

## Editorial

HelpMeSee, as part of its global programme to eliminate cataract blindness focuses on training surgeons in manual small incision cataract surgery using a simulator. Towards this, two simulators were donated to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai to help surgeons gain surgical skills and the knowledge required to perform manual small incision cataract surgery.

Recognising the impact of vision centres in ensuring primary eye care delivery, Aurolab offers a one-stop solution for eye hospitals interested in establishing vision centres or improving the already existing ones. The package offers necessary equipment to set up a centre, service support, training of personnel in tele-consultation and vision centre management software. This initiative has been well-received by the ophthalmic fraternity.

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai has been assessed and found to comply with accreditation standards for eye care organisations by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers.

## Aravind Events

### World Glaucoma Week 2021

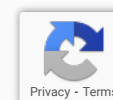
*Aravind-Pondicherry, March 7-13*

With an aim to create awareness in the general public, patients and their care givers, a virtual, interactive meeting was organised. Dr. Kavitha gave a brief introduction on glaucoma which was well received. Chief Guest for the meet was Pulavar Shanmuga Vadivel, Tamil orator who himself is being treated for glaucoma. He made the patients understand the facts about glaucoma in a very humorous way. Dr. R. Venkatesh responded to patients' queries. Dr. Annamamali cleared patients doubts related to glaucoma on a live interactive programme on Suriyan FM.

Aravind-Pondicherry collaborated with eminent personalities like Kiran Bedi, Arunachalam Muruganantham and actress Kalki Koechlin to spread message on glaucoma. Their messages on glaucoma awareness were shared via social media.

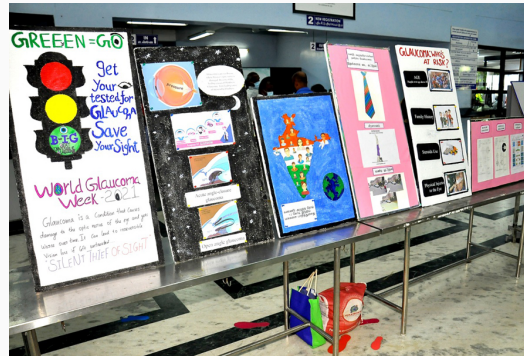
Dr.Venkatesh, shared a video via Facebook on the importance of family screening and how this silent killer of vision can cause irreversible blindness and how early detection is the key to prevent such blindness.

Audio messages on glaucoma were played within the hospital premises every two hours so that anyone who visiting the hospital were made aware of the disease.



This audio message was also incorporated in the hospital ringtone so that whoever calling could be given the knowledge and brief understanding of this disease.

Vision centres in and around Pondicherry conducted camps for glaucoma patients and their family members. To get people's participation, postcards were sent to patients informing them about the date of doctor visit at the vision centres. A special camp was organised exclusively for senior citizens at the City Centre.



#### *Aravind-Tirupati*

Aravind-Tirupati celebrated World Glaucoma Week to give awareness about the disease. Awareness videos were shown to all patients. Banners, rangoli and various posters were displayed supporting this event.

#### **Inauguration of Aarogyasri**

##### *Aravind-Tirupati*

Chief Minister's Free Health Care Scheme titled "Aarogyasri" was inaugurated at Aravind-Tirupati. Sri.Balanjaneyulu, District coordinator and Sri. Sreenivasulu, Team leader, Aarogyasri were the chief guests for the event.





### Inauguration of SICS Simulator

Aravind-Madurai, March 25

HelpMeSee sponsored two simulators to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai to help trainee surgeons gain surgical skills and the knowledge required to perform manual small incision cataract surgery (MSICS). The simulator was inaugurated by Dr. G. Natchiar. HelpMeSee team explained about the simulator. Demonstration of simulator was done by Aravind doctors.



### Hardwork Pays Off

Aravind-Tirupati had an impromptu celebration to acknowledge the OT, Counselling and Ward teams for their hard work and great team work that allowed the hospital to perform 2762 surgeries, the highest so far at Tirupati in a month.



### **Awareness Creation on Multiple Sclerosis**

*Aravind-Coimbatore, March 24-31*

March being the Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, Department of Neuro- ophthalmology Aravind- Coimbatore displayed awareness posters and distributed pamphlets to patients. Lectures related to the topic were arranged for the AOPs.



