

Editorial

COVID-19 crisis and the resultant lockdown have created far-reaching consequences in our lives. The virus has hit all the sectors hard – tourism and hospitality, education, healthcare, finance etc. The initial phase of fear and anxiety has given way to total submission to the situation and learning to live with the virus. At Aravind, lockdown and travel restrictions have resulted in a significant dip in the number of outpatients across the centres. Aravind is now limping back to normalcy and surgeries have been resumed. New protocols have been put in place and are strictly followed to ensure the safety of both staff and patients and to prevent the spread of the virus. Scheduling system for consultation is introduced in all centres to help minimize the number of patients at any point in time. Because of the various hygienic measures to be followed between the patients, examination and consultation take longer. Challenges apart, the team is all set to move on. With the patient load being very less these days, a lot of developmental activities for staff were planned across the centres. Conducted online, these were mainly academic sessions focusing on clinical and management aspects of eye care delivery.

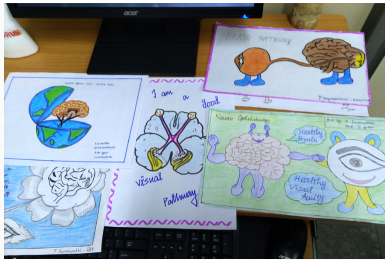
Newly opened dry and wet lab
Aravind - Pondicherry

Aravind Events

Update on Neuro Ophthalmology (UNO) 2020

Coimbatore, July 20-25

On the occasion of observing World Brain Day on July 22, Department of Neuro-ophthalmology, Aravind-Coimbatore organised an awareness week on Neuro-Ophthalmology. Classes were held throughout the week in small batches for MLOPs and Administrators. Postgraduates conducted dry lab sessions for the first and second year MLOPs. Quiz and drawing competitions were also conducted. Webinars were organised daily for postgraduates across Aravind centres where sessions were handled by eminent neuro-ophthalmologists.



Eye care during COVID crisis

Virudhunagar, May 27-28

Due to travel restrictions, many patients were not able to visit the hospital for their eye care needs. A group of people thus greatly affected was the drivers of the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC). Over 600 drivers of the Virudhunagar Depot, who had to undergo their mandatory annual eye examination, could not get it done. To cater to their request, Aravind-Madurai team went to Virudhunagar Depot and screened 616 drivers over two days.



Dry and Wet Lab

Aravind-Pondicherry, July 23

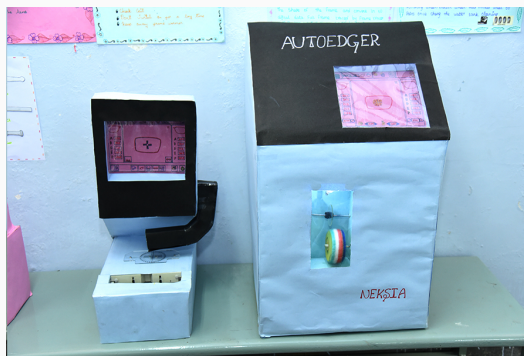
Aravind-Pondicherry opened a dry and wet lab to help doctors and allied ophthalmic personnel in training. Doctors can use these labs to hone their surgical and clinical skills. Training sessions in clinical skills are organised regularly for allied ophthalmic personnel. The lab was inaugurated by Mr. K. Kanagaraj, Manager, Aravind-Pondicherry.



Awareness Exhibition

Aravind-Coimbatore, June 26

Opticals Department, Aravind-Coimbatore organised an exhibition for the benefit of staff to make them understand the science and art of making spectacles. Skill sets for optical sales and grinding were illustrated through charts and models. Optical technicians displayed an interesting and innovative demonstration of optical grinding. A few competitions were arranged to keep the visitors engaged and ensure their participation.



Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH)

Quality Council of India has developed a harmonized standard “Workplace Assessment for Safety and Hygiene (WASH)” to help the organizations assess their preparedness to restart after COVID-19 lockdown and run their operations safely. This initiative is to ensure safe operations and workplace for safeguarding health and safety of employees, customers and the public. The assessment report generated will provide the applicant with an objective assessment of the safety and hygiene measures undertaken by them to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infection. Aravind Eye Hospital at Coimbatore became the first hospital in the country to undergo assessment successfully. Aravind-Pondicherry also underwent the assessment successfully.

Review learning on advancement and development in phacoemulsification

Aravind-Coimbatore, May 13

Good practices often get modified with changing times. Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore conducted review learning on advancement and development (ReLoad) session in phacoemulsification. The session was conducted online and about 60 people from across the Aravind centres participated.

Mission Day

Aravind Eye Hospitals across the centres observed Dr. V's 14th Memorial Day solemnly and gracefully. Due to the restrictions brought in by COVID-19 crisis, the entire programme was streamed live via Aravind's YouTube channel. Founding members, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Dr. G. Natchiar shared a special message to all staff. Bhajans were sung by staff from different centres.

Writathon 2020

Aravind-Pondicherry

To utilise free hours due to COVID lockdown to its maximum productivity, an academic extravaganza in the form of Writathon was organized to achieve maximum publications. Most of the times, articles, case reports and innovations written by doctors stop at the stage of submission. To make sure that the team gets a feel of submission, this annual event is organised where doctors sit together with a biostatistician, project coordinators, librarian and others and work hard to submit their work according to the guidelines of the journal. As a promising outcome, half a dozen articles by doctors at Aravind-Pondicherry got published in Indian Journal of Ophthalmology, August 2020 edition. The team dedicated this achievement to Chairman Emeritus, Padma Shri Dr. P. Namperumalsamy on his 80th birthday for his constant motivation and appreciation towards the event.

