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Quote

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

- Winston Churchill

Dear Readers,

Gift of sight is the noble gift that one can offer. The need for cornea is 1 lakh per year and the number of eyes collected as per the Eye Bank Association of India statistics 2009 is 37,103. Every year 20,000 to 30,000 keeps adding to the current need. So the backlog is always there. To promote awareness among the public about this gloomy situation, eye donation fortnight was observed across all Aravind Eye Hospitals with a variety of informative and awareness creation programmes.

Aravind Eye Care System bagged another prestigious award instituted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, given to organizations that have shown operational excellence; strived to take innovative and affordable health solutions to the masses; and commemorate the increased efficiency and improved performance of healthcare delivery at large.

Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai celebrated its annual day with a variety of programmes. The staff and employees of Aravind Eye Care System paid respect to the motherland on the occasion of the 63rd Independence Day.

Aravind doctors and staff made active participation in various national and international conferences. Seminars and guest lectures by eminent faculty were organized for the residents and doctors thereby giving them an opportunity to get themselves updated on the latest trends in ophthalmology.

Eyexcel training programme and the research methodology workshop being the main activities, LAICO also hosted two management courses.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

We wish all our readers a happy reading.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Gold Medal to Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna

Mumbai, August 13 – 15



Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna received gold medal for his outstanding contribution to the field of ophthalmology at the Bombay Ophthalmologists' Association (BOA) function held at Mumbai.



Rhett Buckler Award for Dr. R. Kim and his Team

Vancouver, Canada, August 28 – September 1

Dr. R. Kim and his team consisting of Dr. Naresh Babu, Dr. Rajiv, Mr. Muneeshwaran, Mr. Palanikumar and Mr. Raj Arjunan won the Rhett Buckler Award for the best video screened at ASRS (American Society of Retina Specialists) film festival held at Vancouver, Canada from August 28 – September 1.



FICCI Award for Aravind

New Delhi, September 6



Aravind Eye Care System won the FICCI Awards 2010 instituted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the category, Excellence in HR Practices and Personnel Welfare. Aravind – Coimbatore won the award for Excellence in Patient Experience. Dr. D. Datta received the awards on behalf of Aravind. Dr. Usha Kim and Dr. V. Narendran made the respective paper presentation.

The award requires special mention as the selection process involves a strict and complicated evaluation procedures by a panel of eminent jury.



Woman of the Year Award to Dr. G. Natchiar

Madurai, September 14



Soroptimist International Madurai chapter honoured Dr. G. Natchiar, Director - HR by conferring the Woman of the Year award for her meritorious service in the field of health care. She was awarded a plaque and a citation. Dr. Natchiar, in her thanks giving speech said that uplift of women was very important for the overall growth of the society and also opined that women were born entrepreneurs and each one had to cull out those hidden skills inside them to come up in life.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Eye Donation Fortnight Celebration

August 25 – September 8



25th national eye donation fortnight was observed at all Aravind Eye Hospitals with a variety of programmes intended to increase awareness among the public regarding eye donation. Banners were displayed at the hospital premises and the staff wore badges emphasizing the need for eye donation. An exhibition with facts about eye donation was arranged at the hospitals. Several talks by doctors on the need for eye donation were organized as part of the event. Awareness lectures were organised in various educational and social institutions. Documentary on eye donation was aired on local television and FM channels. Cinema theatres exhibited slides on the

importance of eye donation. Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank – Madurai collected 84 eyes during the fortnight celebrations. The staff of Aravind – Tirunelveli formed an awareness human chain and an awareness walk was conducted in the heart of the city. The need for strengthening hospital cornea retrieval programme was stressed by Aravind – Coimbatore at an eye donation awareness programme organized by Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore. At Aravind – Pondicherry, eye donation awareness notice was displayed and information pamphlets were distributed to the people. Pledge cards were kept for the visitors who wished to donate their eyes. Around 350 persons pledged to donate their eyes. In order to honour the Lions/Rotary clubs and the participant hospitals of Hospital Corneal

Retrival Programme(HCRP) which were instrumental in enhancing eye donation, a function was organised at the hospital auditorium.



