

Editorial

Over the past few years, Aravind has seen tremendous growth especially on the infrastructure front to accommodate increasing demand for its services. Several new centres were opened offering primary, secondary and tertiary eye care. The latest in this series is Aravind-Kovilpatti inaugurated in the last week of September.

Sight lost due to opaque cornea can be restored through cornea transplantation. Yet, millions in our country remain corneal blind mainly due to the non-availability of cornea for transplant. Every year, National Eye Donation Fortnight is being observed to sensitise public about this noble cause. Aravind too organised elaborate programmes to observe fortnight in the most meaningful way.

Providing high quality service free or at a subsidised rate is the cornerstone of Aravind's eye care delivery. With a generous grant from Standard Chartered Bank, Cornea Services at Aravind-Madurai was able to treat over 3,000 poor patients with corneal ulcers. A function was arranged to mark this occasion which was attended by eminent people from different walks of life and community leaders.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Diwali! May the festival of lights illumine your lives and bring in joy and prosperity!



Accolades

Orbis International Medal for the Best Free Paper Presentation at ESCRS Conference

📍Paris, France 📅September 14-18

Dr. Ashok Vardhan, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirupati won the “Orbis International Medal for the Best Free Paper Presentation” at 37th Congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ESCRS) in Paris, France.



Award for Best Eye Bank in South Zone

📍Bangalore 📅September 28



Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Madurai received the award at the 11th National Conference on Cornea and Eye Banking – Annual Convention of Eye Bank Association of India 2019 held in Bangalore.

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Best of Best Free Paper Award for Dr. Ramya Seetam Raju

Kakinada September 27-29

Dr. Ramya Seetam Raju, Medical Consultant, Cornea & Refractive Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai won the Best of Best Free Paper Award from amongst 75 competitive papers at the Annual Conference of Andhra Pradesh Ophthalmic Society for the paper titled “*Does contemporary antimicrobial substitution in corneal storage media reduce donor rim contamination?*”



Dr. Haripriya Aravind Delivers the Prof. Anila Khuteta Memorial Oration

Jaipur September 20-22

Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Chief, Cataract and IOL Services delivered the oration on *Intracameral antibiotics for endophthalmitis prophylaxis* at the Rajasthan Ophthalmological Conference.

Dr. TNC Vedantham Memorial Oration

Chennai September 08

Dr. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai delivered the Dr. TNC Vedantham Memorial Oration on *Diabetic Retinopathy and Artificial Intelligence* at RADNET 2019 organised by Radhatri Netralaya at Chennai.

Aurolab

Motivational and Awareness Session to staff

Aurolab September 23 & 24

Mrs. Mallika, a renowned motivational speaker gave an inspiring lecture to the production trainees at Aurolab.

Mrs. Hemalatha – Child Development Project Officer handled the session and mentioned the healthy food items and their nutrition level. Staff felt the awareness session very useful to them.

Conferences attended

Oculoplastics Association of India Conference (OPAI – 2019)

📍Guwahati 📅 September 06-08

Dr. Usha Kim

- *Performed 3D live surgery using frontalis sling*
- *Eyelids: Tips and tricks in different types of ptosis surgeries*
- *Ptosis and eyelids frontalis sling surgery – My techniques*
- *Judge – Dr. Raman Mittal Free Papers*
- *Panelist – Medicolegal aspects in Oculoplasty “Why and how medical providers in Oculoplastics are sued, saved or convicted” Panel discussion*

ESCRS Conference

📍France 📅 September 14-18

Dr. R. Meenakshi

- *Paediatric Keratoconus – A study on Epidemiology and Treatment Outcome: Paper Presentation*
- *Talk on difficult situations in Paediatric Cataract Surgeries: Video Symposium*
- *Cionni Capsular Tension Ring & in the bag placement of IOL in cases of Ectopia Lentis – a case series: Poster Presentation*

Dr. Ashok Vardhan

- *High cataract surgical rate and universal eye*

Dr. Sathya Ravilla

- *Intra-trochlear steroid injections in Acquired Brown’s Syndrome- A case series*

Rajasthan Ophthalmological Conference (ROSCON)

📍Jaipur 📅 September 20-22

Dr. Haripriya Aravind

- *Delivered the Prof. Anila Khuteta Memorial Oration*
- *Management of decentered IOLs*

GlaucoKnow 2019 – Annual Conference of Glaucoma Society of India

📍Lucknow 📅 September 20-22

Dr. Ramakrishnan

- *Chairperson for the session – Basics of glaucoma diagnosis*
- *Mentor for the session – Managing Complications of trabeculectomy confidentially*
- *Does evidence justify selective laser trabeculoplasty in Indian eyes*

