



Editorial

With a vision for an India free of avoidable blindness, where every citizen enjoys the gift of sight and have enhanced quality of life, VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA was launched in the year 2004 in association with the government of India, International NGOs and centres of excellence in eye care. From a humble beginning with a few founding members, VISION 2020 INDIA today has a strong pan India presence. Its 15th annual conference was hosted by Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai which turned out to be an excellent platform to discuss, deliberate strategies for integrating eye health into universal health.

At the recently held annual conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India, Aravind team came through flying colours. The conference saw an overwhelming participation from Aravind’s allied ophthalmic personnel and many of them bagged several awards too.

Aravind-Coimbatore has been doing a commendable work towards tackling blindness due to Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). Recently, Indian Retinopathy of Prematurity Society honoured Dr. V.Narendran for his contributions to the field of ROP. News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Accolades

Indian Retinopathy of Prematurity Society Award

📍Chandigarh 📅June 21-23

Dr. V. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore was awarded the Prof. Michael Trese Oration Award by the Indian Retinopathy of Prematurity Society at its 4th annual conference.



Awards at the Annual Conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India

📍Aravind-Chennai 📅June 8-9

Chandrasekhar, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore, Best Free paper

- *Effectiveness of infection control nurse in implementing infection control practices and reducing hospital acquired infection*

Rajakumari, Aravind- Coimbatore, Runner up – Free Paper Presentation

- *Improving Cataract surgery acceptance rate by utilizing multiple tools during cataract counselling*

Ms. Ramyadevi, Aravind- Coimbatore, Best Free Paper

- *Outcomes of Telescreening for ROP in Rural South India – The Aravind Coimbatore Experience*

Ms. S.N. Kamatchi, Dept. of Clinical Research, Aravind-Madurai, Runner up, Free paper Presentation

- *Analysis of high retention of clinical research participants in clinical trials conducted in South Indian population*

Dr. Hema,Medical Consultant, Aravind- Theni, Runner up, Free Paper

- *Telemedicine approach for Retinopathy of Prematurity screening in rural areas: Opportunities and challenges*

B.Vengadesh, Vision Rehabilitation Services, Aravind- Madurai, Best Free Paper

- *Non Visual Desktop Access’ Computer training for Visually Impaired Person*

I.Seran, Manager, Aravind- Salem, Runner up, Free Paper Presentation

- *To analyse the incidence of wrong Refraction and wrong glass prescriptions across all Aravind Eye Hospitals by the incidents reported in the year 2018*

Ms. Lakshmi, Refraction Department, Aravind-Madurai, Best Poster

- *Improving visual outcomes with minisceral lens in keratoconus*

Ms. Rajathi, Gandhigram Vision Centre, Aravind-Madurai, First Prize – Optometry Quiz

Ms. Moorthi Gowsalya, Technician, Aravind-Madurai, Second Prize, Optometry Quiz

Ms. Amirtha Varshini, Optometrist,Aravind-Madurai, Third Prize – Optometry Quiz

Aurolab

Phaco Decoded CME

📍Coimbatore 📅 June 8-9

Aurolab participated in the CME conducted by Eye Foundation at Coimbatore. Live surgery was performed using Hummingbird Phaco machine with Aurovue EV Toric IOL.

Guest Lecture on Heart Diseases and their Prevention

📍Aurolab 📅 June 21

Dr. Govinda Rajan, Cardiologist, Madurai handled the session and explained about the symptoms and causes for various heart diseases.

Observing International Yoga Day

📍Aurolab 📅 June 21

Aurolab arranged a special guest lecture about Yoga and its benefits. Mrs. Vijaya who has 30 years of experience in Manavalakalai Yoga gave the lecture. Yoga teachers – Mrs. Santhi and Mrs. Angayarkanni gave demo of several yogasanas and meditation.

