Celebrating
Perumalda
People's Artist

aravind news
– news bulletin of Aravind Eye Care System

September 2021 | Volume 43 | Issue 7

Remembering Perumalda
Aravind - Madurai

Editorial

A pair of smart vision spectacles incorporated with AI (artificial intelligence) features will now help people with visual impairment lead an independent life to the extent possible. Aravind Eye Care System in collaboration with Rotary Club introduced this device which is the first of its kind in the country to help the visually challenged. The prototype of the device was tested at Aravind-Madurai and after several iterations, smart vision spectacles are now available at an affordable rate. This year too, Aravind organised a special event to commemorate the birth anniversary of the eminent artist, A. Perumal who played a significant role in fashioning the twenty-two images on the manuscript of the Indian Constitution. With the opening of a new vision centre at Viralimalai, Aravind's primary eye care network now has 94 vision centres. Last month saw many Aravind doctors being recognised at prestigious forums and winning awards in various competitions.

Accolades

American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Film Festival Awards -2021

Dr. K. Veena, Chief, Paediatric Services, Aravind-Pondicherry
Winner: New Producer category
Video: *Incremental innovations in wet-lab and surgical training during COVID-19 Pandemic*
Special credits – Dr. Shivaraj Tagare, Aravind-Pondicherry and Dr. Megha Nair, Aravind-Pondicherry

Dr. S. Ashok Vardhan, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Tirupati
Winner: In-house production category
Video, *Conquering the sink hole*
Special credits – Dr. V. R. Vivekanandan, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. Naveen Nischal, Aravind-Tirupati and Dr. Vinitha Susan John, Aravind – Tirupati

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind –Pondicherry
Runner-up: Special Interest
Video: *Lessons Learnt during the pandemic – Can we uberise eye care?*
Special credits – Dr. M. G. Pavankumar, Aravind-Pondicherry

Dr. V. R. Vivekanandan, Chief, Cataract Services, Aravind-Pondicherry
Runner-Up: New Techniques
Video: *MI way for managing hypermature, morgagian cataracts and phacolytic glaucomas*
Special credits – Dr. Merlin Benzy, Aravind-Pondicherry and Dr. Naveen Nischal, Aravind-Pondicherry

ASCRS
Dr. K. Veena
Aravind-Pondicherry
Dr. S. Ashok Vardhan
Aravind-Tirupati
Dr. R. Venkatesh
Aravind-Pondicherry
Dr. V. R. Vivekanandan
Aravind-Pondicherry

Alumni Oration Award 2021

August 21

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System was conferred with the Alumni Oration Award 2021 by Sankara Nethralaya Alumni Association. Dr. Nam, in his oration, mentioned about his association with Sankara Netralaya, training under Dr. Charles Schepens and eye care in India.
Click here to see Dr. Nam's oration

