

Editorial

Mary Munson, a very dear friend and a mentor to the senior leaders and staff of Aravind for more than four decades, passed away on October 15, 2022. Her's was a fruitful, well-lived life which has inspired many who were fortunate to know her. October was a busy month at Aravind. October Summit, the annual series of deliberations towards bettering eye care delivery held in honour of Dr. G. Venkataswamy was organised and there were four such programmes this time. The flagship event, Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration and Award Ceremony was conducted amidst a huge gathering at Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute. It was a proud moment when four of Aravind's senior doctors were listed on Stanford University's compilation of top researchers in ophthalmology. The month also saw many doctors win laurels at prestigious national and international conferences. Aravind Eye Hospital at Madurai and Coimbatoreopened exclusive myopia management clinic and amblyopia clinic respectively. News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Remembering Mary

Aravind lost its very dear friend, Mary Munson on October 15, 2022.



Mary, along with her husband Fred, has been volunteering at Aravind for over four decades, visiting almost every year. While Fred's focus was on the hospital development, Mary volunteered her time improving its aesthetics, cleanliness, food and a million other things. Their contribution laid the strong foundation for making Aravind an institution of excellence, built on solid values.

Mary always had an eye for beauty. While at Aravind, she would constantly think about how she could contribute to improve a place in the most practical way. She found great happiness in sharing in the successes, joys and achievements of at Aravind. She was a gracious host to many Aravind Staff who visited the US, often going out of her way to make her guests feel welcome and cherish good memories. She became a friend, a mentor and a mother to most of them. She brought so much to life and everyone who knew her felt special around her.

Mary's life will be cherished and celebrated for years to come by all those whose lives were touched by her.

Accolades

October 10

FICCI Healthcare Humanitarian Award New Delhi, October 11, 2022

Dr.P. Namperumalsamy was presented with the FICCI Healthcare Humanitarian Award at the ceremony held in New Delhi. Smt.



Stanford University, one of the world's best universities, issued a list of the top-cited researchers in ophthalmology (based on citations in 2021 for lifetime work). Four senior doctors from Aravind – Drs. M. Srinivasan, Venkatesh Prajna, Rathinam Sivakumar, and Lalitha Prajna were named to the list for their significant contributions to the field of Ophthalmology clinical research, which has a

Secretariat Award 2022 in appreciation of his contribution to the Academy and ophthalmology. Intrition Academy of Dphthalmology

AAO Secretariat Award

July 22

SECRETARIAT AWARD from the absorptory for Glabal Billioners Thulasiraj Rabilla, MBA far special and bistout contributions to the Scoberry ash to the profession of Ophthalmology 2022

American Academy of Ophthalmology honoured Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director-Operations, Aravind Eye Care System with the





Best Video Award Milan, Italy, September 16-20 Dr. Hirika Gosalia, DNB Resident, Aravind-Coimbatore

Winners – Photography Contest

Kochi, September 18

symposium.

Top-cited Researchers in Ophthalmology

significant impact on the quality of eye care in the community.

won Best Video Award for the video on Anterior segment photography with intraocular lens – An innovative learning tool at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Conference.



Mumbai, September 24 Dr. Prithvi Chandrakanth, Medical Officer, Retina Services, Aravind-Coimbatore won second prize in the Innovation session for *Smart phone-assisted frugal* retinopathy of prematurity screening at CAHOTECH

2022.

Award for Innovation

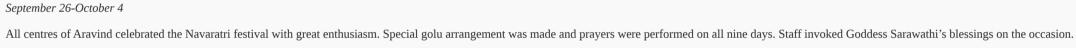


Dr. Maya T.J, Dr. Rinu George, Dr. Meera Mohanakumar became winners of the photography contest organised by Giridhar Eye Institute as part of its silver jubilee





Celebrating Navarathri Festival





October Summit - Remembering Dr. V October 1 being the birthday of Dr. V, every year Aravind observes theOctober Summit which includes the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Award and Oration ceremony and a series of deliberations towards the betterment of eye care delivery.

Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration and Award Ceremony 2022 Aravind Eye Care System presented the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Award 2022 to Doraiswamy Nagarajan in appreciation of his enduring contributions to eye care and in particular towards capacity building of eye hospitals across the world. The grand ceremony was held at Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute, Aravind Eye Hospital Madurai on October 1, 2022. The function was graced by the presence of the senior leaders of Aravind – Dr. P. Namperumalsamy; Dr.G. Natchiar, Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Dr. R.D. Ravindran and Dr. R. Kim. Mr. Nagarajan delivered the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Memorial Oration on the topic, "Society, Service, Spirituality." Mr. Nagarajan is an honorary advisor to many eye care organisations. Trained as an engineer, he started his professional career with the Indian Railways. He was the Regional Director in India for the international charity, Sightsavers International for more than a decade and has been serving on the board of directors of Seva Foundation, USA for more than two decades. He took ardent efforts to mentor eye hospitals across the world to build sustainable eye care programmes. His prudence and wisdom have guided thousands of eye care

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and enhancing performance

October 8

October 12-13

Writathon 2022

Aravind –Pondicherry, October 14-16

Aravind –Pondicherry, October 8

and management.