Aurolab Participates in the 15th Annual Conference of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight – India

📍Aravind-Chennai 📅 June 8-9

Conferences attended

Annual Conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India

📍Aravind-Chennai 📅June 8-9

B. Vengadesh

- *Non Visual Desktop Access’ Computer training for Visually Impaired Person*

Anusiya A

- *Impact of an online inventory management platform (OIMP) on optical dispensing in Vision Centers (VC)*

Dr. Priyanka Parihar

- *Prospective study to establish proportion and barriers leading to bilateral blindness due to cataract in an area of high cataract surgical rate*

N.J.Tamilarasi

- *Incidence and cause of significant refractive power following cataract surgery*

R.Muthulakshmi

- *A rare case series of High Myopia in full term infants*

M.K. Amirtha Varshini

- *Study of Outcome in Refractive Accommodative esotropia*

Dr. V P Ravichandran

- *Low Cost Airway- A carbon foot print reduction in operation room*

N. Kamatchi

- *Analysis of high retention of clinical research participants in clinical trials conducted in South Indian population*

Buvaneshwari

- *Patient feedback system for remote primary eye care centres*

Arumuga Selvi

- *Analysis of Surgical outcome in Phacoemulsification and Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery (MSCIS)*

R Moorthygowsalya Devi

- *Causes of suboptimal visual acuity after Toric IOL implantation – a retrospective analysis*

Rajesh

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- *Role of systemic comorbidities on the uptake of cataract surgery among patients screened in outreach camps in the state of Tamil Nadu*

Vinothini

- *Making Incision on steep axis to reduce post operative astigmatism by highlighting steep axis in the A-scan sheet*

Kalaivani Kunal

- *To evaluate effectiveness of mini scleral contact lens in Keratoconus patient*

Mariselvi

- *Accommodative esotropia- A brief insight*

Kalaivendan K

- *Enhancing the quality of case finding in outreach with better instrumentation and deploying Electronic Medical Record (EMR) to ensure continuity of care.*

Hema

- *Telemedicine approach for Retinopathy of Prematurity Screening in rural areas : Oppurtunities and Challenges.*

Seran

- *To analyse the incidence of wrong refraction and wrong glass prescriptions across all Aravind Eye Hospitals by the incidents reported in the year 2018*

Ms. Revathy K

- *Acceptance of cataract surgery from comprehensive eye camps at a new tertiary eye hospital*

Hemalatha G

- *High Quality and timely eye care delivery in high volume work place camp*

Ramyadevi

- *Outcomes of Telescreening for ROP in Rural South India – The Aravind Coimbatore Experience*

Jincy

- *Effectiveness of Infection control nurse in implementing infection control practices and reducing hospital acquired infection*

Sangeetha

- *Impact of Bench marking in field of ophthalmology*

Rajakumari

- *Improving Cataract surgery acceptance rate by utilizing multiple tools during cataract counselling*

Murugesan M

- *Effective dispensing of maximum number of low cost spectacle in a mega outreach camp*

R. Gautham Kumar

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- *To study the effectiveness of mandatory committees in implementing quality standards and improving hospital functioning – as part of advocacy*

Sangeetha S

- *Study on Effectiveness of Training Provided for Administrative staff in Eye Care Hospital*

B. Vignesh

- *Gender inequalities study in comprehensive outreach eye camp in South India*

Abinaya

- *Ideas to manage waiting time*

Events

Live Surginar

 Aravind-Chennai  May 24

Dr. Haripriya Aravind performed live surginar titled “*Learn techniques to tackle extreme grades of cataract*” organised by All India Ophthalmic Society. This video has been getting good response with the number of views crossing over 8,000.

Lions Club Award for Senior Nurses

 Aravind-Tirunelveli  June 6

Sr M N Chidambaram, Nursing Superintendent; Sr A Shanmuga Sundari, Tutor – OPD; Sr A Prema, Supervisor – Counseling; Sr G V Packialakshmi, Supervisor – OPD and Sr R S Gomathi, Counselor were awarded “Certificate of Achievement ” for their selfless and efficient work by the Lions Club of Tirunelveli Cosmos.

Awareness session on Managing Cholesterol

 Aravind-Madurai  June 13

Dr. BRJ Khannan, MD DM, Cardiologist, Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai handled the session. The session was highly informative and interactive.

Scientific Programme byTirunelveli Ophthalmologists Association

 Tirunelveli  June 15

Dr. A. Karthik Kumar, Medical Consultant,Retina and Vitreous Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai handled a session titled “OCT Interpretation in day to day practice”. Dr. V. Maneksha, Chief, Department of Orbit & Oculoplasty at Aravind- Tirunelveli handled a session titled “Orbital Infections”.