[Articles published in IJO](#)

1. [Innovative application of ultraviolet rays and hydrogen peroxide vapor for decontamination of respirators during COVID-19 pandemic- An experience from a tertiary eye care hospital](#)
2. [A simple solution to prevent microscope eyepiece fogging and spectacle fogging in COVID-19 era](#)
3. [Elevated episcleral venous pressure and its implications: A case of Radius–Maumenee syndrome](#)
4. [Contact lens warpage: Lost but found](#)
5. [An eye behind an eye: A rare association of bilateral optic disc coloboma with retrobulbar cyst](#)
6. [Innovative intraocular lens loading magnified](#)

Learning during lockdown

Patient crowd being very less on account of travel restrictions, various centres of Aravind regularly organize webinars and virtual training sessions for staff on both clinical and eye care management topics.

Doctors and LAICO staff attended online course from Institute for Health Improvement (IHI) with the principal objective of Improving and sustaining better health outcomes in populations and introducing fundamental concepts of the importance of quality improvement, bettering patient care flow processes and ensuring patient safety and facilitating improvement of leadership capabilities. Broad areas covered under this course include aspects of patient safety, improving patient care processes, patient centered care delivery, cost-effective care for populations, etc.

There has been a conscious effort to promote the spirit of innovation across the Aravind centres. Teams are formed in each centre whose responsibilities are to drive and disseminate innovations across AECS and share best practices with the world outside. The teams meet regularly to share innovative concepts implemented by them. Several learning sessions including those by IHI are also arranged for the team members.

Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry in association with Liverpool John Moores University conducted a webinar on Artificial Intelligence in eye care with a series of weekly lectures from July 2-23, 2020. Around 340 people registered. The main objective of the webinar was to help doctors develop a deep appreciation of the potential of AI in ophthalmology and ignite them to explore the topic. Topics covered were: The role of AI in health care and eye care; Introduction to AI and its history in healthcare; Different AI approaches in Glaucoma; Reading and understanding AI papers; and AI in general ophthalmology.

Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore organised three webinars. The webinar, *Refraction Simplified* was conducted on July 31 for Postgraduate students in ophthalmology. Around 480 students attended. The second webinar titled, Role of Management and Managers in ensure Safety during COVID 19 times was organised on August 6 and was attended by close to 190 participants. Another session titled, *Hospital Infection Control Practices Revisited in COVID 19 Times* was held on August 12 with around 390 participants.

Aurolab

Relocation of Trees in Aurolfarm

Aurolab, July 22

In a campaign involving 15 staff members of Aurolab and Aurolfarm, 46 trees already growing in Aurolfarm were relocated to the cricket ground in a day. The purpose was to make the cricket ground comfortable with a lot of shady trees around.

Basic Research

Ph.D thesis defense



August 7

Ms. S. Yogapriya, Senior Research Fellow, Department of Immunology and Stem Cell Biology, Aravind Medical Research Foundation defended her Ph.D thesis titled *Understanding the role of trabecular meshwork stem cells in the maintenance of tissue homeostasis in normal and glaucomatous human eyes* through video conferencing. She carried out her research under the guidance of Dr. C. Gowripriya, Senior Scientist, AMRF.

LAICO

Launch of EYExcel 2.0

LAICO, July 29

Every year, LAICO in association with Seva Foundation and International Council of Ophthalmology offers the Eyexcel Global course that prepares eye hospitals to deliver high-quality training for allied ophthalmic personnel. To make sure that these teams are supported in their efforts and to keep them updated with best practices and new technology in the field of education, an online

resource platform was created: EYExcel 2.0. Launched on July 29, 2020, EYExcel 2.0 has a refresher course on the concepts of training design and delivery. It is also a growing library of resources for eye care training institutions. An important and useful feature that is offered to the subscribers is the monthly webinar which brings in experts in the field of training to share best practices and new technologies.

Publications

July 2020

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Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics

July – 2020															
Hospitals	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	Cbe CC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti	Total
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS															
Paying (New & Review)	9,412	9,353	3,836	8,508	8,766	3,794	4,266	6,663	3,350	3,080	2,183	8,839	5,843	2,100	79,9
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	2,221	2,158	714	2,859	2,867	1,033	—	820	3	957	—	1,332	1,043	—	16,0
OUTREACH OUT PATIENT															
RoP	47	129	—	462	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Vision Centres	3,097	—	913	—	5,572	—	—	175	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,7
Community Centres / City Centres	2,984	1,656	696	—	1,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,0

Total OP Examinations	17,761	13,296	6,159	11,829	18,955	4,827	4,266	7,658	3,353	4,037	2,183	10,232	6,892	2,100	113,5
SURGERIES															
Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries															
Paying	316	567	148	419	519	185	241	413	143	141	92	526	340	118	4,1
Free (Direct)	189	314	80	295	403	139	43	170	1	207	—	134	184	—	2,1
Total Cataract Surgeries	505	881	228	714	922	324	284	583	144	348	92	660	524	118	6,3

**** Owing to COVID-19 restrictions, Aravind has suspended all its outreach eye camps**

Archives

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August 2020



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