Freshers' Day

function.

Kerala.

Aravind – Pondicherry, October 19

Aravind – Coimbatore, August 15

love was well appreciated by all.

Special Honour on World Sight Day

Scleral-fixated Intra Ocular Lens Skill Transfer Course



Artificial intelligence (AI) plays a huge role in many aspects of our lives, including healthcare. Aravind has been exploring the possibilities of adopting AI for improving eye care and has made some progress in the screening of diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity. The introduction of eyeNotes (electronic medical record system) enabled it to capture more accurate patient information and

Advancements in science and technology and ever-increasing expectations of patients create extensive opportunities for eye care providers to continuously improve their systems and processes. In the process, they face several operational challenges which can be addressed through a scientific approach. There are many tried and tested scientific methods that will help hospital teams build systems and processes to ensure an efficient care delivery model. The workshop organised as part of October Summit introduced improvement methodologies and tools that hospitals would find useful to address

operational problems and bring improvements in care delivery. A total of 28 participants from 17 hospitals in India and Africa took part.

make them available in a timely manner. The workshop was organised to brainstorm how AI can be leveraged on the clinical and nonclinical areas of patient care with a view to enhance overall performance. A total of 22 staff members from various Aravind centres took part. Senior consultants from iMerit – Dr. Jaideep Jesson Rayapudi and Vibhor Goel handled the various sessions.









Fostering Improvements for Excellence in Care



AMRF, October 14 Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) organised the seminar with the objective to familiarize college teachers with the research programmes at Aravind and AMRF motivating them to encourage their students to take up research. Twenty-two teaching faculty from

colleges in and around Madurai participated. Clinicians from Aravind-Madurai and experts from various universities delivered lectures. An open house programme was organized to expose the teachers to the various research programmes carried out at AMRF. Faculty

Seminar on Biomedical Applications of Fundamental Research and Future Potential



members interacted with the participants and also showed the various facilities available at AMRF.

Aravind -Chennai conducted various extra-curricular competitions like singing, stand-up comedy and poetry writing for allied ophthalmic personnel. A total of 25 MLOPs took part. Dr. Usha Raghavan, Project Consultant and Dr. Bina Anna Varghese, Medical Consultant,

Aravind – Chennai, September 30

Extra-curricular Competitions for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel

Namperumalsamy inaugurated the clinic. The clinic is furnished with state of the art investigations and specialised lenses, medications to control myopia progression at an affordable cost.

Maharashtra Ophthalmological Conference, Nashik

Inauguration of Myopia Clinic Aravind – Madurai, October 1

Highest Cataract Surgery Performance through Camp Aravind-Salem, October 10 Aravind-Salem performed 322 cataract surgeries through camps, the highest so far for a day. This was possible because of the whole-hearted commitment and dedication of the entire team. A special meeting was organised to felicitate the staff members for achieving this unique feat.

henna

Hospital

சிர்வீந்த் கண் மருத்துவமனை. சென்னை Hospital Day Celebration Aravind – Chennai, October 15

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai celebrated its 5th Hospital Day. The theme for the celebration was designated as "Panchabhootha – the five elements of the universe". Dr. Aravind S, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Chennai and Director Projects, AECS welcomed the



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Sponsors' Day

Aravind – Chennai, October 15 Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai conducted its first Sponsors' Day to recognise the community's support to eliminate needless blindness. 182 sponsors took part in the event. Prof. M. Ramachandran, famous Tamil scholar and speaker was the chief guest who motivated the audience with his inspiring talk. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System and Dr. G. Natchiar, Director Emeritus graced the occasion with their presence. கண்ணொளி காப்பாளாக்க

diagnose and treat binocular vision disorders.