Eye Donation Awareness Programme

📍 Aravind-Madurai 📅 June 18

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Mr. D. Saravanan, Manager – Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai handled an awareness session on hospital cornea retrieval programme, its importance and the role of health care professionals in eye donation to staff of Primary Health Centre, Kallanthiri.



Session on Glass Painting

📍 Aravind-Tirunelveli 📅 June 12

Ms Shymala, a renowned art and craft teacher from Chennai, taught glass painting for the staff housekeeping department. The participants were provided with the an opportunity to try the art themselves at the end of the session.



Certificate Course in Evidence Based Management of Diabetic Retinopathy (CCDR) Programme

📍 Aravind-Tirunelveli 📅 June 19

As part of the Diabetic Retinopathy project supported by Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Aravind- Tiruneveli facilitated this training programme for the Medical Officers in government PHCs. The programme is conducted once a month in four modules. The fourth module was inaugurated at Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli in February 2019. 12 Medical Officers from Department of Public Health and PHCs and three private practitioners were trained.

Certificate distribution for the recently concluded course was held on June 19. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli welcomed the participants and gave a brief note on the CCDR Programme. Dr. Syed Mohideen, Retina Consultant, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli who is also the regional faculty for the programme gave a brief note on the significance of the programme. Dr. Tanu Soni, Programme Coordinator, PHFI, Gurgaon presented an overview of the programme conducted across the country. The participants were awarded with certificates, jointly issued by PHFI, Centre for Chronic Diseases Control (CCDC), Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Education Academy (DMDEA) and Aravind Eye Care System and respective Regional Faculty. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Dr. R. Meenakshi, Regional Faculty- Dr.Syed Mohideen, Dr.Manakavala Perumal (Diabetologists) and P. Hariesh Kumar, Project Manager-DR were felicitated by PHFI with awards of appreciation.



CME on Hospital Infection Control and Operation Theatre Sterilisation Techniques

📍 Aravind – Coimbatore 📅 June 30

The CME focused on updating knowledge on the most important aspects of infection control and operation theatre sterilization in eye hospitals. A total of 224 delegates from 50 hospitals across 6 states participated. Faculty who are experts in the field of hospital infection control handled the sessions. Each session was followed by a panel discussion. Various Hospital infection control measures and sterilisation activities were demonstrated through posters and videos.



CME on Counselling

📍 LAICO 📅 June 22

The CME sponsored by Alcon aimed to improve counsellors' clinical knowledge and strengthen their communication skills. Senior faculty from GE Health Care handled the sessions. A total of 32 mid level ophthalmic personnel from Aravind-Madurai, Dindigul, Tuticorin and Tirunelveli participated.



Dissemination Summit for Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in India

📍Hyderabad 📅 June 12-14

Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) – Hyderabad organised the event with the objective to evolve recommendations that required to integrate DR services in the government health system. Dignitaries from Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust -UK, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, IIPH, Government of India, INGOs, partnering hospitals and other experts took part.

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli, Dr. Karthik Srinivasan, Medical Consultant, Retina Services, Aravind-Chennai, Dr. Chandra Kumar, Project Director, State Blindness Control Society (SBCS), Tamil Nadu; Mr. V. Vijaya Kumar, Senior Faculty-LAICO and Mr. Hariesh Kumar, Project Manager attended the summit. Dr. Ramakrishnan presented an update on the DR management activities in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Chandra Kumar spoke on the scaling of DR Project in 3 more districts (Salem, Cuddalore and Vellore) in Tamil Nadu. Dr. Ramakrishnan was honoured with an award for Aravind's outstanding contribution towards tackling DR in India.



CME on Anterior Vitrectomy

📍Aravind-Madurai 📅 June 30

A one day CME was conducted for operation theatre nurses to brief them on anterior vitrectomy. Session was handled by Dr.Gomathi Ramya along with faculty from Alcon handled the session. A total of 37 nurses participated.



