



Editorial

With COVID still doing its rounds, this year too, Aravind's flagship event – Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration and Award Ceremony – had to go online. Dr. Narsing A Rao of the Roski Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California was honoured this time. Nothing equals the experience of a real ceremony with all its pomp and show; yet, this virtual event received an overwhelming response with over 350 people from across the globe watching it live. Aravind shares a special bonding with Mr. Manohar Devadas and has been a great commiserator of his literary works and sketches. His latest book, *Madras Inked* was released by the Government of Tamil Nadu last month and it evoked great response from the literary fraternity. Following this, Aravind-Chennai organised an event to celebrate his life and to introduce the book to its friends and well-wishers. Eye Donation Fortnight observed across the Aravind centres turned out to be an opportunity when many came forward to pledge their eyes. Several events were organised exhorting people to support this noble cause. Aravind deeply mourns the sad demise of Dr. Marilyn T Miller, a renowned paediatric ophthalmologist, teacher, and leader in global ophthalmology on September 28, 2021. The organisation is ever indebted to her for her unstinting support and encouragement towards developing its paediatric eye care services.

Accolades

Winners – APAO Quiz Competition

September 7

Dr. Basitlal Lakhani, DNB Resident, Aravind – Pondicherry became the First Runner-up in the quiz competition organised by Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO).

Postgraduates from Aravind- Pondicherry, Dr.C. Bindya, Dr.Saloni Mahesh Joshi and Dr.Megha Nair, found place in the Top 10 list.



Aravind Events

Aravind Honours Dr. Narsing A Rao with the Dr.G. Venkataswamy Memorial Award 2021

Aravind-Madurai, October 1

Aravind Eye Care System honored Dr. Narsing A. Rao, Grace and Emery Beardsley Professor of Ophthalmology and Co-Director, Roski Eye Institute, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles with the Dr.G.Venkataswamy Memorial Award 2021. The award was given in recognition of his contribution towards teaching, training and improving the quality and outcomes of eye care in Aravind and worldwide. Dr. Rao delivered the Dr.G.Venkataswamy Memorial Oration on "Role of RPE in the modulation of intracellular inflammation, infection and lymphomas – Clinical implications".

At the function held virtually, Dr.R.D.Ravindran, Chairman, Aravind Eye Care System (AECS) delivered the welcome address. Dr.P.Nampumamany, Chairman Emeritus, AECS presented the award to Dr. Rao in the presence of Dr.G.Nachiar, Director Emeritus, AECS; Dr.R.D.Ravindran; Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director-Operations, AECS and Dr.S.R.Ratnam, Chief, Events Services, Aravind-Madurai. Dr.G.Nachiar presented the citation. Dr. J. Martin Hsu, Chair, Ophthalmology Department, USC-Roski Eye Institute handed over the award and citation to Dr. Rao.

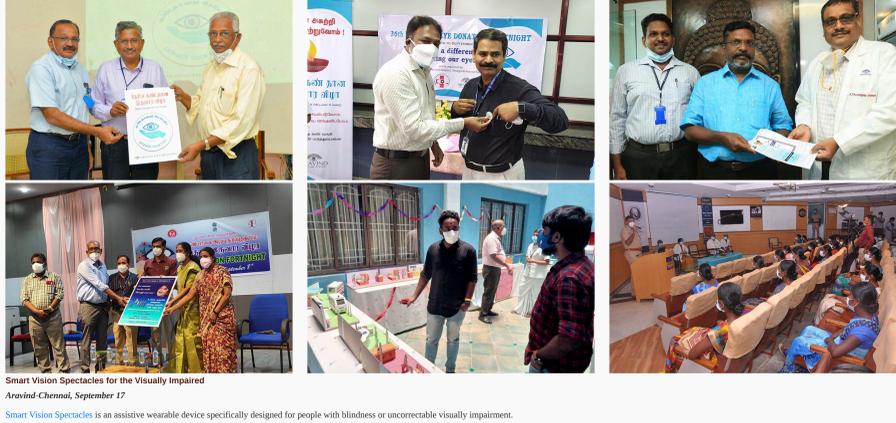
[Watch Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration 2021 by Dr. Rao](#)