Inauguration of Binocular Vision Clinic Aravind – Coimbatore, October 20 Amblyopia is one of the leading causes of treatable vision loss in children and adults. Newer binocular therapeutic approaches are rapidly emerging. The department of Paediatric Ophthalmology at Aravind-Coimbatore felt the imminent need to establish an exclusive clinic to give the attention it requires. In association with BYNOCS Pvt ltd, the unit opened an exclusive amblyopia clinic and this was inaugurated by Dr. V. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore. The clinic aims to treat amblyopia in children and adults and Amblyopia & Binocular Vision Clinic























Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry conducted flanged SFIOL skill transfer course with 3D live video surgery. A total of 20 medical officers from the departments of Cataract and IOL Services across Aravind Eye Hospitals took part. Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, Chief, Cornea Services, Aravind-Madurai and Dr. R. Venkatesh inaugurated the workshop. Dr. V.R. Vivekanandan described and demonstrated the novel technique with 3D live video surgery. Wet lab practice and hands-on sessions were also arranged followed by postoperative evaluation

The workshop was organized for the managers and senior MLOPs across all branches of Aravind Eye Hospital. 63 staff members took part. The workshop started with a performance update by the individual hospital teams. The workshops covered topics such as retaining Aravind's work culture, managing quality, patient care management, monitoring, materials management, insurance facilitation and how to become an effective manager. Group discussion was held on common issues such as hospital-acquired infections, patient safety and

At the World Sight Day programme organised by Lions Club International, Thiruvananthapuram Dt:318A, A. Hemachandran, Camp Organiser, Aravind-Tirunelveli was honored in appreciation of the role played by the hospital to provide eye care for the people in

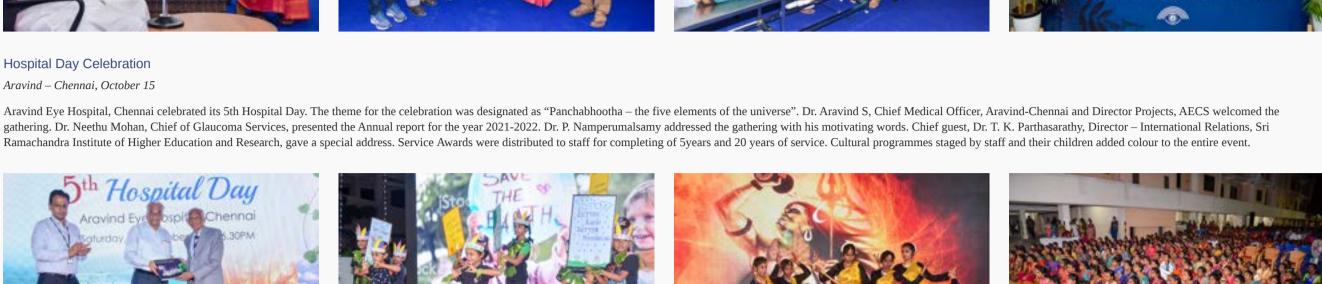


Newly joined allied ophthalmic personnel celebrated their Freshers' day with a variety of cultural programmes including dance and skit. Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer and K. Veena, Chief of Paediatric Ophthalmology Clinic, other doctors and MLOPs attended the

Dr. Kalpana Narendran was the chief guest for the Freshers' Day at Aravind-Coimbatore. Cultural programmes like dance, poetry, and drama were staged. A few shared their experiences at Aravind during the first two months of training. The team's performance on mother's





















Aurolab

Participation in Conferences Aurolab participated in various conferences and promoted its products:

Gujarat Ophthalmic Society Conference, Rajkot

Delhi Ophthalmological Society Conference, New Delhi

Rajasthan Ophthalmology Society Conference, Kota

Madhya Pradesh State Ophthalmic Society Conference, Sagar Andhra pradesh Ophthalmic Society Conference, Eluru

Delhi Ophthalmological Society Conference, New Delhi

LAICO

GSI Partners Meet *LAICO*, *October* 10 – 11

Since 2019, due to the spread of COVID, in-person meetings with the partners have been suspended. As it was time to resume fellowship with all partners in Seva's Global Sight Initiative (GSI) network, this meet was organised. 20 participants from 9 hospitals and two representatives from SEVA foundation took part. The meeting was part of October Summit 2022 and analysed the performance of partner hospitals on various metrics and explored the key areas for improvement. There were also discussions to arrive at a consensus on appropriate mentoring approaches that can be followed in the current GSI initiative.