Annual Day Celebrations

Aravind – Madurai, September 18



Annual day of Aravind Eye Care System - Madurai was celebrated at a gala function held in the premises of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute. Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Chief Medical Officer presented the main activities of the hospital during the last year. Dr. VR. Muthukaruppan, Director – Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute, Dr. P. Balakrishnan, Managing Director, Aurolab and Ms. Preethi Pradhan, Senior Faculty – LAICO presented the activities of their respective department. Service awards were distributed to the employees who completed 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years of service at Aravind. The kids of Janakiamma Child Care Centre amused the

audience with their dance number on the pressing social theme of child labour. Another highlight of the whole event was the debate programme facilitated by Mr. Solomon Pappaiah.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Eye Donation Awareness Programmes

Aravind-Pondicherry, August 6

Thirty six nursing students from Vinayaka Mission College for Paramedical Sciences attended the awareness programme conducted at Aravind – Pondicherry. Dr. Harikrishna handled a session on eye banking and the importance of eye donation. In her special lecture, Dr. K. Veena, Consultant spoke on the role of organisation in the community and presented an overview about Aravind Eye Care System.



Awareness Programmes at Colleges



Sourashtra College, Madurai, August 20

An eye donation awareness programme was conducted by the department of Physics, Sourashtra College, Pasuamalai. Almost 200 students and faculty members attended the programme. Ms. Hepsiba Jawahar, Eye Bank Manager delivered a stimulating and motivating speech about the importance eye donation. Hand bills, pledge cards and badges were distributed to the entire audience.

Vivekananda Ashram College, Thiruvudagam, Sholavandan, August 25

As part of the NSS activities, an eye donation awareness programme was conducted at Vivekananda Ashram College, Thiruvudagam, Ms. Hepsiba Jawahar, Manager – RAIEB delivered lecture on the importance of eye donation. Around 1500 students and 15 faculty members attended the programme.



Seminar on Eye Related Problems

Aravind – Tirunelveli, August 7

Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli in association with Senior Citizens Forum organised a seminar on eye related problems. Lion.T.Chidambaram gave the welcome address. Dr.R.Ramakrishnan, CMO presided over the function and gave an overview about Blindness and general eye care.

Dr.Anitha, Dr.Lional Raj, Dr.Naveen and Dr. Fathima delivered lectures on various topics. Mr.Harihara pudhran, Senior Citizen Forum proposed a vote of thanks.



Guest Lectures

Aravind–Madurai, August 12

Dr. Karl Golnik, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Cincinnati and The Cincinnati Eye Institute, USA delivered a lecture on Practical Approach to the Patient with Unexplained Vision Loss.

August 26

A guest lecture on Understanding Clinical Studies was given by Dr. Chandran Abraham, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Apollo First Med Hospital, Chennai.

September 2

Dr. K. Sampath Kumar, Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Nephrology, Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai delivered a lecture on An overview of ocular and renal interaction.

Aravind – Pondicherry, September 14

A motivational guest lecture was delivered by Mr. Shanmuga Vadivel at Aravind Pondicherry. Mr. Shanmuga Vadivel is a retired teacher from Thiruvarur who was earlier a patient of Aravind. He has got rich experience in facilitating a number of debates.



Teachers' Training Programme

Aravind – Theni, August 14

Aravind – Theni conducted school teachers training programme in which 32 teachers from 4 schools of Rayappanpatti, Theni participated. Dr. Praveen subudhi, Camp Medical Officer welcomed the participants. Mr. Sivarasu, Administrator presented the genesis of Aravind Eye Care System. Ms. Kamila and Dr. Susmita briefed the audience about the common eye diseases and refractive errors in children. Visual acuity measurement and refraction test were done by Ms. Thamarai, Refractionist.



Independence Day Celebrations

Aravind-Madurai, August 15



63rd Independence Day was celebrated with great patriotic fervour at all Aravind Eye Hospitals. At Madurai, Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System hoisted the National Flag. The Chief Medical Officers hoisted the national flag at other hospitals. The staff sang patriotic songs during the ceremony and took the pledge.



Excursion for MLOPs

Aravind – Tirunelveli, August 25

Lady admin staff and MLOPs of the second and third year were taken on a pleasure trip to Courtallam, the Spa of

the South.



Inauguration of Library

Aravind – Coimbatore, August 26



Dr.V. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer – Aravind, Coimbatore inaugurated a new library facility for the trainees at the wet-lab training centre.



Appreciation to Cleaners

Aravind – Pondicherry, September 2

The following cleaning staff of Aravind Eye Hospital – Pondicherry, Ms.Gunapoosani, Ms. Muthukumari, Ms.Padamavathi were appreciated by Ms.Kannamma with a small gift as a token of appreciation for their regular attendance. The cleaners who have taken leave below 5 and 10 days were also appreciated.



