Srinivasan delivered the Special address.

The celebrations were arranged at N. P. Nathan Rotary Hall, Dindigul. Service awards were distributed to the employees which was followed by cultural programmes by MLOP staff. Vote of thanks was delivered by Ms. K.R. Sumathi.



Team from Japan visits Aravind

Aravind – Madurai, September 25



A six-member team from Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) visited Aravind to get an overview of the Aravind model. The team interacted with the senior members and paid visit the paying, free and inpatient facilities at Aravind.



Seventh Triennial Conference of Ocular Trauma Society of India

LAICO, September 28-29



Dr. R. Pararajasegaram, Former Consultant - WHO, Past President – IAPB was the chief guest. Eminent faculty in the field of ocular trauma participated in this meeting. Around 125 participants including ophthalmologists, postgraduates, consultants from various hospitals and institutions from all over India participated in this conference. The feedback of this conference was extremely positive. Every one of delegates was appreciative of the scientific content and the overall quality of the conference.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital Program

Kolkata, September 16 -21

Aravind's Instruments Maintenance team handled sessions at the biomedical training programme organized by ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital which was attended by 12 trainees. They handled sessions on

- *Introduction to general ophthalmic equipment and in-house troubleshooting techniques*
- *Equipment calibration*
- *Maintenance of ophthalmic equipment*



Awards at Annual Conference of Glaucoma Society of India

Indore, Madhya Pradesh, September 20-22



Dr. Lipi Chakraborty, Consultant, Glaucoma services at Aravind- Coimbatore won the Best Paper Award for her paper on Automated fundus image assessment : A novel screening method for glaucoma.

Dr George V Puthuran won the best video award for his video on Aurolab Aqueous Drainage Implant at the Annual Conference of Glaucoma Society of India held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Dr. George

- *Tackling glaucoma in uveitis*

Dr. Manju

- *Newer tonometers*

13th Annual Conference of Uveitis Society of India

Mussourie, Uttarakhand, September 27-29



Dr. Rathinam

- *When to do cataract surgery in uveitis*

LAICO HAPPENINGS

October Summit 2013

LAICO, September 26-27



As part of October Summit, an annual event held in honour of Aravind's founder, Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, various global consultations were organized. The first two of these were held in the last week of September:

Enhancing Cataract Outcomes through Continuous Monitoring and Bench Marking

A total of 50 participants from 12 hospitals (7 external and 5 Aravind centres) participated. It was aimed to highlight the necessity and benefit of tracking and monitoring the key parameters of Cataract services by introducing the Cat-QA software and through that improving the performance of a hospital or a particular surgeon. Dr. R. Pararajasegaram; Dr.Col.M.Deshpande, President, Vision 2020 and Dr. G.V.Rao, Executive Director, Vision 2020

participated and shared their views on Cat- QA. The workshop involved presentations, group work by the participating hospitals and demo on the software.



Towards Better Patient Compliance – A workshop to learn from best practices

LAICO, September 28-29



As part of October Summit, this workshop was held to address the challenges of patient compliance – to understand the magnitude of the problem, explore best practices to improve the situation. 48 participants from 4 countries attended workshop. The workshop featured several practical ways of improving compliance. Speakers included Dr AsimSil, (Medical Director, VMANN, West Bengal), Mr Juan Carlos Orellana, (Director Operations, salaUno, Mexico), Dr AniruddhaMalpani (H.E.L.P, Mumbai) and Ms RenuSiwas (Administrator, Venu Eye Institute, New Delhi). In addition, several strategies adopted at Aravind were shared by the doctors and managers: Dr V.P Ravichandran, Mr R Meenakshisundaram, Dr Parag Shah, Dr Manavi, Ms. Dhivya, Ms Deepa Krishnan, and Ms. Neha Panicker.

Participants contributed actively to this workshop through the group work which encouraged them to identify barriers to compliance and develop strategies to overcome them through awareness creation, improving service design and patient empowerment. Dr Pararajasegaram (Former WHO Consultant) concluded the workshop with his special words.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on September 2013	Enrollments for October 2013
Long term Fellowship Programmes for Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	76	1
	Tirunelveli	2	0
	Coimbatore	42	0
	Pondicherry	7	0
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	130	1
	Tirunelveli	23	0
	Coimbatore	31	0
	Pondicherry	16	0
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	15	1
	Tirunelveli	8	0
	Theni	1	0
	Pondicherry	17	0
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Madurai	72	1
	Tirunelveli	20	0
	Coimbatore	31	0
	Pondicherry	7	0
Short Term Fellowship - For International Candidates			
Short Term Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	12	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	120	1
	Tirunelveli	156	1
	Coimbatore	119	0
	Pondicherry	6	0

ECCE IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	717	0
	Tirunelveli	279	1
	Coimbatore	221	1
	Pondicherry	13	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	186	0
	Tirunelveli	122	0
	Coimbatore	149	0
	Pondicherry	31	1
Phacomulsification	Madurai	172	2
	Tirunelveli	92	0
	Coimbatore	129	1
	Pondicherry	31	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	284	1
	Coimbatore	285	1
	Pondicherry	8	0
Ocularist	Madurai	32	1
Training in OT Techniques	Madurai	32	3
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity & Pediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	16	1
Management Courses			
Research Methodology	LAICO	216	43
Instruments Maintenance Course			
Instrument Maintenance Course - For Technicians	Madurai	457	5



PUBLICATIONS

- **J PEDIATR OPHTHALMOL & STRABISMUS VOL: 50(5) 2013 SEP.-OCT. p.5903**
Muralidhar, R; Vijayalakshmi, P; Kaliappan Gurusamy Srinivasan; S. Nagendran Karthik, S
- *Ophthalmic migraine with pupil-sparing third nerve palsy.* [Article View](#)
- **PLOS ONE VOL: 8(9) SEP. 2013 p.e73172**
Anshuman Verma; Vijayalakshmi, P; Shashikant Shetty; MaigiKulm; Sundaresan, P
- *Mutational screening of LCA genes emphasizing RPE65 in south Indian cohort of patients.* [Article View](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

September - 2013										
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS										
Paying (New & Review)	43,533	6,482	21,765	28,729	21,076	5,145	3,348	7,695	2,266	140,039
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,512	1,729	6,306	9,242	6,769	8	244	-	911	38,721
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS										
Regular Eye Camps	10,143	1,541	4,,132	4,774	7,275	-	-	134	255	28,254
Diabetic	514	85	-	1,059	-	-	-	-	-	1,658

Retinopathy camps											
Refraction Camps	677	529	1,090	1,205	666	-	-	209	-	4,376	
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
School Screening camps	-	102	1,100	2,100	4,216	-	-	-	-	7,518	
Paediatric Camps	278	-	742	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,020	
Vision Centres	9,921	4,348	9096	3,708	2,651	-	-	-	-	29,724	
Community Eye Clinics	3,009	1,509	1868	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,386	
Total OP Examinations	81587	16,325	46,099	50,817	42,653	5,153	3,592	8,038	3,432	257,696	
SURGERIES											
Paying	2,826	452	1,163	1,392	1,019	172	116	356	125	7,621	
Free (Direct)	2,278	196	956	1,402	699	38	51	-	55	5,675	
Camp	2,334	137	1,063	1,331	1,761	-	15	195	50	6,886	
Total Surgeries	7,438	785	3,182	4,125	3,479	210	182	551	230	20,182	

