

Editorial

Apart from providing quality eye care, Aravind especially over the past decade has been taking conscious efforts to being socially accountable, by supporting noble causes or efforts. Over time, such activities have become regular events. In January, Aravind-Madurai hosted two major events – Vaanavil and Angaadi – both receiving wide response from staff as well as public.

The spirit of sharing is ingrained in the very ethos of the organisation. Education programmes are being organised almost every month touching upon various topics in the field of eye care.

Aravind, ever since inception, focused on community outreach programmes which take eye care service to the doorstep of the needy. Over the years, camps became an integral part of Aravind's eye care delivery contributing 30% to the total cataract surgeries performed. A meticulous and systematic monitoring mechanism is followed to ensure quality of care at these camps. Outreach departments across the Aravind centres met together as part of their annual planning meet in January.

AIOS-ARC Symposium
Madurai

Aravind Events

AIOS-ARC Symposium on Cataract and Glaucoma

Aravind-Madurai, January 5

The symposium was organised by Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai under the aegis of the Madurai Ophthalmologists Association at Hotel Courtyard Marriott. Dr P Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, AECS presided over the inaugural function and stressed the importance of evidence based research in clinical practice, accessible and affordable care, especially in chronic diseases like glaucoma. A total of 177 ophthalmologists and postgraduates participated in the symposium. The symposium shed light on practical challenges in cataract management and basics of diagnosis and therapy of glaucoma, relevant to general ophthalmologists.

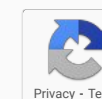


PASS 2020

Aravind-Pondicherry, January 4-5

The symposium had didactic lectures covering a wide variety of topics in pediatric ophthalmology. Prof. Dr. Del Monte, Chief, Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, Kellogg Eye Centre, University of Michigan; Dr Pradeep Sharma, Professor and Head, Pediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus, Dr RP Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, New Delhi and Dr P Vijayalakshmi, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai were the esteemed faculty. Wet lab session and a competition on most challenging case presentations were arranged. The best three presentations were awarded. More than 200 people participated in the symposium. Participants paid tribute to Dr Vijayalakshmi.

Aravind Alumni celebrated the birthday of Dr. Del Monte with a cultural extravaganza on January 4 at Le Pondy. It was followed by Bharatnatyam and Odissi Jugalbandi by Anish and Swati Raghavan respectively.



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Opening of Aravind's 78th Vision Centre

Omalur, Salem, January 13

The second Vision Centre of Aravind- Salem and 78th for Aravind Eye Care System was opened at Omalur. The centre was inaugurated by Dr.Manivannan Periyasamy, Founder, Manivannan Hospital, Omalur; Mr.Varadharajan, Bussiness Development Manager, LIC India, Omalur region; Mr.Subramanian, President, Rotary Club in the presence of Dr.B.Manohar Babu, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Salem and the team. On the inaugural day, the centre saw 62 patients. Of these, 19 patients were given glass prescriptions; 13 were referred to the hospital and 5 patients were given medicines.



Eye MA 2020

Aravind-Pondicherry, Januray 19

The programme was conducted for the benefit of doctors other than ophthalmologists in Indian Medical Association (IMA). Wide array of interesting topics in eye care – advances in cataract surgeries, refractive surgeries, pediatric eye diseases, glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, diabetic retinopathy and artificial intelligence – were covered. Participants eagerly participated in the Kahoot quiz. Eye examination was performed for all the participants. Skills transfer courses were conducted on direct/indirect-ophthalmoscope, fundus photography and virtual reality based perimetry.



Residents Social Responsibility Programme

Aravind-Madurai, January 1

Aravind Eye hospital, Madurai hosted Vaanavil, as part of Residents Social Responsibility programme. The event had an exhibition cum sale of handicrafts made by the visually challenged women from Mannarpuram Rehabilitation centre. The programme received amazing response. A well organized team effort has resulted in a sale worth 2.75 lakhs



Aravind-Tirunelveli, January 11

Postgraduates of Aravind-Tirunelveli spent a day at Bishop Sargent School for the Mentally Retarded. The school has been well rated for its quality teaching and infrastructure. Aravind team screened nearly 100 mentally retarded children and provided spectacles for those identified with refractive errors.