Eye Donation Fortnight Valedictory and Second Year Inauguration of Kalaingar Kapeetu Thittam

Aravind-Madurai, September 8



Mr. C. Kamaraj, District Collector, Madurai requested Aravind Eye Hospitals and other empanelled hospitals to conduct special eye camps to identify the beneficiaries who may require surgical and other assistance under Kalaingar Kapeetu Thittam. He assured that the administration would render all help in this regard.

The collector was delivering special address at a combined function to mark the end of the 25th National Eye Donation Fortnight and commencement of the second year of Dr.Kalaingar Kaapeetu Thittam. Aravind leaders, some of the parents who donated their children's eyes, Rotary and Lions members, staff and employees of Aravind Eye Care System participated in the function. Dr. Usha Kim, Chief of Orbit and Oculoplasty Clinic delivered welcome address.

Dr. M. Srinivasan, Medical Director, Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, in his felicitation address gave a short account of the origin of the Eye Bank. He said that in India, Tamilnadu stands first in making highest number of eye donations with 8000 numbers in which the share of Aravind Eye Banks was nearby 4000. This was made possible by the active participation and devoted service of the members of Lions and Rotary Clubs and other NGOs.

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Former Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System, made a presentation on Dr. Kalaingar Kaapeetu Thittam. He thanked the Tamilnadu government for including Aravind Eye Hospitals in the list of the Empanelled Hospitals under this health insurance scheme. Since the beginning of this scheme, all the Aravind Eye Hospitals have collectively done 3180 eye surgeries except cataract which is covered under the NPCB. The share of Aravind-Madurai alone in the above surgeries is 1200. Aravind Hospitals are well equipped and prepared to double the surgeries with the administration's help, he said.



Inauguration of Peraiyur Vision Centre

September 17

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, Director - Academics inaugurated the centre. Various community leaders were present at the occasion. A total of 51 patients were examined on the inaugural day itself.



Retina CME for MLOPs

Aravind – Tirunelveli, September 19



In order to update the MLOPs on the recent developments in the field of retina, a CME was conducted at Aravind – Tirunelveli. The CME attempted to identify, develop, and promote standards for the maintenance of quality. It also discussed how to incorporate new knowledge to provide quality care for patients. Nearly 90 MLOPs with more than three years of experience attended the CME. Various lectures and discussions were handled by Dr.Sandeep Reddy, Dr.Venugopal Reddy, Dr.Dheeraj Kewlani and Dr.Naveen.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Asia Cornea Society Infectious Keratitis Study (ACSIKS) Investigators Meeting

Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore, August 7

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna participated in the ACSIKS Investigators Meeting held at Singapore National Eye Centre.



Bombay Ophthalmic Association

Mumbai, August 13 – 15



Dr. V. Narendran was invited as guest faculty and presented the paper:

- *Management of posterior dislocated IOLs*

Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna was invited as the guest faculty and presented the topics:

- *Current concepts of limbal stem cells myth and science*
- *Causes and management of graft dislocation in DSAEK*



CME on Oculoplasty

Egmore, Chennai, August 28

Dr. Usha Kim was invited as guest faculty at the CME on Oculoplasty held at Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Egmore, Chennai. She demonstrated a live surgery and participated in the Panel discussion.



Euretna 2010

Paris, France, September 2-5

Dr. Rodney.J.Morris presented the following paper at the European Society of Retina Specialists:

- Anti VEGF treatment for Retinal Vascular Disorders



Uveitis Conference

Pune, September 4 - 5



This conference was organized by National Institute of Ophthalmology Pune, and Retina Foundation Ahmedabad, and Adityajyoth Eye Hospital Mumbai under the aegis of the Maharashtra Ophthalmic Society and Poona Ophthalmological Society

Dr. B. Manohar Babu

- Update in Intermediate Uveitis
- Ocular Toxoplasmosis



Sankara Netralaya - Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

Chennai, September 9- 11

Dr. R. Kim attended the SN-ARVO meeting on 'Diabetic Retinopathy: From bench to population'. He made an interesting paper presentation on *Telemedicine protocols for Diabetic retinopathy screening* and participated in the interesting case discussion session based on the theme *Diabetic Vitrectomy: Challenging situations*. He chaired the session *Which tool is best for mass screening?*