National Eye Donation Fortnight 2021

September

Eye banks across Aravind centres organised programmes to spread awareness on eye donation and to motivate people to support this noble cause. Awareness sessions were organised virtually for targeted groups and eye donation pledge movements were initiated. Eye donation awareness messages were displayed in the hospital premises and public places. Senior doctors gave talks on FM Channels highlighting the need for eye donation. Videos featuring celebrities endorsing eye were circulated through various social media.



Smart Vision Spectacles for the Visually Impaired

Aravind-Chennai, September 17

Smart Vision Spectacles is an assistive wearable device specifically designed for people with blindness or uncorrectable visually impairment.

Rotary Club of Madras East (RCME) initiated Project DriShri and has been instrumental in bringing together the brains behind the Smart Vision Spectacles – Mr.Ramu Muthugani of SHG Technologies and Aravind Eye Care System. What ensued was a 10-month long process of inputs and revisions and the device has been validated and recognized by the Vision Rehabilitation Centre of Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai.

At a function held at Aravind-Chennai, Rtn J Sridhar the Governor, District 3232 distributed the device to 17 identified beneficiaries, free of cost. RCME plans to donate 300 devices, with a focus on students and the youth amongst the visually impaired.



Launch of Madras Inked

Aravind-Chennai, September 14

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai organised a function to launch the book, *Madras Inked... Impressions of an artist and an architect*. Penized by Mr.Manohar Devadas and Ms.Sujatha Shankar, the book celebrates the rich culture and heritage of the great city, Chennai. The book has drawings of various iconic buildings and landscapes in Chennai – all done by Mr.Manohar over six decades.

Dr.S. Aravind, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Chennai welcomed the guests and briefed on Aravind's long-term relationship with Mr.Manohar Devadas, one of the authors. Ms.Sujatha Shankar, an architect by profession and Governor of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Chennai Chapter, shared insights about the book. Ms.Deborah Thilagaran, Founder Dakshina Chitra Heritage Museum released the book and copy was received by the special guests – Dr Ashokan, Consultant, Gen Hospital, Chennai and artists – Mr.Trotsky Marudhu and Mr.Muthu Palaniappan. Mr.Manohar reflected on his life journey with his wife, Mahema and also shared his thoughts about the book.

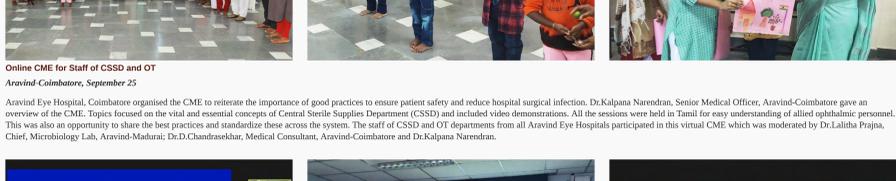
Ms.Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director – Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology and Director – Operations of Aravind Eye Care System delivered the vote of thanks.



Observing Amblyopia day

Aravind-Pondicherry, September 24

Department of Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus observed Amblyopia Day with various programmes and about 20 children with amblyopia participated. Dr.K.Veena, Chief of the department gave a talk on common paediatric eye diseases, amblyopia and the role of patching in the management of amblyopia to the parents. Children actively participated in the various sports competitions and parties were distributed. Eye examination was done for all children and patches were given. A pack of dictionary and activity books was presented as a gift to the children.



Online CME for Staff of CSSD and OT

Aravind Coimbatore, September 25

Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore organised the CME to reiterate the importance of good practices to ensure patient safety and reduce hospital surgical infection. Dr.Kalpna Narendran, Senior Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore gave an overview of the CME. Topics focused on the vital and essential concepts of Central Sterile Supplies Department (CSSD) and included video demonstrations. All the sessions were held in Tamil for easy understanding of allied ophthalmic personnel. This was also an opportunity to share the best practices and standardize these across the system. The staff of CSSD and OT departments from all Aravind Eye Hospitals participated in this virtual CME which was moderated by Dr.Lalitha Prajns, Chief, Microbiology Lab, Aravind-Madurai; Dr.D.Chandrasekhar, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Coimbatore and Dr.Kalpna Narendran.