Conference Attended

Annual Conference of Uveitis Society of India

Hyderabad, October 14-16 Dr. Rathinam

- Anterior uveitis-4 challenging cases Dr. Anjana

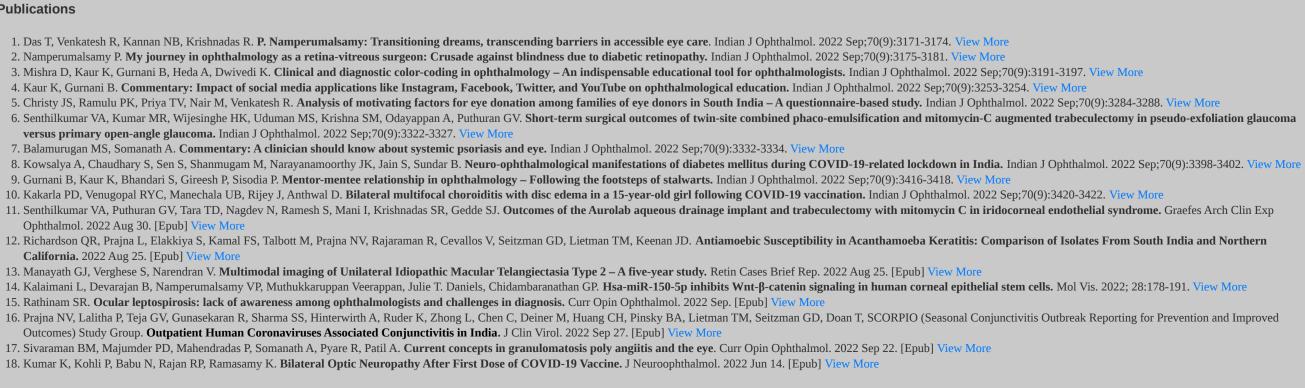
– *A black spot in the visual field following COVID vaccination* (e-poster) Dr. Radhika

- *Small vessel vasculitis presenting as CRAO* (e-poster) - Bilateral choroidopathy in a patient with systemic lupus erythematosis (e-poster)

Dr. Vedhanayaki took part in the conference as invited faculty.

Dr. Radhika. T and Dr. Anjana Somanath won the first and second prizes respectively in the photo contest

Publications



Training

Enrolments for September 2022									
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments							
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Op	ohthalmologists								
	Madurai	1							
	Chennai	1							
Fellowship in Anterior Segment & IOL Surgery	Tirunelveli	1							
	Coimbatore	2							
Followskip in Coperal Ophthelmology	Theni	1							
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	1							
	Coimbatore	1							
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Tirunelveli	1							
	Chennai	2							
Fellowship in Cornea	Pondicherry	1							
	Coimbatore	1							
Fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty	Tirunelveli	1							
	Tirupati	1							
Fellowship in Retina Vitreous	Chennai	2							
Fellowship in Uvea	Madurai	1							
	Chennai	1							
Fellowship in Retina	Coimbatore	1							
Short Term Training Programmes – For Oph	halmologists								
	Madurai	1							
Observership in Glaucoma	Tirunelveli	1							
Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders	Coimbatore	1							
Neuro Ophthalmology	Madurai	1							
	Madurai	3							
Dhanna ann da Wantian	Pondicherry	1							
Phacoemulsification	Tirunelveli	1							
	Coimbatore	2							
	Tirunelveli	1							
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Pondicherry	1							
	Madurai	1							
Short Term Training Programs – For Parame	dicals								
Vision Technicians course	Madurai	3							
Optical Dispensing	Madurai	3							
Instrument Maintenance for Technicians									

LAICO

Statistics

Instrument Maintenance for Technicians

Total Surgeries 60,483 16,183

Patient Statistics – September 2022															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	241,001	55,476	28,792	9,087	33,854	26,042	4,666	7,666	11,481	5,101	4,333	3,726	32,966	15,295	2,516
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	84,730	23,528	8,299	3,073	10,325	11,448	2,128	_	4,456	1,705	2,229	_	10,848	5,913	778
Outreach Out-p	atients														
Comprehensive Eye Camps	35,782	9,290	3,990	2,154	7,003	5,643	322	-	1,691	108	392	-	3,234	1,955	-
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	2,383	838	61	292	723	412	-	_	57	_	_	_	_	_	-
Refraction Camp	5,387	1,439	82	403	549	511	_	-	2,403	-	_	-	-	-	-
Mobile Refraction Unit	642	-	-	-	_	-	_	-	642	_	_	-	_	-	-
School Screening	15,382	-	336	-	4,757	650	160	-	6,990	-	-	-	1,038	1,451	-
RoP Screening	2,025	309	354	220	798	78	_	-	_	-	-	_	246	20	-
Vision Centres	74,317	24,647	14,713	6,045	5,665	14,448	1,504	-	3,456	-	2,135	-	1,704	-	-
Community / City Centres	17,212	9,039	2,795	2,392	-	2,479	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total OP Examinations	479,191	124,566	59,422	23,666	64,294	61,928	8,780	7,666	31,176	6,914	9,089	3,726	50,036	24,634	3,294
Total number of camps	171	38	25	9	33	20	2	-	12	5	3	-	13	11	-
Surgeries															
Cataract	39,269	10,110	3,954	1,113	5,526	5,234	574	742	2,040	590	1,003	241	4,205	3,744	193
*Other Surgeries	21,214	6,073	2,709	452	3,817	2,455	73	178	618	101	71	172	2,974	1,489	32

7,689 647

920 2,658

691

1

9,343 *Other surgeries include major surgeries, minor surgeries, intra-vitreal & other injections and laser procedures.

6,663 1,565

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1,074 413 7,179 5,233

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