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Quote

There is no greater courage than to be always truthful - the Mother

Editorial

The year has been of several milestones at Aravind – the much-awaited opening of Aravind-Chennai, LAICO's silver jubilee and the start of Dr. V's birth centenary year. Aravind forayed into the metro city on September 30. The outpatient services were started a week earlier and saw good response from the public. On the first day of operations, the hospital catered to over 330 patients.

The ninth Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Award was conferred upon Dr. Alfred Sommer in appreciation of his outstanding contributions to the prevention of blindness in the developing world. At the spectacular ceremony held at Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute, Dr. Sommer delivered the oration highlighting the various aspects of his landmark research studies.

Aravind has just stepped into the birth centenary year of its legendary founder, Dr. G. Venkataswamy. The culmination of the centenary celebrations is scheduled during the October Summit 2018. As a fitting tribute to this noble soul on this special occasion, Aravind has committed itself to taking up several initiatives, during the course of the year that will help improve eye care service delivery.

Last month too, several of Aravind staff won laurels in various prestigious fora. News about these and many more feature in this issue.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

TANSA Award for Dr. P. Sundaresan

Chennai, September 25, 2017



Dr. P. Sundaresan, Senior scientist, AMRF was presented with the Tamil Nadu Scientist award for the year 2013 by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology. Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu presented the award at the function held at Anna University in Chennai.



Fifth Asia Pacific HIMSS-Elsevier Digital Healthcare Award 2017 for Aravind-Pondicherry

Singapore, September 11-14, 2017



The HIMSS-Elsevier Digital Healthcare Award is a global platform recognizing outstanding achievements and innovations in the usage of health information and technology, to advance patient care and safety. Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry won the award in the category, Outstanding ICT Innovation for its fundus on phone for rural eye care. The award ceremony was organised at Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Singapore from September 11-14, 2017. Fundus on Phone for Rural Eye Care' demonstrated how using smartphones in healthcare can provide greater access to healthcare and lead to cost savings. With the Remidio camera, Aravind-Pondicherry is able to image at least 10,000 diabetic patients per year, many of whom live in impoverished villages. One of the key benefits of the Remidio camera is its low cost price of 0.03 USD, compared to conventional cameras (0.31USD).



Best Paper Award for Dr. S. Kavitha

Chennai, September 2, 2017



Dr. S. Kavitha, Senior Glaucoma Consultant, Aravind-Pondicherry won Best Paper Award for the paper titled Shared medical appointments for glaucoma care provision at a tertiary care eye hospital – A randomized trial at Sangam, Glaucoma conference organized by Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai.



Best Video Award for Dr. R.Venkatesh

Jaipur, September 15-17

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry won the Best Video Award for the video titled Periscreener – Smartphone based virtual reality device for Perimetry at the annual conference of Glaucoma Society of India held at Jaipur.



IAPB Eye Health Hero Award for Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram

Kathmandu, Nepal, September 18



Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager, Outreach – Aravind Eye Care System was honoured with the Eye Health Hero Award by the International Agency for the Prevention of blindness. The award recognizes and celebrates frontline staff whose work in the field and engagement with the community makes a real difference in restoring sight.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Aravind's Dream Project Opened in Chennai

Aravind – Chennai, September 30



The much-awaited Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai was inaugurated by Dr. V. Shanta, Chairperson, Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai in the presence of Dr. J. Radhakrishnan IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. Health and Family Welfare Dept; Dr. Alfred Sommer, Dean Emeritus and Professor-Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA; and Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor of VIT University, Vellore. The 700-bedded hospital is spread around a spacious 5 lakh square feet. Separate wing is allotted for the underprivileged patients to avail services free or at subsidized rates. On the first day of operations, the hospital catered to 337 patients.



Aravind Honours Dr. Alfred Sommer

Aravind – Madurai, October 1, 2017



This year's Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Award was presented to Dr. Alfred Sommer, Dean Emeritus and Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the prevention of needless blindness in the developing world. The senior management team of Aravind, staff, well-wishers and friends of Aravind attended the ceremony. Subsequently, Dr. Sommer delivered the oration titled, An Ophthalmic-Public Health Journey.

The function witnessed the formal launch of Dr. V's birth centenary year celebrations and the release of the specially designed logo to commemorate the occasion.

[View Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Oration by Dr. Alfred Sommer](#)



NEWS AND EVENTS

Navaratri and Saraswati Pooja Celebrations



Various centres of Aravind celebrated Navaratri with special prayers and programmes. Special bhajans were sung during the occasion. Staff from various cadres participated.



Auroutsav 2017

Aravind, August 24- September 6



Auroutsav, the biennial art-sports- and literary competitions for the staff of Aravind Eye Care Ssystem came to an end. The two -week event held on different dates across the centres and saw widespread participation from various cadres of staff. Staff members were divided into 5 groups named after various regions of the country – Northern, Eastern, Western, Central and Southern India. Altogether 30 competitions were conducted. Prizes were distributed to the winners. The winning team in each centre was awarded trophy.