Annual Day Celebration

Aravind Kovilpatti, September 29

Aravind-Kovilpatti completed two years of its service in restoring sight to the needy. Dr.R Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Trinavelveli; Ms.Saradha Ramakrishnan and Dr.Meenakshi, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Trinavelveli were invited as chief guests for the annual day function. From Aravind-Trinavelveli; Sr.VArumugam, Nursing Superintendent; Ms.Lakshmi R, Manager – HR; Mr.Vikky Kumar, Quality and IP Manager; Mr.Mohan, Photographer; Sr.Kalaiseelvi – Housekeeping Tutor and a few MLOPs attended the function.

The celebration started with a prayer song followed by Dr.Aswin, In-charge, Aravind-Kovilpatti welcoming the gathering. He gave an update on the activities of the past year. Dr.R.Ramakrishnan and Dr.Meenakshi gave inspiring talks and congratulated the team led by Dr.Aswin for the good work being done at Aravind-Kovilpatti. Cultural programmes that followed entertained the audience. Ms.Chandran, Manager, Aravind-Kovilpatti also gave a short, motivating talk. Dr.Anju, Medical Consultant proposed the vote and thanks. Sr.Prasanna, Medical Records Department was the master of the ceremony.



Aurolab

Counselling Cubicles for Aravind-Coimbatore

Aravind-Coimbatore, September 6

Aurolab sponsored contract counselling cubicles at Aravind-Coimbatore to promote premium intraocular lenses. Dr.V.Narendran and Dr.Kalpna Narendran inaugurated the cubicles.

Team from Aurolab – Mr.Sivannad, Marketing Manager; Mr.Karthikeyan, Key Accounts Manager and Mr.Vigneshwar, Key Accounts Executive – attended the inauguration.



Workshop for Drivers and Canteen staff

Aurolab, September 1

Aurolab arranged a workshop to orient the drivers and canteen staff about the vision and mission of the organisation. The opportunity was also utilized to acknowledge and appreciate their invaluable support especially during the pandemic times.

Webinar on Aravind IOLs

Aurolab, September 16

Dr.Madhu Shakra, Chief, Cataract & IOL services spoke at the webinar organised to discuss the material benefits and surgical outcomes of the Aurovue family of IOLs. Around 110 doctors from Asia, Europe, Africa and East America took part.

LAICO

Leap Collaborative Series: Leadership Essentials to Lead Effectively

The three decades of LAICO's experience of working with 320+ eye hospitals and many funding agencies has underscored the importance of leadership in fostering continuous improvement, achieving excellence, and sustainable growth. Yet, the default strategy of most is to focus on "what is doable" as dictated by the current circumstances. Thus, developing the right perspectives to situations and opportunities as well as day-to-day challenges is the important starting point.

LAICO has designed a six-month leadership programme, Leadership Essentials to Lead Effectively that will be offered as part of its Leap collaborative series. This collaborative was launched with the first training session held on September 18, 2021.