- *Roads travelled by glaucoma experts*

Dr. Mohideen Abdul Kader

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- *Managing late post-operative complications*
- *Trabeculectomy after SICS*

Annual Conference of Asia Pacific Tele Ophthalmology Society 2019

 Chennai  September 21

Dr. R. Kim

- *AI in clinical workflow*

Mr. R.D Thulasiraj

- *“AI – Solving today’s problems and opening new frontiers” : Round table discussion*
- *Leveraging AI for universal eye health*

Mr. Ganesh Babu

- *Technology driven primary eye care*

Mr. Sanil Joseph

- *Validation of retinal image grading results by a trained non-ophthalmologist grader for detecting diabetic retinopathy in southern India*

AIOC ARC Post Graduate Refresher Course 2019

 Coimbatore  September 28

Dr. Naresh Babu

- *Retinal Detachment*

Dr. Karthik Kumar

- *Age-related macular degeneration*

11th National Conference on Cornea and Eye Banking Annual Convention of EBAI 2019

 Bangalore  September 28

Dr. M. Srinivasan

- *Indian Eye Banks: Present and Future*

Mr. Saravanan

- *Successful donor corneal collection model in Aravind Eye Banks, India*
- *Submitted the innovative concept on “Professional Eye Banking Apps for India – Future”*

Ophthafusion 2019

 Coimbatore  August 24

- *Chaired the session, The “O” factor in Pediatric Ophthalmology*
- *The “O” factor in Pediatric Ophthalmology – Ocular tumors in childhood*

Events

Cornea Connect 2019

📍 Aravind - Chennai 📅 September 07 - 08

The CME discussed a lot of interesting and recent advancements in the field of cornea; to name a few, corneal necrotization, Bowman’s layer transplant etc. There were didactic lectures by eminent faculty from across the nation and overseas as well. The CME was well received by 200 odd delegates.

Dr. John P Whitcher, Professor Emeritus, Francis I. Proctor Foundation, UCSF was the Guest of Honour and gave the Key note address. Apart from Aravind faculty, Dr. Thomas M Lietman and Dr. Gerami Sietzman from Francis I. Proctor foundation, UCSF; Dr. Roberto Pineda from MEEI, Harvard Medical School; Dr. Christina Rapp Prescott from Wilmer Eye Institute, John’s Hopkins School of Medicine; Dr. Samar Kumar Basak, Disha Eye Hospital, Calcutta; Dr.Namrata Sharma and Dr.Vanathi Murugesan from Dr. RP Centre, AIIMS; Dr. J.K. Reddy and Dr. Siddarthan from Sankara Eye Hospital, Coimbatore; Dr. Rohit Shetty, Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore; Dr. Mathew Kurian, Chaitanya Eye Hospital, Kottayam; Dr.Sujatha Mohan, Rajan Eye Care, Chennai and Dr. Bhaskar Srinivasan, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai shared their valuable inputs.



APTOS 2019

📍 Chennai 📅 September 21-22

APTOS 2019, the 4th annual symposium of Asia Pacific Teleophthalmology Association was organised by Aravind Eye care System at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai. The theme of the 4th APTOS Symposium was the Evolution of AI in Ophthalmology and its impact in Teleophthalmology and Innovative Service Delivery. Another highlight of APTOS 2019 was the Hackathon and the Big Data DR Challenge for different algorithms in ocular diagnostics. The symposium was very well-received with a total of 316

participants which included medical specialists, ophthalmologists, engineers, students of medicine and engineering from colleges all around the world. Experts from the field of AI, telemedicine, information technology and ophthalmology from Australia, United States, Singapore, United Kingdom, Thailand, Switzerland, Chile, China and India delivered interesting lectures.

Accolades Aurolab Conferences attended Events Publications Special Events Statistics Training ARAVIND



Valedictory function of providing comprehensive free eye care to corneal ulcer patients

📍Aravind - Madurai 📅September 05

Supported by Standard Chartered Bank, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai has been providing free treatment for poor patients with corneal ulcer. The fund even supported the transport costs not just for the patients but for the accompanying persons as well. Over 3,000 patients were thus benefitted over the past three years. A valedictory function was arranged to commemorate this achievement for which Shri. Shivraj V. Patil, former Judge of the Supreme Court, was the chief guest. Shri. S. Venkatesan, Member of Parliament, Madurai was the guest of honour. A few patients were also invited to attend the function.