Dr. V.R. Saravanan

- Instrumentation in Micro Incision Vitrectomy Surgery

Dr. Abhishek R. Kothari

- Outcomes of 23 G TSV in PDR Surgery

- Correlation of SD OCT and microperimetry in DME



Global Forum on Medical Devices

Bangkok, Thailand, September 9 - 11



Prof. V. Srinivasan and Dr. P. Balakrishnan attended the First Global Forum on Medical Devices organized by World Health Organization. The goal of the forum was to ensure that medical devices produce maximum public health benefits in all settings by improving access to safe, effective, quality and innovative medical devices. The main objectives of the forum were to review evidence, share experiences, identify needs and compile a set of recommended future actions. About 350 delegates from 109 countries were present. The four A's (Availability, Acceptability, Accessibility and Affordability) relating to health technologies and specifically to medical devices were the main themes for discussions. Prof. Srinivasan presented a poster on the

Instruments Maintenance Courses conducted at Aravind hospital. Dr. P. Balakrishnan participated in the discussions related to affordability and local production of medical devices.



Annual Conference of Sushrutha Institute of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

Trichur, Kerala, September 11

Dr. Usha Kim

- Eyelid reconstruction

- Orbital tumours and orbit reconstruction



Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO)

Beijing, China, September 16 - 20



Dr.P.Sundaresan, Senior scientist, Aravind Medical Research Foundation attended the 25th Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress held in Beijing, China from September 16 to 20, 2010. He presented "Molecular genetics of ocular anomalies in Indian population" at the Asia Pacific Society of Eye Genetics (APSEG) symposium. He visited Beijing Genome Institute (BGI) at Shenzhen and also visited Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Dr. R. Kim

- *How to set up CME programs in developing countries?*

- *E-Grand Rounds in Asia*

Dr. V. Narendran, Dr. Thomas C. Lee, Dr. Mahesh P. Shanmugam, Dr. Parag K. Shah and Dr. V.R. Saravanan participated in the instruction course on Retinopathy of prematurity.

Dr. V. Narendran, Dr. Thomas C. Lee, Dr. Mahesh P. Shanmugam and Dr. Parag K. Shah participated in the instruction course on Paediatric retinal disorders.



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Workshop on STATA at African Vision Research Institute

Durban, South Africa, August 16 – 20



Mr Jeyaram Illaiyaraja, Bio Statistician, LAICO and Mr BS Ganesh Babu, Sr Manager – IT and Systems conducted a workshop on 'Introduction to Biostatistics and STATA' at African Vision Research Institute.

STATA is one of the statistical analysis software. The main purpose of the workshop was to provide an understanding about the statistical techniques and how to perform statistical Data analysis in STATA10.0



Eyexcel - Expanding Global Eye Care Workforce through Excellence in Training

LAICO, August 11 - 14



Welcome Address was given by Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System followed by Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director - LAICO setting the context for the course. Dr. Karl Golnik presented the new paradigms for Training and Ms. Preethi Pradhan delivered the programme overview. A total of 30 participants from Bangladesh, Egypt, India, South Africa and Sri Lanka attended. Dr. Karl Golnik, Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Neurology & Neurosurgery, University of Cincinnati & The Cincinnati Eye Institute, Dr. Kathryn

Hecht, Former Vice President for Clinical Education, American Academy of Ophthalmology, Ms. Susan Spinola, Volunteer, Seva Foundation and Dr. Babar Qureshi, CEO, CHEF (Comprehensive Health and Education Forum, Pakistan) were the Guest Faculty for the course.



Course on Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators

LAICO, August 16

At the inaugural ceremony of the course, Dr. S. R. Krishnadas, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind – Madurai delivered the welcome address. Dr. R.D. Ravindran gave the key note address which was followed by Dr. G. Natchiar, Director-Human Resources giving a special address. A total of four participants attended the course – one from Tanzania, another from Nigeria and two from India.



New Batch of Fellowship in Eye Hospital Management

LAICO, August 16

The sixth batch of Fellows in Eye Hospital Management joined Aravind Eye Care System on August 16. A total of 6 candidates have joined the fellowship programme.



Workshop on Research Methodology

LAICO, August 24 – 28



LAICO hosted the 5th research methodology workshop intended to promote research culture among healthcare service providers. The workshop organizing team was led by Dr. S.R. Rathinam, the Workshop Director. Apart from Aravind faculty, Dr. Ken Bassett, Professor and Division Head, British Columbia Centre for Epidemiology and International Ophthalmology (BCEIO), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Dr. P.S.S Sunder Rao, Head of Research, Leprosy Mission Trust India, New Delhi, Mr. Rajesh Kumar John, Biostatistician, Coimbatore Kidney Care and Research,

Coimbatore handled the various sessions. A total of 34 participants attended the workshop. Certificates were distributed to the participants at the valedictory function by Dr. M. Srinivasan. Follow-up activities have been planned to help the participants effectively implement the learning. Workshop for the next year has been scheduled for the last week of August 2011.