Diagnostics Skill Transfer Course

📍Aravind-Pondicherry 📅 June 9

The course has sessions covering all sub-specialities in ophthalmology. Participants divided into four groups moved from station to station. A total of 10 investigations (HFA, FFA, Retina OCT, OCT in glaucoma, ERG, VEP, ORB Scan, Pentacam, Hess Charting, Diplopia charting and B-scan) were covered. Sessions included explanation of the principle, mechanism, indications, interpretation, case based discussions, machine-based hands on demo and exam FAQ. More than 50 persons participated.



Aravind-Chennai Hosts the Annual Conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India

📍Aravind-Chennai 📅 June 8-9

Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the conference and graced the occasion with his presence. More than 600 delegates from 18 states and 2 union territories across 115 organisations from India attended the conference. Sessions were conducted in four parallel tracks – Advocacy, Outreach, Quality in cataract surgery and Optometry; a total of 122 papers and 85 posters were presented. True to the spirit of the conference, it fostered learning and networking in an enabling environment.

The aim of the conference was to

- Increase the capacity of eye care fraternity towards meeting the goal of reducing visual impairment
- Create networking opportunities and overall atmosphere of upgrading knowledge and technology use
- Share experiences and good practices in the area of eye health for better planning and implementation of eye care services



LAICO

Consultancy Visits

As part of SCALE capacity building project, follow up visits were made to the following hospitals:

- Rotary Hooghly Eye hospital & Netaji Eye Hospital, West Bengal
- Sankara Eye Hospital, Brehampur, Odisha
- Alakh Nayan Eye Hospital, Udaipur, Rajasthan
- Jharkhand Eye Bank Hospital, Ranchi
- Vivekananda eye hospital Gumballi, Karnataka

Publications

Publications – June 2019

1. Kumaran M, Subramanian U, Devarajan B. **Performance assessment of variant calling pipelines using human whole exome sequencing and simulated data.** BMC Bioinformatics. 2019 Jun 17;20(1):342. [Article View](#)

2. Ganesh SC, Shilpa GR, Kalpana N. **Clinical evaluation of graded Anderson’s procedure in idiopathic infantile nystagmus.** Strabismus. 2019 Jun 20:1-4. [Epub] [Article View](#)

3. Niranjana P, Nithya Lakshmi S, Jeya Maheshwari J, Prajna NV, Lalitha Prajna, Dharmalingam K. **Quantitative profiling of tear proteome reveals down regulation of zinc alpha-2 glycoprotein in *Aspergillus flavus* keratitis patients.** Exp Eye Res. 2019 Jun 21. [Epub] [Article View](#)

4. Sharma N, Arora T, Singhal D, Maharana PK, Garg P, Nagpal R, Murthy S, Gunnam S, Arora A, Prajna NV, Revathi R, Padmanabhan P, Kumar A, Kumar R, Tomar S, Thomas A, Gyanchand R, Arora R, Biswas B, Basak S. **Procurement, storage and utilization trends of eye banks in India.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1056-1059. [Article View](#)

5. Prajna NV. Commentary: **Procurement, storage and utilization trends of eye banks in India.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1060. [Article View](#)

6. Devendra Maheshwari, Swathi K, Mohideen Abdul Kadar, Ramakrishnan R, Madhavi R Pillai. **Midterm outcome of mitomycin C augmented trabeculectomy in open angle glaucoma versus angle closure glaucoma.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1080-1084. [Article View](#)

7. Sandra CG, Sasikala AE, Kalpana N. **Botulinum toxin A in the early treatment of sixth nerve palsy in type 2 diabetes.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(&):1133-1136. [Article View](#)

8. Ashis Ghosh, Naveen R, Prajna NV. **Traumatic corneal cyst.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(6):1179. [Article View](#)

9. Amit Kumar D, Naresh Babu K, Kim R, Chitaranjan Mishra. **Double ring sign in optic nerve head hypoplasia.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1187. [Article View](#)

10. Naresh Babu K, Vedang Shah, Piyush Kohli, Shah Pratik K. **Subretinal pigment epithelium cleft: A sign of caution.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1188. [Article View](#)

11. Rajan RP, Amit Kumar D, Naresh Babu K, Kim R. **Bilateral optic nerve aplasia with corpus callosum hypogenesis in an otherwise healthy child: Report of a rare case.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1231-1233. [Article View](#)

