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Dear Readers

Amidst much excitement, the senior team of Aravind received the prestigious Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize on April 20, at Redwood City, California.

Aravind News Team is pleased to announce that Aravind Eye Care System has been invited to attend the leadership consortium programme organised by The Thunderbird School of Global Management and the American Express Foundation.

The month of March witnessed a variety of new beginnings as the pooja ceremony of the new international hostel, launch of a mobile refraction unit at Theni and also Aurosiksha – an online education programme and the inauguration of Sattur vision centre.

Women's Day and World Glaucoma Day were celebrated across all the Aravind Hospitals. The HR Department conducted the manpower planning workshop and MLOP committee meeting with a view to streamline the various activities of the hospital. News about these and other events feature in this issue.

Aravind News Team

Aravind News Team
Archives

Hit Counter 1

Quote

"The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves".
 - Helen Keller

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Hilton Award Ceremony

California, April 20, 2010

This year, the much-awaited Hilton award ceremony was held for the first time, as part of the Global Philanthropy Forum on 20th April, at Redwood City. Those at Aravind were not left out as they were fortunate to see the whole ceremony through a live webcast!

The staff gathered at the LAICO conference hall and watched eagerly as Ms. Judy Miller, Vice-President of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation introduced the ceremony followed by the president and CEO of the foundation, Steven M. Hilton, who introduced Aravind Eye Care System and explained why the organisation was considered worthy of this award. A short narrative video was played to describe the work of Dr. G. Venkataswamy that continues to define Aravind Eye Care System.



It was a moment of pride for the Aravind staff when Dr. Namperumalsamy, Chairman, and Dr. Natchiar, Vice-Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System received the award sculpture and the cheque for \$1.5 million amidst a standing ovation. Dr. Namperumalsamy expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of Aravind and went on to describe the work that goes on at Aravind – the evolution of the organisation and its different initiatives – for the benefit of the audience gathered there. He underlined the vision of Dr. Venkataswamy and his spirit of service.

The ceremony was concluded by a very witty keynote address by William H. Foege, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Fellow, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Chairman Emeritus, Global Health Council. In his engaging speech, he drew lessons from Aravind's work and called for more such compassionate initiatives to make this world a better place. He said that Aravind had its priorities right – given the context that it operates in, Aravind puts a high priority on equity and compassion. He also said that it was encouraging to see the power of ideas and how people across the globe can learn from one another – how Dr.V learnt from McDonald's. He invited those gathered there to acknowledge the spirit of Aravind not just by simply honouring it but also by striving to emulate it in some way.

[Mr.R.D.Thulasiraj's Interview on Hilton Award](#)



SPECIAL EVENTS

Pooja of the International Hostel Inspiration

Aravind – Madurai, March 11



The Pooja function for the new International hostel 'Inspiration' located behind the old optometry school was held and it will soon be ready for occupation. This can house around 78 people who come for training to LAICO and Aravind.



Inauguration of Aurosiksha

LAICO-Madurai, April 6



Aurosiksha – a new online education website was launched and inaugurated by Chairman Dr. P.Namperumalsamy, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System. On the occasion he talked on the importance of IT applications in eye care. Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO briefed on the need and relevance of Aurosiksha. Mr. P. Vinoth, Faculty Associate - LAICO gave a demo of Aurosiksha. Dr. R. Pararajasegaram, Former Consultant, WHO stressed on the relevance of the same in the field of eye care.



Inauguration of Sattur Vision Centre

Sattur, March 31

New vision centre at Sattur was inaugurated by Mr. Rengarajan, President, MM Trust. 41 cases were seen on the inaugural day itself. Lions Club members, Managers of Indian Overseas Bank attended the function.



Aravind Invited to Participate in the Social Sector Leadership Programme

Arizona campus, April 26-30

Aravind Eye Care System is among the Ten Top International Organizations to participate in the Social Sector Leadership Program run by The Thunderbird School of Global Management and the American Express Foundation. Twenty-five leaders from approximately 10 global nonprofit and non-governmental organizations will participate in the program to be held from April 26-30, 2010 at Thunderbird's Glendale, Arizona campus.

Participating organizations include Acumen Fund, Ashoka, Aravind Eye Care System, Care, Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Heifer International; Pro Mujer; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the World Wildlife Fund.