Annual Camp Meeting 2020

Aravind-Pondicherry, January 10-11

Nearly 70 staff from Outreach departments across the Aravind centres participated in the two day programme. The main objective of the meeting was sharing the performance of outreach, cross learning, creating a platform to come out with new ideas and strategies, standardizing the practices across Aravind's base hospitals and reinforcing the Aravind's culture and values in outreach across the system.



Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme

Sivagangai, January 20

Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank (RAIEB), Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai and Government Sivagangai Medical College and Hospital (GSMCH) organised the programme. Dr.Venkatesh Prajna, Chief, Cornea and Refractive Surgery Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai was the guest of honour and handed over eye donation awareness boards to GSMCH. Dr.S.Priyadharshini, Asst. Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, GSMCH handled a session on *Corneal retrieval and grafting – A practical overview*. Mr.Saravanan, Manager-RAIEB, Madurai handled a session on *eye donation*, demand and supply and hospital corneal retrieval programme.



Eye Donation Awareness Programme

Madurai, December 11

Mr.Saravanan, Manager, Rotary Aravind International Eye Bank, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai handled an awareness session for the members of Lions Club. He mentioned the importance of eye donation, community cornea retrieval programme and creating death notification system as well as touched on the role of Lions club in facilitating eye donation. Around 40 members participated.



Celebrating Valluvar

Aravind-Madurai, January 18-21

January 16 is celebrated as Tiruvalluvar Day all over Tamil Nadu. To commemorate the occasion and to inculcate his thoughts in the present generation, Aravind-Madurai organised a series of competitions – drawing, recitation, quiz, speech, poetry – based on Tiruvalluvar and his most celebrated work, *Tirukkural*. At the valedictory function, Mr.Siva, Tamil teacher, MC School, Madurai was the chief guest and he gave a motivating talk. Winners of the competitions were awarded prizes.



Angaadi

Aravind, Januray 10-11

The spirit of service at Aravind continues to be fostered not only by the day-to-day work of serving all those in need of eye care but also reaching out to people elsewhere. Every two year, the organisation conducts “Angaadi”, the great charity fest. The event was conceived with the notion of reusing things which people don’t want to use any more. It provides a platform for the staff to recycle household items, new and old, that would be of value to other staff. Articles ranging from utensils, paintings, artefacts, books, clothes to old electronic gadgets, bags and accessories were sold at the event at a nominal price. Proceeds from the sales are donated to charity.

At Aravind-Madurai, Ms.Premalatha Paneerselvam, Senior Correspondent, Mahatma Schools, Madurai inaugurated Angaadi 2020 in the presence of Dr.G.Natchiar, Director Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System. Ms.Uma Kannan, Vice President, Thigarajar College, Madurai; Dr.Janet, President – Sorpotimist International; Ms.Jacqueline Verdon, Correspondent, Mahatma School, Ms.Hamsapriya Ganesh, Principal, Mahatma School were also present at the occasion. At the valedictory function held on January 24 proceeds from Angaadi were donated to three charity institutions – Aishwaryam Trust, Tirunagar; Blessed Kids Special School, Vilangudi; Wish to Help, Tirunagar and a student who is fighting cancer.

Aravind-Pondicherry conducted the event on January 10. Mr.Kanagaraj, Manager – General Administration inaugurated the same.



Evacuation Drill Training

Aravind-Tirunelveli, January 10

Personnel from Usha Fire Safety and Equipment handled the session. Around 110 staff including doctors, nurses and admin staff participated in the programme.