Sankara Nethralaya Alumni Oration Award
Dr. Perumalsamy Namperumalsamy

Certificate of Appreciation

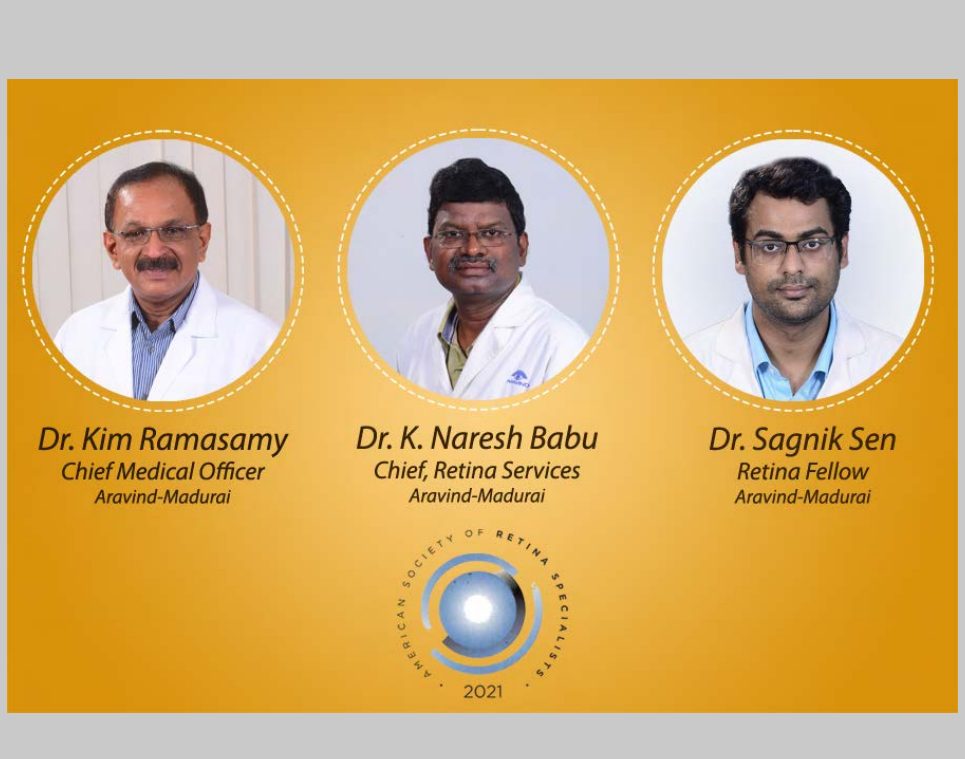
Aravind-Tirunelveli, August 15

Aravind-Tirunelveli received a Certificate of Appreciation for its adherence to the quality certification standards of Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) – Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Dr. R. Meenakshi, Chief Medical Officer received the certificate from the District Collector, Thiru V. Vishnu IAS.

Distinguished Contributor Award - Journal of Vitreo Retinal Diseases

August

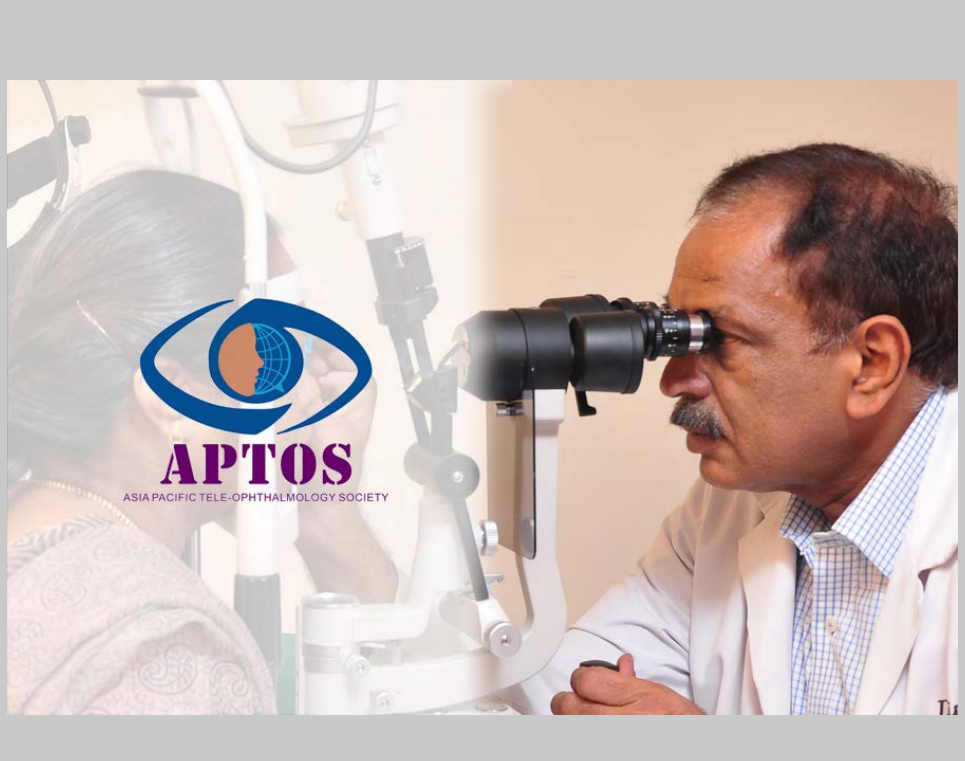
Dr. Kim Ramasamy, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai; Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina and Vitreous Services, Aravind-Madurai and Dr. Sagnik Sen, Retina Fellow, were awarded the Distinguished Contributor Award for their outstanding contributions to the Journal of Vitreo Retinal Diseases by the American Society of Retina Specialists.