Visit to Seva- Cambodia

Cambodia, August 21-24



Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram visited Seva Cambodia Sight Program to understand its service delivery system and make necessary recommendations for further improvement.



Fresher's Day for Mid-Level Ophthalmic Personnel (MLOP)

Aravind-Coimbatore, September 22

Dr. Revathy, Chief – Cornea Services was the chief guest for the function. Several entertainment programmes were staged. A few MLOPs shared their experiences of training at Aravind. Dr. Revathy in her special address emphasized the importance of their roles and responsibilities.



Ophthalmic Equipment and Instruments Maintenance Course

September 4-15

Aravind's Instruments Maintenance team consisting of Prof N.Manickam, Consultant, Mr.S.Poornachandran, Senior Technician, and Ms.N.Kasthuri, Biomedical Engineer, were invited as faculty for the ophthalmic instruments maintenance training programme held in Central Hospital, Mzuzu, Malawi from September 4-15. The course organised by Brien Holden Vision Institute was attended by 11 participants from various parts of Malawi.

Following this, a similar training programme was organised by Light for the World International, Mozambique at Central Hospital, Beira, Mozambique from September 18-30. A total of 12 participants from various parts of Mozambique attended.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Annual Conference of Glaucoma Society of India - Glaukopedia 2017

Jaipur, September 15-17



Dr. R. Venkatesh

- Non penetrating glaucoma surgery and CO2 laser assisted sclerotomy
- Sequential versus combined cataract and glaucoma surgery: Pros and cons
- Periscreeener – Smartphone based virtual reality device for Perimetry (Best video award)

Dr. S. Kavitha

- Indian scenario: are shared medical appointments necessary?
- Safety and efficacy of 0.1% Nepafenac versus 1% Prednisolone acetate eye drops after laser iridotomy – A prospective randomized trial (e-poster)

Dr. Swati Upadhyaya

- Assessing the sensitivity and specificity of non-mydriatic fundus camera for glaucoma screening (e-poster)

Dr. P.Sundaresan

- Current trends in POAG and PACG genetics



IAPB Council of Members Meeting

Kathmandu, Nepal, September 18



Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj and Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram participated in the meeting and shared their inputs. The IAPB Council of Members is the annual, high-level policy summit dedicated to the elimination of the main causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. Held every year, the event brings together key decision makers from across the IAPB membership, as well as representatives from governments and the World Health Organization (WHO), to meet and discuss key issues in eye health



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Enrolments for September 2017 at Aravind Eye Care System		
Course title	Training Centre	Enrolments for September 2017
Residency Programs		
Diplomate of National Board	Theni	3
Post DO DNB	Theni	1
	Pondicherry	1
Long Term Fellowship Programs - For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in IOL & Anterior Segment	Coimbatore	1
Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Salem	1
Cornea	Madurai	3
General Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	3
Glaucoma	Pondicherry	1
Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Madurai	1
	Tirunelveli	1
	Coimbatore	1
Retina - Vitreous	Pondicherry	1
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists		
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Coimbatore	2

	Madurai	2
	Tirunelveli	1
Observership in Glaucoma	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Small incision cataract surgery	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	2
Paramedical courses		
Optical dispensing	Madurai	2
Eye bank techniques	Madurai	1
Instrument Courses for technicians		
Instrument Courses for Ophthalmologists	LAICO	1
Management Courses		
Project management for eye care	LAICO	10



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

September - 2017

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Tuticorin	RS Puram	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS												
Paying (New & Review)	52,449	8,218	26,930	32,414	23,914	6,443	3,612	10,141	3,111	4,541	2,658	1,74,431
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	16,087	2,001	7,130	9,713	8,800	NA	1,014	1,830	1,381	739	NA	48,695
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT												
Comprehensive Eye Camps	8,406	2,494	2,829	6,924	6,461	NA	NA	1,141	NA	321	NA	28,576
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	888	208	247	633	322	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,298
Refraction Camps	790	507	918	423	764	NA	326	NA	60	NA	NA	3,788
Mobile Refraction Unit	NA	NA	NA	771	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	771
School Screening camps	925	303	649	NA	304	NA	72	439	NA	NA	NA	2,692
Paediatric Camps	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Vision Centres	19,059	5,043	10,518	3,761	5,427	NA	1,039	NA	1,583	NA	NA	46,430
Community Centres / City Centres	8,183	1,799	2,598	NA	2,401	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14,981
Total OP Examinations	1,06,787	20,573	51,819	54,639	48,393	6,443	6,063	13,551	6,135	5,601	2,658	3,22,662
Total Number	31	11	20	29	29	NA	NA	11	NA	3	NA	134

of Camps

SURGERIES

Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries

Paying	3,127	404	1,312	1,544	1,381	326	148	639	183	164	115	9,343
Free (Direct)	2,673	242	894	1,266	1,075	28	159	208	267	98	NA	6,910
Camp	2,676	282	820	1,280	1,756	NA	86	201	58	87	NA	7,246
Total												
Cataract	8,476	928	3,026	4,090	4,212	354	393	1,048	508	349	115	23,499
Surgeries												

Note: NA - Not Applicable



ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM

Admin