The leadership consortium is funded by a grant from the American Express Foundation as part of its developing new leaders for tomorrow's philanthropic initiative. It will be delivered by Thunderbird's top global faculty with a focus on developing leadership skills which can deliver maximum benefit to organizations facing constant change in the 21st century.

The leaders from Aravind Eye Care System to participate in this programme are Dr. Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, from Aravind Eye Hospital-Pondicherry and Mr. Venkatesh Kannan, Division Head, Pharmaceuticals, Aurolab, Madurai.

[Link](#)



Launch of Aravind Essilor Mobile Refraction Unit

Aravind-Theni, March 26



Aravind Eye Hospital Theni launched a new facility "Aravind Essilor Mobile Refraction Unit" which was inaugurated by Mr. P. Muthuveeran., I.A.S, District Collector - Theni District. The mobile van will visit remote villages of Theni district and conduct basic eye examination and refraction tests. As part of the event, a camp was organised at Laxmipuram to make the public aware of the facilities in the van.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Aravind – Pondicherry

Around 1200 patients, attendants, nursing students from Kasthuriba Nursing College and all the staff members visited the exhibition. Glaucoma awareness speech was delivered by Dr. R. Venkatesh on All India Radio, Pondicherry. Dr. Kavitha and Dr. Kalaiselvi had live interaction with the public about Glaucoma on Deepam TV, a local television channel and Suriyan FM respectively. To create public awareness press meet was arranged in which Pondicherry and Cuddalore reporters participated and the news got published in the daily newspapers. On the World Glaucoma Day, sponsors' meeting was arranged. Thiruvarur Patimandra Pugazh Pulavar Shanmuga Vadivel and Mr.



I. Alphonse Liguory, Assistant Governor of Rotary Club, Pondicherry were invited as chief guests. Dr. Krishnakumar had a live interaction with public about Glaucoma on Right TV Channel.



Aravind – Coimbatore

Pamphlets were distributed to general public to create awareness about the impact of glaucoma, its effects and preventive methods. Posters and banners were displayed within the hospital premises. Dr. P. Sathyan, Chief - Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Coimbatore delivered a speech on AIR/Rainbow FM. SMS were sent to all Aircel and Airtel subscribers to create awareness about glaucoma. Glaucoma awareness messages were screened in Cinema theatres. Awareness was created through the flyers inserted in national and local dailies.



Garden Award for Aravind – Pondicherry

Aravind-Pondicherry, March 25 – 28



In the XXVIII Flower, Vegetable and Fruit Show 2010 conducted by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Pondicherry, Aravind – Pondicherry won the first prize for ornamental garden and second prize for herbal and kitchen garden. It is really a matter of pride that for the past four years Aravind – Pondicherry has been receiving the first prize for ornamental garden.



Administrative Staff Tour

Pondicherry, April 4

With a view to provide refreshment and relaxation from the busy schedule, a tour was arranged for the admin staff and gardeners to Velankanni, Poombukar, Vaitheeswarar temple, Thirukadaiyur Abirami temple and some other famous temples which came on the way.



Dr. R.Venkatesh's research focuses on the equally effective MSICS for Cataract

Aravind-Pondicherry

Rengaraj Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind - Pondicherry compared less expensive manual small incision cataract surgery with the more advanced phacoemulsification technique in patients with mature white cataracts. His results showed no significant difference in best corrected visual acuity between the two techniques.

This result is really a great blessing to the ophthalmic communities in the developing world which finds it difficult to maintain the equipment, supplies and training needed for the Phaco. [more](#)



Congratulations

Dr. Parag. K. Shah has been awarded Prestigious Award of the AIOS 2010 (Oculoplasty) for his paper on "Ophthalmic Brachytherapy using Indigenous BARC Ocu-Prosta Iodine -125 Seeds for Choroidal Melanomas".



Refresher Training on Eye Donation

Madurai, March 4, 2010

The Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank conducted a refresher training on eye donation mainly for the existing eye collection Centres. 34 participants from Lions Club of Kariyapattinam, Karaikal, Thirunallar Temple City, Pugalur, Pondicherry, Kumbakonam, Tanjavur, Vedaraniyam, Pudukottai, Ayakarranpulam, Sivakasi, RAMCO Cements-Arupukkottai, Pattukottai, and Watrap-Madurai attended the programme.