Observing 34th National Eye Donation Fortnight

📍 Aravind 📅 August 25 –September 8

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34th Eye Donation Fortnight was observed at Aravind with a wide variety of programmes that focused mainly on awareness creation. Programmes conducted included awareness rally, exhibition, seminars, talks in educational institutions and offices, distribution of pamphlets and felicitation events for donor families. Aravind doctors gave talks about eye donation and eye banking on popular FM channels. Social media was effectively used to spread the message of promoting eye donation. Felicitation programmes were organized to motivate the various clubs, donor families and NGOs who have been instrumental in supporting the cause of eye donation.



AIOC ARC Post Graduate Refresher Course 2019

📍 Aravind – Coimbatore 📅 September 27-29

Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore organized AIOS ARC Post Graduate Refresher Programme 2019 – South Zone with the support of an educational grant from Sun Pharma. 71 faculty members conducted the three-day scientific sessions which included 42 lectures, 8 case discussions, 8 quiz programmes and 10 dry lab sessions. A total of 220 Post Graduates from 48 Institutions across Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry participated.





Senior management team was present during the occasion. Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer gave an update on the activities of the last year. Service awards were distributed to employees who completed 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years of service.



Auroutsav 2019

📍 Aravind - Madurai 📅 23 August 2019 - 04 September 2019

Auroutsav, the biennial literary, sports and arts competitions was held at Aravind-Madurai with over 30 events in total. Staff members who were divided into five teams, named after various tribes of south India – Irula, Kurumba, Kota, Paniya and Toda – showcased the unique features of their tribe through excellent performances. Team Paniya emerged as the winner followed by Kota. Winners were awarded prizes.



Madurai Symposium – Dhan foundation

📍 Madurai 📅 September 18-22

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On request from Dhan Foundation, Madurai; Aravind Eye Care System organised an event in Madurai Symposium under the theme, *Role of women in eye care*. The programme included seminars, quiz, skit, update on Aravind and its impact in the community and on women development, MLOP model and models showing common eye problems. A model of the vision centre was put up. The programme was entirely handled by the empowered women (MLOP) team of Aravind and it was well received by the public. People visited the stalls and had their eyes checked in the model vision centre setup. On the whole, the team examined 359 patients and advised glasses for 60 patients. 43 reading glasses were issued on the spot. Apart from this, the team identified and referred 16 cataract patients, 5 glaucoma patients, 1 DR patient and 32 other specialty patients to the concerned vision centres adjacent to their residence.



Optimeet – 2019

📍 Aravind-Coimbatore 📅 September 8



The 6th Optimeet for the staff of Opticals department was held at Aravind-Coimbatore. Twelve papers and one video were presented. In addition, each hospital teams presented an update on their performance which was followed by discussion.

Awards for Excellence in Book Production 2019



Jaypee Brothers Medical Publishers received First Prize for Excellence in Book Production from Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP India) for the book *Peyman's Principles and Practice of Ophthalmology*. Aravind is proud of the fact that Dr. V. Venkatesh Prajna, Director-Academics, AECS is the Chief Editor of the second edition book.

Aadhar Card Correction Camp

📍 Aravind-Salem 📅 September 26-27

Publications

Publications – September 2019

1. Sharma A, Kuppermann BD, Bandello F, Lanzetta P, Zur D, Park SW, Yu HG, Saravanan VR, Zacharias LC, Barreira AK, Iglicki M, Miassi F, Veritti D, Tsao S, Makam D, Jain N, Loewenstein A. **Intraocular pressure (IOP) after intravitreal dexamethasone implant (Ozurdex) amongst different geographic populations- GEODEX-IOP study.** Eye (Lond). 2019 Sep 30. [Epub] [Article View](#)
2. George V Puthuran, Palmberg PF, Hiruni KW, Srilekha P, Krishnadas S, Robin AL. **Intermediate-term outcomes of Aurolab aqueous drainage implant in refractory paediatric glaucoma.** Br J Ophthalmol. 2019;0:1–5. [Epub] [Article View](#)
3. Burton MJ, Faal HB, Ramke J, Thulasiraj RD, Holland P, Wang N, West SK, Bourne RRA, Congdon NG, Foster A. **Announcing The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health.** Lancet Glob Health 2019 Oct 9. [Epub] [Article View](#)
4. Sandra C Ganesh, Jayadev NA, Oguego N M, Kalpana Narendran, Shilpa G Rao. **Nasal loop myopexy as a primary procedure to correct exotropia hypotropia complex in high myopia.** 2019 Oct 15:1-7. [Article View](#)
5. Prajna NV, Naveen R, Lalitha P, Austin A, Ray KJ, Keenan JD, Porco TC, Lietman TM, Rose-Nussbaumer J. **Cross-Linking-Assisted Infection Reduction: a randomized clinical trial evaluating the effect of adjuvant cross-linking on outcomes in fungal keratitis.** Ophthalmology. 2019 Sep 4. [Epub] [Article View](#)
6. Yogapriya S, Muthukkaruppan V, Krishnadas S, Gowri Priya C. **Identification, quantification and age related changes of human trabecular meshwork stem cells.** Eye Vis. 2019 Dec;6:31. [Article View](#)
7. Nidhee Jain F, George J Manayath, Narendran V, Saravanan V R, Karan K, Ramya A. **A rare case of focal choroidal excavation associated choroidal neovascularization in angioid streaks.** Oman J Ophthalmol. 2019 Sep-Dec;12:200-202. [Article View](#)