### **Inauguration of Retina Clinic**

*Aravind-Tirupati, March 20*

The new Retina clinic at Aravind-Tirupati was inaugurated by Dr. V.Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore.





### NABH Accreditation for Aravind-Chennai

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai has been assessed and found to comply with accreditation standards for eye care organisations.



### Women's Day Celebration

Aravind-Coimbatore, March 8

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore conducted various competitions and events for women employees. Motivational speaker Ms. Priya Senthil, delivered a talk on *Women power*. Mr. Rangarajan, a well-known quiz master from PSG College of Arts and Science conducted a quiz programme on women achievers. Valedictory ceremony was on March 31 which was marked by a mime by the refraction team. Ms. Jayanthashri Balakrishnan, a well-known academican, public speaker and Internal Complaints Committee member enthralled women employees across Aravind centres through her virtual talk on *Womanhood – the great opportunity*.



### Creche Graduation Day

*Aravind-Madurai, March 26*

Tiny tots of Janakiamma Child Care Centre at Aravind-Madurai celebrated their Graduation Day. Owing to COVID-19 threat, the function was organized in a low-key manner. Altogether, 12 children graduated this year.



### Time for Rejuvenation

*Aravind-Pondicherry, March 8*

As part of their recreation activities for AOPs, rangoli tournament was conducted. MLOPs were divided into 5 teams, named after women who have created history in the nation: Rani Lakshmi Bai, Mother Teresa, Kalpana Chawla, Mary Kom, Kiran Bedi. After multiple league matches, Rani Lakshmi Bai emerged as winners.



## Aurolab

### Support towards establishing Vision Centres

Having understood the importance and impact a vision centre can have in achieving universal eye health, Aurolab supports eye hospitals to proliferate vision centres by partnering with them on a long term commitment. Aurolab provides products and services as a package that will provide the hospitals an enabling environment to start and run the vision centres successfully. The package offers one-point support, consultation on setting up a centre with Aurolab products, service and maintenance. With support from Aurolab, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Rohtak, Haryana opened a vision centre on March 27.



### Virtual Sales Meet

*March 30-31*

VASM 2021 – Aurolab's first virtual annual sales meet was organised to share the marketing initiatives planned to enhance the performance of the sales team and help them meet the target for the financial year 2021-2022. The meet was conducted over two days; four regional teams participated.

### Towards a Million Happy Eyes

*January 2021*

Aurovue, India's first indigenously developed IOL crossed one million implants world-wide in January 2021. To mark the occasion, Aurolab conducted a nation-wide campaign titled, "Towards a Million Happy Eyes" to thank its customers. Thank you messages signed by Mr. R.D. Sriram, Managing Director, Aurolab were distributed in person to all customers. Over 2,500 doctors in India were covered in this campaign.

### Commemorating Special Days

Aurolab created video clips and published these on social media to observe special days. Following are the various videos thus created on different occasions:

National Save Your Vision Month

1. [Sunglass benefits](#)
2. [Work Place Eye Awareness](#)
3. [World Optometry Day](#)
4. [Low vision awareness](#)

### Basic Research

#### Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship Awardees

Dr. Anwar Azad Palakkan and Dr.Swagata Ghosh have been awarded with the prestigious Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship by the Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India for 2020 and 2021 respectively. As part of the fellowship, Dr. Anwar will work on the project titled, *Modelling macular degeneration using human pluripotent stemcells for better understanding of disease pathophysiology and to investigate novel therapies*. Dr.Swagata will work on *Identification of host immune factors as predictor of severe human fungal keratitis and their utility in disease management*.