Dr.M.Srinivasan gave an orientation about corneal blindness and the significance of eye donation. There were video demos on corneal diseases, transplant surgeries, etc. The eye bank manager presented 2009 statistics and pinpointed the need to increase eye donations. The collection centres clarified their doubts on eye enucleation, storage, transportation, and transplants.

The instruments, and medicines used for eye enucleation was displayed by the eye bank technicians. They also showed the excised cornea stored in MK medium and Glycerin and the sclera stored in Glycerin. Some of the collection centres were oriented about Auro solutions and hand scrubs. New collection centres like RAMCO Cements showed much interest in eye donation.



Valedictory day of the 66th Instruments Maintenance Course

Aravind – Madurai, March 13



Certificates for trainees (3 from South Africa, 1 from Andhra Pradesh and 2 from Tamilnadu) who had completed the course were handed over by Dr. Naresh Babu, Retina Consultant and the tool boxes were handed over by Dr. Rupa, Medical Officer. Mrs. Ganga was the Chief Instructor of the course. So far, 394 trainees were trained since the commencement of the course in Oct 1996.



World Glaucoma Week Celebrations

Aravind – Theni, March 7 - 13



World Glaucoma Day badges with awareness messages were distributed to the staff and patients. An exhibition and an awareness video show were organized at the hospital. Awareness pamphlets were distributed and free NCT check ups were conducted for all attendants above the age group of 40 years. Free medicines were also distributed to the patients.



Free Eye Camp

Madurai City Center, March 12

To celebrate the anniversary of the City Centre and the 100th International Women's day, a free eye camp with an exhibition was organised for women and children by Aravind Eye Hospital, City centre, Madurai along with Soroptmist International; Madurai. An Inspiring speech on Ini Varum Kalam Inbam was given by Ms. Malarmugam based on pediatric eye care. Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi shared her valuable time in consultation.



Ophthalmic Quiz Programme

Pondicherry, March 7

The main idea of this program was to encourage students to consider pursuing a future career in ophthalmology. 31 undergraduate students participated from 6 different colleges in Pondicherry. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Deputy Chief Medical Officer was the quiz master. The students of JIPMER won the best performance award and the students from Pondicherry Institute of Medical Science (PIMS) won runner award. Dr. Vasudev Anand Rao, Head of the Department - Ophthalmology, JIPMER distributed the prizes. Dr. Dayakar Yadalla, Chief - Residents Coordinator, Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry coordinated the programme.



Aravind - Tirunelveli

A Glaucoma awareness exhibition was organized. Dr. Mohideen gave informative speech on Karan TV. Live interaction with Dr.R. Ramakrishnan was broadcast on All India Radio. Press meet was arranged to create awareness about Glaucoma. Free intraocular pressure check up was done for all the attendants. Seminars on Glaucoma were arranged for the general public and patients. Human Chain was formed to create glaucoma awareness. Free glaucoma screening camps were organized at Sankarankoil and Tuticorin.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

Meeting on Prevention and control of Hospital Acquired Infections

Madurai Medical College, Madurai, April-3

Dr. S. Lalitha Prajna

- *Recent policies in the control and prevention of hospital acquired infection*

The First International Conference on Transforming Healthcare with Information Technology

New Delhi, March 8 - 10

Mr. R.D.Thulasiraj

- *Transforming Healthcare in Ophthalmology with IT based on the success story of Aravind Eye Care System*

ICMR Meeting

New Delhi, March 26

Dr. P. M. Aravind presented the first year annual report of national Retinoblastoma at the ICMR registry meeting.

Medical Innovation 2010

Oxford, March 17 - 18

Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj attended the 'Medical Innovation 2010' hosted by the Oxford Centre for Entrepreneurship and

Innovation and The George Institute for International Health, and supported by the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, at the Saïd Business School in Oxford.



HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

100th Women's Day Celebrations

March 8



Aravind – Madurai

Various competitions were held and most of Aravind Staff participated to reveal their hidden inborn talents. The best won the prizes. The participants were really thrilled and enjoyed the events.

Aravind – Tirunelveli

Ms. Pushpalatha Poornan, Correspondent of Pushpalatha Matriculation School, Tirunelveli was invited as the Chief Guest and spoke on "Equal rights, Equal opportunities: Progress for All". Various competitions were also held.