Publications

- Shorestein NH, Motran P, Haripriya A, Landstrom M, Herrinton L. **Three Learning Organizations in Cataract Surgery: The Example of Intracameral Antibiotic Injection**. Perm J. 2021;25:20.274. [View More](#)
- Rajendrababu S, Kannan S, More S, Sithiq MUS, Krishnasdas SR. **A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial to Compare Conventional Drug Instillation to A Device Dropper Method in Medical Treatment of Glaucoma**. Ophthalmic Epidemiol. 2021 Sep 10:1-8. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Kathivel K, Ruffalo O, Rajagunanan SGK, Venkatesh Prajna N, Lalitha P, Devarajan B. **Characterization of antibiotic resistance and virulence genes of ocular methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus strains through complete genome analysis**. Exp Eye Res. 2021 Sep 8:108764. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Shekhar M, Choudhury P, Ramya G, Sankaranarayanan R, Balagiri S, Wijesinghe HK. **Cataract surgery risk stratification in phacoemulsification and manual small incision cataract surgery in a teaching hospital**. Int Ophthalmol. 2021 Sep 16. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Das T, Agarwal M, Anand AR, Behera UC, Bhende M, Das AV, Dasgupta D, Dave VP, Gandhi J, Gunasekaran R, Joseph J, Kulkarni S, Lalitha P, Mahendrakar PA, Mitra S, Mohamed A, Muralidhar A, Neelakshi PL, Prabhathi GS, Sen A, Sharma S, Uday P. **Fungal endophthalmitis: Analysis of 730 consecutive eyes from seven tertiary eye care centers in India**. Ophthalmol Retina. 2021 Sep 18. [Epub] [View More](#)
- Senthikumar VA, Mishra C, Kannan NB. **Peripapillary and Macular Retinoschisis Associated with Advanced Glaucoma**. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2021 Sep-Oct;4(5):462. [View More](#)

Training

Enrolments for September 2021			
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments	
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment & IOL Surgery	Madurai	1	
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	1	
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	2	
	Trinavelveli	1	
	Chennai	1	
Fellowship in Retina	Trinavelveli	3	
	Coimbatore	2	
	Madurai	1	
	Chennai	1	
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	1	
Fellowship in Paediatric Ophthalmology	Coimbatore	1	
Fellowship in Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Salem	1	
Short Term Clinical Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists			
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	2	
Phacoemulsification	Pondicherry	1	
Short term training in vitrectomy	Coimbatore	2	
Non-Clinical Training Programmes – For Technicians			
Online Course on Ophthalmic Instruments Maintenance – Part I	Madurai	8	

In loving memory of...

Dr. Marilyn T. Miller

An accomplished clinician, a great teacher and an exemplary role model, Dr. Miller has touched the lives of generations of eye health providers and patients, particularly children around the world. Her association with Aravind started over 30 years ago.

She was instrumental in establishing the paediatric eye care services at Aravind and has always been a constant support in developing this speciality to what it is today. Aravind has lost a mentor forever; her passing has left behind a void which can never be filled.

Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics for September 2021												
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Trinavelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CheCC
Hospital Out-Patient Visits												
Paying (New & Review)	222,282	52,387	27,874	8,096	27,204	27,429	5,067	4,171	12,303	5,194	4,690	3,763
Free/Direct (New & Review)	82,663	21,406	7,072	2,528	11,099	10,700	2,008	-	3,887	1,158	2,270	-
Outreach Out Patient												
Comprehensive Eye Camps	26,962	5,010	2,456	2,038	6,135	6,987	417	-	329	196	705	-
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	1,955	787	-	-	568	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refraction Camps	1,081	-	248	371	912	-	150	-	-	-	-	-
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,810	-	-	-	901	-	-	-	900	-	-	-
School Screening	193	-	-	-	193	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ROP Screening	1,608	285	347	191	668	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vision Centres	64,890	21,899	13,387	5,865	4,858	12,897	1,433	-	1,590	-	1,820	-
Community / City Centres	16,285	8,690	2,645	2,066	-	2,885	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total OP Examinations	419,787	110,570	64,229	21,154	52,560	60,886	9,005	4,171	19,024	6,550	9,291	3,703
Total number of Camps	110	18	17	7	27	23	2	-	3	1	5	-
Surgeries												
Cataract	36,851	8,893	3,885	1,187	5,919	6,134	686	545	1,665	485	1,026	226
Other Surgeries	18,966	5,681	2,225	409	3,520	2,729	129	147	641	81	108	85
Total Surgeries	55,817	14,494	6,110	1,596	9,439	8,863	815	692	2,306	566	1,134	321