Aurolab

28th Aurolab Day

Aurolab, January 25

Aurolab celebrated 28 years of service in its journey towards restoring sight. Mr.Venkatesh, Manager – Quality Assurance welcomed the gathering. Dr.S.R.Rathinam, Head,Uveitis Services, Aravind-Madurai was invited as chief guest. She gave an inspiring talk to the audience. Service awards were distributed to employees. Mr.R.D.Sriram, Managing Director presented a report on the last year's activities. Mr.R.Krishna Kumar, Sr.Manager-Regulatory Affairs gave an update on the growth of Aurolab and developmental plans.



Pongal Celebration

Aurolab, January 11

Pongal was celebrated with traditional dance forms like Oyilattam, Karagattam, Silambattam and Uriyadithal. Mr.Vasan, Accounts department won Uriyadithal. Pongal was prepared with the newly harvested rice. Pongal pooja was performed and prasadam was distributed to all.



Awareness Session on Snake Bites

Aurolab, January 8

The session was arranged for the staff members. Mr.Vishwanath from Wish to Help trust handled the session. He mentioned about different types of snakes and how to keep ourselves safe from snake bites. He also touched upon the necessary first aid measures in case of a snake bite.

Basic Research

Advances in Clinical Genomics: Hands-on- workshop on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)

AMRF, January 23-25

As part of the DBT Centre of Excellence programme on “Translational Genomics of Paediatric Eye Diseases”, this three-day workshop was organized by Dr.P.Sundaresan, Dr.A.Vanniarajan and Dr.D.Bharanidharan at Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF), Madurai.

Dr.K.Thangaraj, Centre from Cellular and Molecular Biology gave lectures on basics of NGS and its utility in clinics. Dr.G.Kumaresan, Madurai Kamaraj University elaborated on the genomic approaches in cancer. Dr.P.Sundaresan gave an overview about the usefulness of NGS in eye diseases. Application scientist Mr.Jatesh Sachdeva provided the technical details of NGS.

Eleven participants including faculty and research scholars from colleges and institutions attended the training programme. Dr.A.Vanniarajan and Dr.D.Bharanidharan provided the basics for training and the research scholars handled individual sessions. All the steps involved in NGS right from sample preparation to report generation were meticulously delivered to the participants. A dedicated half a day session on Bioinformatics helped the participants to gain thorough knowledge on NGS data analysis. In addition, the participants gained knowledge to validate the NGS data by using the gold standard method, Sanger sequencing. Certificates were distributed to the participants on the last day of the workshop.



Conferences attended

Symposium on Systemic Disesease and Implications in Eye Care

Chennai, January 19

Dr. R.D Ravindran

- Perspective and views around implication of systemic diseases in routine eye surgery



Hotspots in ophthalmology research targeting needs in low- and middle-income countries

Zurich, Switzerland, January 15-19

Mr.Thulasiraj Ravilla participated in the plenary session on *What is needed for a sustainable change?* and provided inputs based on the Aravind model.



AIOS Focus Group meeting

New Delhi, January 12

Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai attended AIOS Focus Group meeting on diabetic macular edema and diabetic retinopathy screening.

Phaco Festival

Bangalore, January 18

Dr. Haripriya Aravind

- Challenges in managing spherophakic lens
- IOL placement in eyes with posterior capsule rupture

LAICO

Consultancy Visit

Lucknow, January 10-12

Mr.Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director and Mr.Suresh Kumar, Faculty visited Sitapur Eye Hospital to describe LAICO's capacity building programme and share examples of its impact with District Eye Relief Society Eye Hospitals set up by Sitapur and branches of Sitapur hospital in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The visit also aimed to gauge the willingness of participating hospitals to be a part of LAICO's Capacity Building initiative to enhance their services.



Management Priorities for Heads of Eye Hospitals

LAICO, January 19-25

LAICO conducted the course for the heads of eye hospitals. A total of 37 participants from eye hospitals in Philippines, Afghanistan, Nepal and India participated. Valedictory function was held on January 25 and the certificates were distributed to all participants.