Aravind – Pondicherry

Various competitions like essay writing and Rangoli were held and the staff participated enthusiastically.

Aravind-Coimbatore

MLOPs shared their experience on the topics, "where from the women learn" and "Expectation of woman from the Society". Dr.T Devi MCA, Mphil, PHD., (UK) HOD Department Computer Application Bharathiyar University was the chief guest.



Man Power Planning Workshop

Aravind-Madurai, March 20 – 21

The main purpose of the workshop conducted was to discuss the ways to reduce the manpower and increase the efficiency of the existing man power. Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO and LAICO Faculty facilitated the two days workshop. 110 participants including Chief Medical Officers, Senior Medical Officers of the specialty clinics (Retina, Paediatric, Glaucoma, Cornea), Heads of various departments, Nursing Superintendants, Senior MLOPs/Supervisors, Managers of each department and HR Managers from all the 5 hospitals attended the workshop.



MLOP Committee Meeting

Aravind-Madurai, March 25 – 26

The HR Department and MLOP Training Division jointly organized a two day workshop with a view to strengthen the MLOP division and to streamline the activities of the different committees. Around 130 participants across 5 hospitals attended the meeting. The recruitment and retention practices of the MLOPs were finalized with valuable guidance from Dr. Usha Kim. The welfare activities were streamlined with the help of Dr. Banushree. The academic committee has come up with a revised curriculum.



Creche Day Celebrations

March 26

The tiny tots of Janakiamma Child Care at Madurai celebrated their Graduation day on March 26. The kids mesmerised the audience displaying their talents in dance, singing and yoga. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman and Dr. G. Natchiar, Vice Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System presented the graduation hood and robe to the children. "Ready for School" certificates were distributed by Mr. G. Srinivasan, Director - Finance. Dr. M. Srinivasan, Director, AECS, Dr. S. R. Rathinam, and Dr. Dhananjay Shukla distributed giftbags to the children. A bicycle, donated by the parents of the kids was also released during the occasion.



Aravind -Coimbatore

March 27

The kids of Janakiamma Child Care Centre celebrated their Graduation Day with a variety of programmes. Dr. R. Revathy, Chief-Cornea Clinic was the chief guest of the ceremony. She distributed Ready to School certificates to the graduating kids. The kids enthralled the audience with their fancy dress show and dance.

LAICO HAPPENINGS

Meeting on Gender Inequity and Eye Care

Tanzania, March 11 – 13



Mr. Sanil Joseph, Faculty-LAICO attended the 3 day meeting on Gender inequity and Blindness at Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO), Moshi, Tanzania. This was a meeting of the global forum working on initiatives to reduce the gender inequity in the use of eye care services. Mr. Sanil also presented the findings of the research study carried out at Aravind: Investigating Gender Associations among the Users of Cataract Surgical Services in South India. The gender group by the end of the meeting has come up with a set of recommendations and actions to be taken within the next 18-24 months.

Visit to R.R. Eye Hospital

Palakol, March 25



Mr. R. D. Thulasiraj visited R.R Eye Hospital, Palakol and had a discussion with Dr. Lion Krishnaji and other board members regarding the progress of various projects. R.R. Hospital has been associated with LAICO since 1994.

Visit to Gauthami Eye Hospital

Rajamundri, March 24

Following a request from the trustees, Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO visited Gauthami Eye Hospital to review the performance and to provide inputs regarding governance and leadership of the hospital.



Needs Assessment Visit and Vision Building Workshop

March 24 – April 1



Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager-Outreach, Aravind-Madurai, Dr. Prasanth Raphael, Medical Officer, Orbit & Oculoplasty clinic, Aravind-Madurai and Mr. Suresh Kumar, Faculty, LAICO visited ACHA, DOUALA, Cameroon for Needs Assessment Visit and Vision Building Workshop.



Visit to Grameen Bank Eye Hospitals

Bangladesh, March 26 – April 2

Mr. R.D. Thulasiraj, Dr. Usha Kim, Medical Officer, Orbit and Oculoplasty Clinic, Aravind-Madurai, Ms. K M Sasipriya, Faculty, LAICO, Mr. Ganesh Babu, Senior Manager-IT and System and Mr. Dhinakaran, Assistant Administrator, Aravind-Tirunelveli made a visit to the Grameen GC Eye Hospitals in Barisal and Bogra from March 27 – April 1 spending two days at each of the hospitals. The purpose of the visit was to assess current progress and issues in the hospitals and develop a strategic plan for a one year period. Employees from all the departments led by the Dr. Nabi and Dr. Ruhul Amin, Chief Medical Officers of Bogra and Barisal participated in the discussions to arrive at key strategies. The areas focused were demand generation, quality of services offered, achieving operational efficiency, financial viability and governance. Mr. Ganesh Babu also had discussions with regard to strengthening data management and reporting.