Melody Friday

LAICO, August 27



This month's Melody Friday was a special one as it was graced by the presence of foreign audience apart from the usual Aravind staff. Mr. Dan Tuttle, volunteer rendered an English song with the accompaniment of guitar. Another hallmark of the whole event being a Swahili song sung by Ms. Emilda, Participant – Hospital Administrators' Course. Other singers who delighted the audience with their various numbers include Mr. Sanil Joseph (Faculty – LAICO), Dr. Aditi (DNB Resident), Mr. Anshuman Varma, Ms. Bhuvanaree (Genetics lab) and Ms. Anjana Deep (Fellow in EHM).



Certificate Course in Project Management for Eye Care

LAICO, September 1

The Inaugural function of the certificate course in Project Management for Eye care was held at LAICO on September 1. The participants were from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh. The welcome address was given by Dr. M. Srinivasan who highlighted the importance and the prospects of the course.



Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj stressed the need for participant's involvement and the role of efficient planning based on the requirement of the organisation.



Madura Geetham

Aravind-Madurai, September 10

The inaugural function of Madhura Geetham – a special celebration to commemorate the birth week of legendary musician M.S. Subbulakshmi was organized by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage) Madurai Chapter jointly with 'Aravind Melody Friday Team' at LAICO auditorium. The inaugural event was screening of the movie- MS-Forever a legend which was admired and appreciated by the audience. Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman of Aravind Eye Care System inaugurated the week-long celebration by lighting the traditional lamp. INTACH Madurai chapter has been organizing Madura Geetham for the last three years and the inaugural event every year has been being hosted by the Arvind Melody Friday. Members of INTACH, senior leaders and staff of Aravind were among the audience. The celebration ends on September 15th 2010.

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



INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Dr. Rodney.J. Morris' visit to Moorfields Eye Hospital

London, United Kingdom, September 6 - 15

Dr. Rodney.J.Morris underwent ERG observership under Dr. Graham Holder, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on July 2010	Enrollments for August 2010
Residency Programmes			
Diplomate of the National Board	Madurai	52	0
	Tirunelveli	33	1
	Coimbatore	15	0
	Theni	7	1
	Pondicherry	4	0
Post DO DNB	Madurai	48	3
	Tirunelveli	13	0
	Coimbatore	4	0
	Theni	1	2
	Pondicherry	4	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	111	0
	Tirunelveli	103	1
	Coimbatore	80	2

	Pondicherry	1	1
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	698	0
	Tirunelveli	268	2
	Coimbatore	206	1
	Pondicherry	8	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	118	1
	Tirunelveli	64	1
	Coimbatore	77	1
	Pondicherry	15	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	144	2
	Tirunelveli	102	1
	Coimbatore	116	2
	Pondicherry	15	0
	Theni	1	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	234	2
	Coimbatore	222	2
Short Term Training in Vitrectomy (Virtual)	Madurai	4	1
	Coimbatore	2	1
Short Term Course in Refraction Techniques	Madurai	13	13
Paediatric Counsellors	Madurai	36	1
Management Courses			
Eyexcel - Expanding Global Eye Care Workforce through Excellence in Training	LAICO	40	31
Management Training and System Development for Hospital Administrators	LAICO	202	4
Research Methodology	LAICO	20	36
Instrument Maintenance Course - Non Clinical Courses			
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	Madurai	407	2

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



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- Population-based prevalence of uveitis in Southern India.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20693551>



AUROLAB NEWS

Mission Day

July 7

Special programmes to reminisce the founder chairman, Dr. V were organized in connection with the Mission day celebration. The programme commenced with a bhajan and the staff observed silence for a minute. Mr. Krishna Kumar, Regulatory Affairs Manager and Ms. Nandhini, Line Incharge (IOL) shared their experience with the Chief. Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj, president – Aurolab Trust recalled his experience with Dr. V at the occasion.



CE Audit

July 14 - 16

CE certification audit was conducted for Aurogel, Riboflavin (ophthalmic solution), Nanocut surgical blades and reusable metallic injectors by TUV Rheinland, Germany. The lead auditor Mr. Hans Bienert and co auditor Mr. Guru Prasad conducted the audit.