Recognitions for Dr. Kim

August 27

Dr. Kim Ramasamy was elected as one of new council of members and nominated as Vice-President of the Asia Pacific Teleophthalmology Society (APTOS) at the 5th Annual General Meeting.

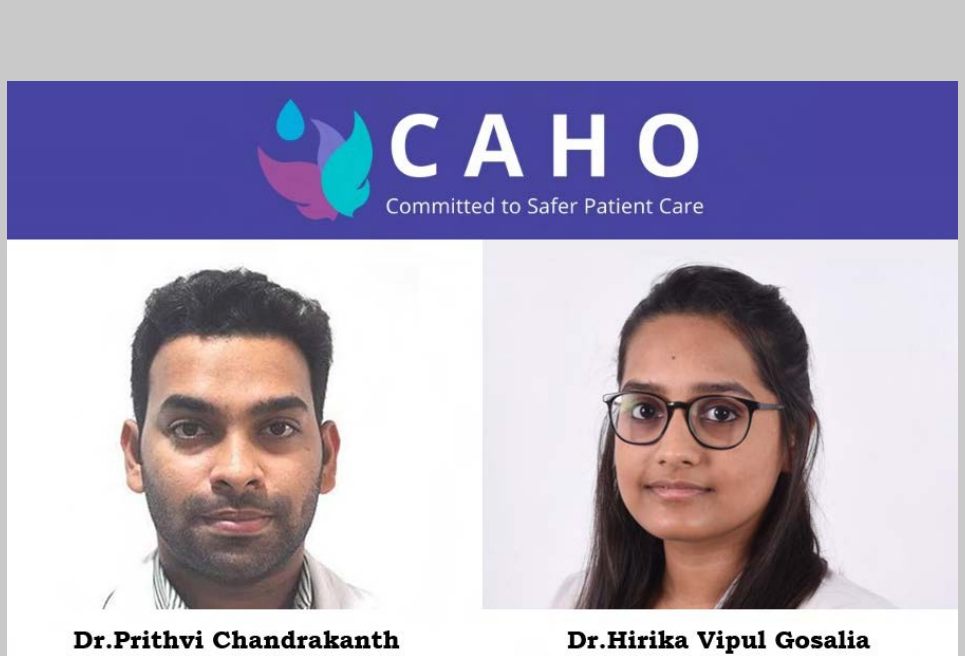


Hospital Innovations Showcase Winners

August 14

Dr.Prithvi Chandrakanth, Retina Fellow and Dr. Hirika Vipul Gosalia, DNB Resident from Aravind-Coimbatore, won the competition organised by Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organisations.

Award winning innovations:
Iolscope: smartphone based intraocular lens microscope.
Magnifix


CAHO
Committed to Safer Patient Care
Dr.Prithvi Chandrakanth
Retina fellow, Aravind - Coimbatore
Dr.Hirika Vipul Gosalia
DNB Resident, Aravind - Coimbatore

Aravind Events

Remembering Perumalda

Aravind – Madurai, August 7 – 11

One of Aravind's greatest contributions to the field of arts was its efforts to recognise the glory and name of A. Perumal, the artist who played a crucial role in the political and art scenario of the country during independence. This year marked the 106th birth anniversary of Perumalda. An exhibition of his art works was arranged at LAICO during August 7-11. Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO inaugurated the exhibition. A workshop was conducted where eminent artists like Ramanan and Ravi Palette as well as LAICO faculty – Mr. Syed Ali and Ms. Dhivya Ramasamy discussed Perumalda's art works and explained the techniques used by him. Dr. D. Sathish, an alumnae of Aravind handled a session on cartoon drawings. 33 participants took part in the workshop. Drawing competition was organised for staff members from across the centres. Of the 130 entries received, the best three were awarded. Apart from this, the best drawing from each Aravind centre was given a certificate of appreciation.