### Publications

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2. Arunachalam D, Namperumalsamy VP, Prajna L, Kuppamuthu D. Human corneal epithelial cells internalize Aspergillus flavus spores by actin mediated endocytosis. Infect Immun. 2021 Mar 22;IAI.00794-20. [Epub] [View More](#)
3. Chandran P. Encapsulated Bleb. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2021 Mar-Apr;4(2):192. [View More](#)
4. Gurnani B, Narayana S, Christy J, Rajkumar P, Kaur K, Gubert J. Successful management of pediatric pythium insidiosum keratitis with cyanoacrylate glue, linezolid, and azithromycin: Rare case report. Eur J Ophthalmol. 2021 Mar 28. [Epub] [View More](#)
5. Shalaby WS, Odayappan A, Venkatesh R, Swenor BK, Ramulu PY, Robin AL, Srinivasan K, Shukla AG. The Impact of COVID-19 on individuals across the spectrum of visual impairment. Am J Ophthalmol. 2021 Mar 26. [Epub]. [View More](#)
6. Rathinam SR, Arya LK, Siva Ganesa Karthikeyan R, Sen S. Aqueous humor cytokines and cellular profiles in pediatric ocular granulomas caused by the Trematode Fluke Procerovum sp. Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2021 Apr 1:1-10. [Epub] [View More](#)
7. Thundikandy R, Priya CG, Radhakrishnan N, Rathinam SR. In Vivo Confocal Microscopic Evaluation of the Limbus and Cornea in Vogt Koyanagi Haradas Syndrome. Ocul Immunol Inflamm. 2021 Apr 1:1-8. [Epub] [View More](#)
8. Sindal MD, Sathe T, Sengupta S, Yadav D. Proportion of diabetic retinopathy among diabetics presenting for the first time to a tertiary eye institute in South India. Int Ophthalmol. 2021 Apr 3. [Epub] [View More](#)
9. Narendran S, Pereira F, Yerramothu P, Apicella I, Wang SB, Ambati K, Hirahara S, Kim Y, Ambati M, Ambati VL, Huang P, Varshney A, Nagasaka Y, Fukuda S, Baker KL, Marion KM, Deussing JM, Sadda SR, Gelfand BD, Ambati J. Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and Kamuvudines inhibit amyloid- $\beta$  induced retinal pigmented epithelium degeneration. Signal Transduct Target Ther. 2021 Apr 14;6(1):149. [View More](#)
10. Geary A, Wen Q, Adrianzén R, Congdon N, Janani R, Haddad D, Timbo CS, Khalifa YM. The impact of distance cataract surgical wet laboratory training on cataract surgical competency of ophthalmology residents. BMC Med Educ. 2021 Apr 19;21(1):219. [View More](#)

## Statistics

### Patient Monthly Statistics

March – 2021															
Hospitals	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti	Tot
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS															
Paying (New & Review)	59,483	31,393	8,832	31,873	33,458	5,333	8,045	13,150	5,781	4,910	3,739	29,492	14,076	2,784	252,3
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	24,188	8,194	2,917	14,121	14,214	2,107	—	3,973	1,278	2,990	—	10,948	7,760	600	93,2

OUTREACH OUT PATIENT															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	4,837	2,111	882	2,251	4,518	274	—	729	487	92	—	1,702	976	—	18,8
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	1,238	369	—	327	308	—	—	133	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,3
Refraction Camps	1,982	1,378	99	501	330	—	—	517	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,8
Mobile Refraction Unit	—	—	—	551	—	—	—	507	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,0
School Screening Camp	—	—	—	40	997	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,0
RoP Screening	194	131	141	665	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1,1
Vision Centres	25,115	17,301	5,512	5,483	11,286	1,455	—	1,351	—	1,786	—	—	—	—	69,2
Community / City Centres	9,534	2,778	2,118	—	2,893	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,3
<b>Total OP Examinations</b>	126,571	63,655	20,501	55,812	68,033	9,169	8,045	20,360	7,546	9,778	3,739	42,142	22,813	3,384	461,5
<b>Total number of camps</b>	23	16	8	16	15	1	—	5	3	2	—	7	5	—	1
SURGERIES															
Cataract	10,854	4,288	1,246	5,871	6,572	881	642	1,737	616	1,458	224	4,321	2,444	265	41,4
*Other Surgeries	5,969	2,312	403	3,892	3,164	115	194	497	85	137	96	1,998	798	48	19,7
Total Surgeries	16,832	6,600	1,649	9,763	9,736	996	836	2,234	701	1,595	320	6,319	3,242	313	61,1

\*Other surgeries include major surgeries, minor surgeries, intra-vitreous & other injections and laser procedures



## Training

### Enrolments for March 2021

March - 2021		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
<b>LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES - FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</b>		
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Coimbatore	1
	Chennai	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1
	Coimbatore	2
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Cornea	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Pondicherry	1
	Coimbatore	2
	Chennai	1
<b>INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE COURSE - NON CLINICAL COURSES</b>		
Online Course on Ophthalmic Instruments Maintenance	LAICO	18

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April 2021



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