On March 30th, the team also visited Islamia Hospital, Dhaka and had a brief discussion with Ms. Zahida Isphani and her team. While in Barisal, the visiting team also made a brief visit to Islamia Eye Hospital inaugurated in May 2009. On April 2nd, LAICO – Aravind Eye Care System and Prime Bank Foundation, Dhaka entered into a MoU for setting up Prime Bank Eye Hospital in Dhaka. Mr. RD Thulasiraj, Executive Director, LAICO and Dr. Iqbal Anwar, CEO, Prime Bank Foundation signed the MoU representing the respective organisations. LAICO will support Prime Bank Foundation by providing technical support in planning and setting up a comprehensive eye facility in Dhaka City.



Visit to CMC Vellore

March 30



The medical records team and IT team of Aravind - Madurai visited CMC, Vellore to understand their systems and IT applications. The key objectives were to have an overview of

- Medical record system
- Level of Electronic Medical Record implementation
- Details of Information technologies applied for EMR and in general
- Management of Patient care activities

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



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training	Total Number	Enrollments for
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	Centre	Trained as on February 2010	March 2010
Long Term Fellowship Courses-For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment/Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	93	1
	Tirunelveli	10	0
	Coimbatore	18	0
	Pondicherry	10	0
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	24	1
	Tirunelveli	8	0
	Coimbatore	10	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	36	1
	Tirunelveli	14	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	106	1
	Tirunelveli	95	2
	Coimbatore	74	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	110	2
	Tirunelveli	57	2
	Coimbatore	71	2
	Pondicherry	14	0
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	133	1
	Tirunelveli	95	0
	Coimbatore	111	1
	Pondicherry	13	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	229	2
	Coimbatore	214	2

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



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Genetic analysis of patients with Fuchs endothelial corneal dystrophy in India
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- Usha, Kim R; Akash Shah D; Shanti, Ramachandran; Vipul Arora
Primary Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma of the Eyelid
Ophthalmic Plast Reconstructive Surgery Mar.- Apr. 2010
<http://journals.lww.com/op-rs/pages/currenttoc.aspx>
- Prateek Agarwal; Mahesh Kumar and Vipul Arora
Clinical profile of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis and the role of imaging in its diagnosis in patients with presumed idiopathic intracranial hypertension.
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<http://www.ijo.in/article.asp?issn=0301-4738;year=2010;volume=58;issue=2;spage=153;epage=155;aulast=Agarwal>

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Idiopathic pediatric retinal artery occlusion.
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AUROLAB NEWS

International Women's Day Celebrations

Aurolab, March 8



Mrs. Premalatha Panneerselvam, founder of Mahatma Schools was the chief guest of the function. The function started with the prayer song followed by Mrs. Mahalakshmi giving a brief introduction about the chief guest. The chief guest in addition to her inspiring speech, conducted games for the staff which really helped them have a self assessment of themselves.



Crèche Graduation Day

March 27

The function started with prayer song followed by the kids program where they showed their talents through singing nursery rhymes, dancing and group songs. Dr. Naresh Babu, Medical Consultant – Retina and Dr. Rupa Naresh Babu, Medical Officer, were invited as chief guests. Dr. Rupa Naresh Babu delivered speech on child care and the role of a mother in bringing up the children. Dr. Naresh Babu distributed "Ready to School" certificates to the children and gifts were given by Dr. P. Balakrishnan, Managing Director, Aurolab. The newly joined kids were also distributed certain gifts.



Best Stall Award



Aurolab won the "AIOS Certificate of Merit" for its stall exhibited in 68th All India Conference held at Kolkata. This certificate will be presented during the Inauguration of 69th All India Conference–Ahmedabad on 3rd February 2011. This is the second time Aurolab getting this award at the national level after a gap of 4 years.