Graduation Day

July 18

Trainees who completed their one year training programme got graduated on July 18. Dr. S. R. Krishnadas, Chief Medical Officer was the chief guest for the function



58th Annual Conference of Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association

Salem, July 30 – August 1



Aurolab's pharmaceutical division launched marketing of its prescription drugs in Tamil Nadu. Most of its key products like Aurolase 532, Aurovue, Auroflex EV, Nanocut, Aurosil Plus and the books published by Aravind communications were kept on display at the Aurolab stalls.



Fresher's Day

August 7

Aurolab celebrated freshers' day for the new trainees with a variety of cultural programmes.



Independence Day Celebrations

August 15

63rd Independence Day celebrations started with the Tamil Thai Valthu. Managing Director, Dr. P. Balakrishnan hoisted the National flag. Staff took pledge and finally sweets were distributed to the gathering.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

August - 2010						
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS						
Paying (New & Review)	39,296	6,098	20,506	26,631	16,738	109,269
Free (Direct walk-in)	13,415	2,018	5,853	8,674	5,310	35,270
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS						
Regular Eye Camps	11,930	1,690	3,913	6,012	4,835	28,380
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	312	85	116	1,258	540	2,311
Refraction Camps	3,605	74	1,023	788	571	6,061
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	666	-	-	-	666
School Screening	20,350	-	1,034	6,568	17,700	45,652
Paediatric Camps	312	188	-	-	224	724
Vision Centres	6,030	4,073	3,169	2,055	1,700	17,027
Community Eye Clinics	3,705	1,470	3,694	2,597	-	11,466
Total OP Examinations	98,955	16,362	39,308	54,583	47,618	256,826
SURGERIES						
Paying	2,380	365	1,029	1,139	698	5,611
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	2,253	232	662	1,170	445	4,762
Camp	3,708	182	1,104	1,448	1,350	7,792
Total Surgeries	8,341	779	2,795	3,757	2,493	18,165



CASE STUDY

First surgery after the 5th walk out! But she stays back for the second!!

Hospitals occasionally receive uncooperative patients who create problems for the medical personnel. They have to be handled with patience and compassion so that they get necessary treatment. For Aravind staff and employees it is part of their work culture and they could successfully deal with a patient like Ramayee (real name shielded) who adamantly refused to undergo cataract surgery.



The aged woman had come to Aravind- Pondicherry with matured cataract in both eyes. She was guided by her husband, since she had become almost blind. During eye examination, she did not cooperate with the staff. When the husband requested Ramayee to cooperate, she became angry and pushed him aside.

However, the hospital staff without losing temper, spoke kind words to the patient and explained the need for these tests to find out the cause of her problem. She agreed. After the examinations, she was advised surgery, on the next day.

When a nurse came for taking her to the operation theatre, Ramayee refused to accompany. She insisted that her husband should also come with her. She did not listen to the nurse who was saying that no one except the patient is allowed inside

the operation theatre area.

As the old woman was conducted into the Block room after much persuasion, she saw a patient being given the anaesthetic injection. "O, no, I will have no injection"- she said adamantly. The nurses had a hard time before they gave her the block-injection. When her turn came Ramayee was asked to come to the theatre. But, she refused to undergo operation and returned to her ward-bed with the help of her husband. A nurse would go to the ward and take her back to the operation theatre. Next minute Ramayee will return to her ward. Again the nurse will bring the patient to the theatre and again the patient would return. This scene was repeated for five times.

At the 6th time the O.T. nurses succeeded in their attempt. They explained to Ramayee the importance of eye sight for leading an independent life and for taking care of her husband. And surgery is the only way to regain her lost vision. Finally, the old woman realised what the nurse said was right.

With the nurse standing nearby, cataract surgery was performed on Ramayee's right eye. When the bandage was removed she could see a bright world, which till the previous day was dark to her. Her right eye which could only "perceive light" (PL+) prior to operation was improved to the level of 6\18 after the surgery.

The joyful patient decided to have cataract surgery on her left eye also. She stayed in the hospital for 3 more days and entered the block-room with confidence. She asked the nurses to give her the anesthetic injection. Later she calmly underwent the operation! Ramayee who had come to the hospital with near blind eyes, holding her husband's hand for guidance, returned home with vision regained, after thanking Aravind and blessing all the staff.

Source- Priya, Aravind-Pondicherry

Script: K.V.S. Lakshmanan