Vision Centre inaugurated at Viralimalai

Aravind – Madurai, August 18

The centre was inaugurated by Dr. Lalitha Prajna, NABH In-charge and Chief – Microbiology Lab, Aravind- Madurai. The centre was funded by Dr. Sudarshan and family. Dr. Sudarshan; Mrs. Kripa Singan, relative of Dr. Sudarshan and a long-time friend of Aravind; Dr. Ramanathan, Rtd. Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Viralimalai and Mr. Palaniappan, erstwhile MLA attended the inauguration. The centre examined 63 patients, of which 16 were advised for cataract surgery. 13 patients were advised to wear eye glasses and 5 patients placed orders for glasses.

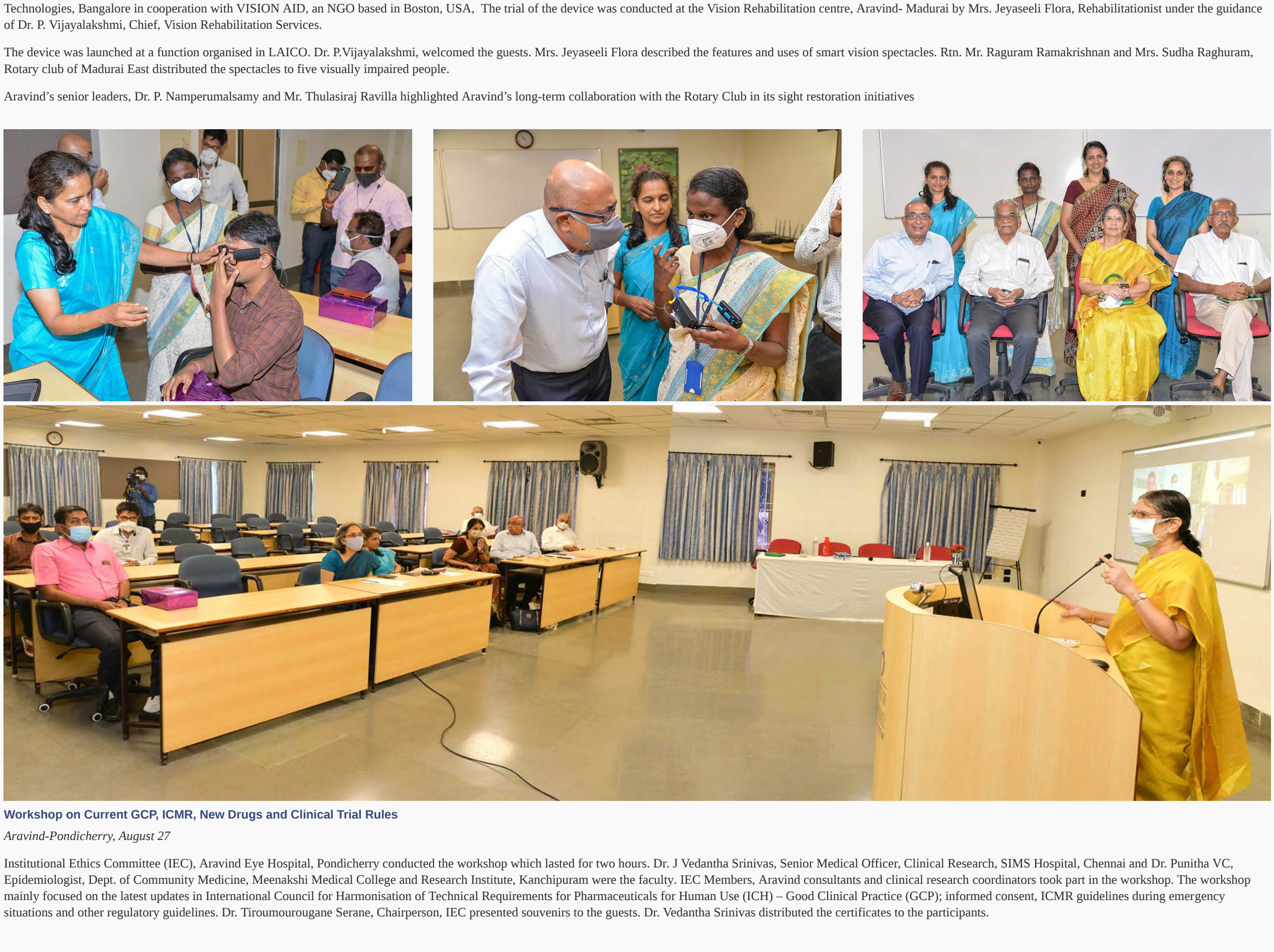
Smart Vision Spectacles – A New Device to Aid the Visually Impaired