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

March - 2010

Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Amreli	Total
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HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS

Paying (New & Review)	40,798	6,222	20,995	25,752	18,785	3,071	115,623
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Free (Direct walk-in)	6,774	1,678	6,002	9,007	6,331	-	29,792
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS							
Regular Eye Camps	9,620	2,148	5,329	8,031	5,288	1,461	31,877
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	176	-	148	2,431	101	-	2,856
Refraction Camps	4,194	-	650	-	1,305	335	6,484
School Screening	1,000	-	142	1,125	-	-	2,267
Paediatric Camps	177	-	-	-	-	-	177
Vision Centres	4,808	3,682	3,076	1,818	1,887	-	15,271
Community Eye Clinics	3,430	1,361	2,669	2,537	-	-	9,997
Total OP Examinations	70,977	15,091	39,011	50,701	33,697	4,867	214,344
SURGERIES							
Paying	2,639	493	996	5,797	921	130	10,976
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	2,336	263	628	3,012	2,272	-	8,511
Camp	3,247	251	1,174	2,024	1,737	318	8,751
Total Surgeries	8,222	1,007	2,798	10,833	4,930	448	28,238



ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

- Mr. George N chin, Director and founder of True Light and CEO of MMT Holdings Ltd visited Aravind and Aurolab from March 1 -5.
- Prof Downing A.Thomas, Associate provost and Dean of International Programs at the University of Iowa visited Aravind from March 2 – 3 to explore mutually beneficial joint ventures in the future in the areas of faculty, physician, student exchanges, instructional, research, and service opportunities.
- Dr. Barathendu Swain Apollo Hospitals, India was here from March 5 – 7 to have an overview about Aravind Model.
- Dr. Carl Sloan, Krieger eye institute, USA visited Aurolab on 10th March to have an orientation about Aurolab.
- Team of faculty members of Management Studies Department of V H N S N College, Virudhunagar visited on 20th March.
- Dr. Sunil Fernando, Country Director, Sightsavers International, Sri Lanka visited Aravind from March 31 – April 1 to get an overview on Aravind Eye Care System and understand the outreach programmes and functioning of vision centers.



CASE STUDY

Vision loss in child due to mother's ignorance



Delay of a mother to seek proper treatment from an ophthalmologist for her 5 year old daughter caused vision loss necessitating Therapeutic Keratoplasty . This article which narrates this pathetic story, gives a short account of the two types of corneal transplant surgeries.

The first type being the Therapeutic Keratoplasty (TPK) which involves replacement of the infected and ulcerated cornea by a donor cornea in cases where the ulcer becomes acute and incurable.

The second type being Penetrating Keratoplasty (PKP) which involves replacement of a cornea that has become opaque or scarred. While the TPK will not give vision, the PKP will enable the patient to see again.

Let us see as to what made the 5 year old child undergo the TPK surgery. Malathi (real name shielded) belonging to parents of Cuddalore district, suffered a penetrating eye injury while playing with her brother. The boy had turned a

broom-stick into a bow and was shooting stick-arrows. Suddenly the bow broke that diverted the arrow from the target and hit Malathi's eye. She cried in pain and her mother took her to a nearby general physician. He prescribed some medicines. After applying the same for a few days, pain subsided.

But, two days later Malathi was unable to open the injured eye. Her mother did not know what to do. Again she took her child to the physician who after examination said that the affected cornea has been infected and the child should be taken to Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry for immediate treatment, failing which the eye may have to be removed.

Malathi's mother blamed herself for failure to take the child to an eye hospital immediately after she was injured. She left for Pondicherry without any further delay. Ophthalmologists at the paediatric and cornea clinics in Aravind examined Malathi and confirmed ulcer which had spread to the entire cornea. In that stage, there was no other alternative but to replace it with a donated cornea. They recommended TPK for the patient.

The mother was explained that this was only a therapeutic surgery which will not give sight but intended to prevent further damage to the eye. She was shocked to know that the child had lost vision in one eye. But to avoid the loss of the eye itself, she gave consent for TPK surgery. The patient who was not able to see even a torch light when she was brought to the hospital, could now see hand- finger movement after the surgery.

Malathi's mother left the hospital after thanking the doctors and nurses with a satisfaction that the child had regained her original facial appearance.

Source: N.A. Ayish Banu, Aravind-Pondicherry

Script: K.V.S. Lakshmanan