Special Events

Inauguration of Aravind Eye Hospital at Kovilpatti

📍Aravind - Kovilpatti 📅September 29

Aravind’s 14th hospital and the seventh secondary centre inaugurated at Kovilpatti by Mr. T. Lakshmi Narayanan, Retired IAS Officer. Dr. T.R. Dinakaran, Managing Director, Sri Ramalinga Mills, Aruppukottai; Tmt. Hamsapriya Srinivasan, Chennai; Mr. Everest Ramachandran, Kovilpatti; Prof. Dr. R. Perumalsamy, Pro-Chancellor, Noorul Islam University, Kanyakumari offered felicitations.

Senior leadership team, managers and staff members were present during this inauguration. The 17,300 sq.ft facility has the capacity to handle nearly 4000 outpatients and perform about 6,000 eye surgeries a year. Like any other Aravind centre, the hospital will have 50% of the services as paying and 50 % as either free or at deeply subsidised rate. Mementos were presented to the guest by Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman-Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System and to the construction agencies by Mr. G. Srinivasan, Director-Finance, Aravind Eye Care System. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirunelveli delivered vote of thanks.



Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics

September – 2019														
Hospitals	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS														
Paying (New & Review)	55,526	27,242	7,975	31,492	25,452	4,192	6,091	10,729	4,552	3,650	3,307	15,929	7,308	2,03,445
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	15,775	7,444	2,152	10,588	9,707	1,243	—	2,020	960	1,885	—	4,361	1,870	58,005
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT														
Comprehensive Eye Camps	9,310	4,706	2,641	6,011	6,489	—	—	2,355	378	559	—	7,790	837	41,076
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	1,005	352	268	698	342	—	—	—	—	—	—	205	—	2,870
Glaucoma Camps	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Refraction Camps	1,853	821	310	268	818	50	—	104	—	353	—	—	—	4,577

Mobile Refraction Unit	—	—	70	1,489	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,559
School Screening camps	384	988	—	235	1,838	220	—	256	—	64	—	430	—	4,415
Paediatric Camps	—	—	—	128	220	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	348
RoP	207	161	112	479	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	1,010
Vision Centres	22,114	11,797	6,232	4,318	8,417	1,186	—	—	—	1,401	—	—	—	55,465
Community Centres / City Centres	8,199	2,451	1,771	—	2,604	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,025
Total OP Examinations	1,14,373	55,962	21,531	55,706	55,901	6,891	6,091	15,464	5,890	7,912	3,307	28,752	10,015	3,87,795
Total Number of Camps	46	31	10	32	31	—	—	11	3	2	—	10	5	181
SURGERIES														
Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries														
Paying	3,139	1,394	445	1,557	1,492	255	312	607	220	254	125	803	335	10,938
Free (Direct)	2,322	837	259	1,322	457	190	207	267	164	389	—	387	309	7,110
Camp	2,403	819	305	1,625	1,465	29	—	357	52	49	—	667	172	7,943
Total Cataract Surgeries	7,864	3,050	1,009	4,504	3,414	474	519	1,231	436	692	125	1,857	816	25,991
Note: NA – Not Applicable														

September – 2019

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Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	3
	Tirunelveli	1
	Tirupati	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Pondicherry	1
	Madurai	2
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Retina & Vitreous	Chennai	2
SHORT TERM CLINICAL COURSES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Clinical Observership Program In Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	2
Small incision cataract surgery	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	2
	Pondicherry	1
PARAMEDICAL COURSES		
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography & Ultrasonography	Madurai	1
Optical Dispensing	Madurai	4
MANAGEMENT COURSE		
Project Management for Eye Care	LAICO	9

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

October 2019▼

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