Aravind- Madurai, August 16

Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai in collaboration with Rotary Club of Madras East, has introduced a device to improve the quality of life of people with vision impairment. Named Smart vision spectacles, the device is very light and portable and is equipped with a variety of functionalities such as detecting objects in the pathway; reading texts in multiple Indian languages; recognising faces. Smart vision spectacles is manufactured by an expert team led by Mr. Ramu Muthanghi, CEO,SHG Technologies, Bangalore in cooperation with VISION AID, an NGO based in Boston, USA, The trial of the device was conducted at the Vision Rehabilitation centre, Aravind- Madurai by Mrs. Jeyaseeli Flora, Rehabilitationist under the guidance of Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Chief, Vision Rehabilitation Services.

The device was launched at a function organised in LAICO. Dr. P.Vijayalakshmi, welcomed the guests. Mrs. Jeyaseeli Flora described the features and uses of smart vision spectacles. Rtn. Mr. Raguram Ramakrishnan and Mrs. Sudha Raghuram, Rotary club of Madurai East distributed the spectacles to five visually impaired people.

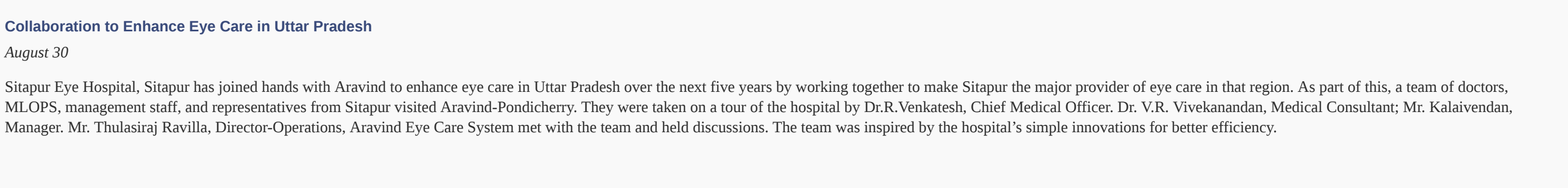
Aravind's senior leaders, Dr. P. Namperumalsamy and Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla highlighted Aravind's long-term collaboration with the Rotary Club in its sight restoration initiatives



Workshop on Current GCP, ICMR, New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules

Aravind-Pondicherry, August 27

Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC), Aravind Eye Hospital, Pondicherry conducted the workshop which lasted for two hours. Dr. J Vedantha Srinivas, Senior Medical Officer, Clinical Research, SIMS Hospital, Chennai and Dr. Punitha VC, Epidemiologist, Dept. of Community Medicine, Meenakshi Medical College and Research Institute, Kanchipuram were the faculty. IEC Members, Aravind consultants and clinical research coordinators took part in the workshop. The workshop mainly focused on the latest updates in International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) – Good Clinical Practice (GCP); informed consent, ICMR guidelines during emergency situations and other regulatory guidelines. Dr. Tiroumourougane Serane, Chairperson, IEC presented souvenirs to the guests. Dr. Vedantha Srinivas distributed the certificates to the participants.