12. Balamurugan S, Priya S. **Commentary: Tuberculosis in neuro ophthalmology – How different it is?.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1212-1214. [Article View](#)

13. Balamurugan S. Commentary: **Appraisal of histopathological correlations in Vogt-Koyanagi-Harada uveitis.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul;67(7):1219-1221. [Article View](#)

14. Durr NJ, Dave SR, Lim D, Sanil Joseph, Thulasiraj RD, Lage E. **Quality of eyeglass prescriptions from a low-cost wavefront autorefractor evaluated in rural India: results of a 708-participant field study.** BMJ Open Ophthalmol. 2019 Jun 14;4(1):e000225. [Article View](#)

15. Sandra Ganesh, Shwetha H. Ramakrishna. **A Rare Case of Anterior Segment Ischemia Following Wright’s Modification of the Hummelsheim Procedure for Total Lateral Rectus Muscle Palsy.** J Pediatr Ophthalmol Strabismus. 2019;56:e53-e56. [Article View](#)

16. [Priya Sivakumar](#), [Chandresh Nandwana](#), Veena K. **Eyes speak before the child talks.** JAMA Ophthalmol. 2019 Jul 11. [Epub] [Article View](#)

17. Madanagopalan VG, Shivananda N, Krishnan T. **Surgically induced necrotizing scleritis after retinal detachment surgery masquerading as scleral abscess.** GMS Ophthalmol Cases. 2019 May 29;9:Doc18. [Article View](#)

Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics

June – 2019														
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Tirupur	Salem	Udumalpet	Tuticorin	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS														

Paying (New & Review)	59,521	8,847	28,693	32,616	26,451	6,723	4,571	12,002	3,754	5,224	3,669	15,769	6,121	2,13,961
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	19,184	2,446	7,175	11,465	10,289	NA	1,362	2,134	2,645	1,067	NA	3,726	2,186	63,679
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT														
Comprehensive Eye Camps	10,247	1,553	4,705	5,243	7,301	411	411	1,942	257	447	NA	1,917	893	35,327
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	946	236	175	545	1,256	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,158
Glaucoma Camps	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	—
Refraction Camps	502	180	1,732	1,142	692	NA	NA	794	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,042
Mobile Refraction Unit	NA	NA	NA	1,416	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,416
School Screening camps	182	NA	NA	NA	435	NA	NA	250	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,050
Paediatric Camps	NA	NA	NA	NA	447	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	447
RoP	144	135	NA	441	53	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	789
Vision Centres	24,325	5,737	12,100	4,607	7,678	NA	1,123	NA	1,453	NA	NA	NA	NA	57,023
Community Centres / City Centres	9,095	1,877	2,672	NA	2,563	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	16,207
Total OP Examinations	1,24,146	21,011	57,252	57,658	57,165	7,134	7,467	17,122	8,109	6,738	3,669	21,428	9,200	3,98,099
Total Number of Camps	39	12	28	24	30	NA	3	9	1	NA	NA	6	NA	152
SURGERIES														
Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries														
Paying	3,576	475	1,366	1,578	1,473	308	271	683	260	212	156	788	241	11,387
Free (Direct)	3,923	352	880	1,827	1,436	154	204	303	503	192	0	312	290	10,376
Camp	3,505	201	968	2,033	1,974	0	74	468	42	46	0	300	134	9,745
Total Cataract Surgeries	11,004	1,028	3,214	5,438	4,883	462	549	1,454	805	450	156	1,400	665	31,508

Note: NA – Not Applicable

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Training

Enrolments for June 2019 at Aravind Eye Care System

June – 2019		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
RESIDENCY PROGRAMMES		
Diplomate of National Board	Pondicherry	6
	Coimbatore	3
LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Fellowship in Cornea	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Coimbatore	3
	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	2
SHORT TERM CLINICAL COURSES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Madurai	2
	Tirunelveli	2
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	3
Small incision cataract surgery	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
PARAMEDICAL COURSES		
Training for Ocularist	Madurai	1
COMMUNITY OUTREACH COURSE		
Community Outreach and Social Marketing of Eye Care Services	LAICO	9
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE COURSE		
Instrument Maintenance – For Technicians	LAICO	5