Publications

January 2020

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10. MacIntosh PW, Kumar SV, Saravanan VR, Shah VM. **Acute changes in ganglion cell layer thickness in ischemic optic neuropathy compared to optic neuritis using optical coherence tomography.** Int J Ophthalmol. 2020 Jan 18;13(1):120-123. [Article View](#)

11. Kriegel MF, Huang J, Ashfaq HA, Niziol LM, Preethi M, Tan H, Tuohy MM, Patel TP, Prajna V, Woodward MA. **Algorithm variability in quantification of epithelial defect size in microbial keratitis images.** Cornea. 2020 Jan 23. [Epub] [Article View](#)

12. Bharat Gurnani, Kirandeep Kaur, Prasanth Gireesh. **Rare Coexistence of Bilateral Congenital Sutural and Cortical Blue Dot Cataracts.** J Pediatr Ophthalmol Strabismus. 2020;57(1):68. [Article View](#)

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Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics

January- 2019																
Hospitals	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti	Total	
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS																
Paying (New & Review)	52,698	27,046	8,359	30,865	21,960	4,057	6,046	10,733	5,069	3,393	3,413	16,788	7,995	1,822	2,00,244	
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	13,440	6,028	1,951	10,270	7,075	1,289	—	1,612	3,897	1,408	—	4,348	2,736	377	54,431	
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT																
Comprehensive Eye Camps	5,573	2,274	1,677	3,956	4,903	410	—	690	235	—	289	1,382	854	—	22,243	
Diabetic Retinopathy camps	691	210	124	617	311	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,953	
Glaucoma Camps	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Refraction Camps	2,061	405	267	1,405	1,111	40	—	359	—	—	—	651	326	—	6,625	
Mobile Refraction Unit	—	—	—	387	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	387	
School Screening	—	157	—	768	869	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300	—	2,094	

camps															
Paediatric Camps	—	—	—	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	120
RoP	202	122	140	432	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	—	936
Vision Centres	24,023	12,952	5,951	4,622	8,064	1,200	—	465	—	1,450	—	—	—	—	58,727
Community Centres / City Centres	8,986	2,599	1,903	—	2,399	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,887
Total OP Examinations	107,674	51,793	20,372	53,442	46,715	6,996	6,046	13,859	9,201	6,251	3,702	23,186	12,211	2,199	363,647
Total Number of Camps	28	16	9	20	23	1	—	3	2	—	1	7	4	—	114
SURGERIES															
Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries															
Paying	2,504	1,181	355	1,354	962	171	216	517	166	180	112	814	232	42	8,806
Free (Direct)	1,673	590	210	1,239	592	115	81	194	125	292	—	328	188	30	5,657
Camp	1,177	459	238	1,210	881	51	—	148	14	21	—	187	130	—	4,516
Total Cataract Surgeries	5,354	2,230	803	3,803	2,435	337	297	859	305	493	112	1,329	550	72	18,979

Training

Enrolments for January 2020

January – 2020		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirupati	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Chennai	2
	Coimbatore	1
	Pondicherry	2
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Tirunelveli	1
	Madurai	3
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Madurai	2
	Tirunelveli	1
	Pondicherry	2

Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology & Strabismus	Coimbatore	1
	Chennai	1
	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
SHORT TERM FELLOWSHIP – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGIST		
Short term fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty	Madurai	1
SHORT TERM CLINICAL COURSES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS		
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Coimbatore	2
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
Small incision cataract surgery	Madurai	2
	Coimbatore	1
	Tirunelveli	1
PARAMEDICAL COURSES		
Certificate course in Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	1
Orthoptist	Madurai	2
MANAGEMENT COURSES		
Management Training for Eye Care Programme Managers	LAICO	15
Management Priorities in Eye Care Delivery	LAICO	37

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

February 2020

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