Collaboration to Enhance Eye Care in Uttar Pradesh

August 30

Sitapur Eye Hospital, Sitapur has joined hands with Aravind to enhance eye care in Uttar Pradesh over the next five years by working together to make Sitapur the major provider of eye care in that region. As part of this, a team of doctors, MLOPS, management staff, and representatives from Sitapur visited Aravind-Pondicherry. They were taken on a tour of the hospital by Dr.R.Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer. Dr. V.R. Vivekanandan, Medical Consultant; Mr. Kalaivendan, Manager. Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Director-Operations, Aravind Eye Care System met with the team and held discussions. The team was inspired by the hospital's simple innovations for better efficiency.

Aurolab

Celebrating and Honouring Employees

Aurolab, August 23

Aurolab arranged an event to acknowledge contribution by its staff on various fronts.

COVID frontline warriors – Mr. Vignesh, Microbiologist; Mr. Santhana Karuppu, Microbiologist; Mr. Aravind, Assistant Engineer, Surgical blade; Mr. Sutharsan, BDE – International Marketing and Mr. Gowthaman, Senior Microbiologist, Water system – were appreciated for their tireless work in performing antigen test for staff members. Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, hostel warden was congratulated for taking good care of hostel staff.

Rigorous efforts of the HR recruitment team in conducting on-campus recruitment sessions despite the pandemic threat were acknowledged and appreciated.

Children of staff members – Mrs. Premavidhya, RA Manager, International Marketing and Mrs. Muniyayee, Housekeeper were congratulated for academic excellence.

Freshers' Day

Aurolab, August 14

Aurolab organised Fresher's day for the newly joined staff of Production Department. Mr. R.D. Sriram – Managing Director addressed the new recruits.

12th Annual conference of Association of Community Ophthalmologists of India

Kolkata, August 21

Aurolab participated in the 12th Annual conference of Association of Community Ophthalmologists of India held at Kolkata and promoted e-see and other main products.

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e-see
HIGH ACCURACY
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Tour of Aurolab Facility

Aurolab, August 19

A team of junior staff of Refraction and Opticals departments, Aravind-Madurai were taken on a visit to Aurolab to provide exposure to its operations. Ms. Pichai Meena, Clinical training coordinator facilitated the visit.

One-stop Solution for Vision Centres

Aurolab, in collaboration with LAICO offers a one-stop solution for eye hospitals interested in establishing vision centres or improving the already existing ones. The initiative was started in June 2019. Response has been great and in August 2021 Aurolab crossed supplying 100 vision centre packages. The package offers necessary equipment to set up a centre, service support, training of personnel in tele-consultation and vision centre management software.

LAICO

Onsite Visit - Implementing NABH Standards for Entry Level Certification through collaborative learning

LAICO offers a year-long collaborative to prepare eye hospitals for NABH Entry Level Certification. As part of this, Aravind and LAICO teams comprising faculty and managers visited the following hospitals to do a full-fledged gap analysis and develop a detailed work plan towards applying for the entry level certification:

NBJK Hospital, Gaya, Bihar
Rotary Hooghly Hospital, Hooghly, West Bengal
Christian Hospital, Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh
SSDC Hospital, Sultanpur,West Bengal
Globe Eye Foundation, Bangalore

Publications

1. Tiwari M, Piech C, Baitemirova M, Prajna NV, Srinivasan M, Lalitha P, Villegas N, Balachandar N, Chua JT, Redd T, Lietman TM, Thrun S, Lin CC. **Differentiation of Active Corneal Infections From Healed Scars Using Deep Learning.** 2021 Aug 2. [Epub] View more
2. Sen S, Kannan NB, Kumar J, Rajan RP, Kumar K, Baliga G, Reddy H, Upadhyay A, Ramasamy K. **Retinal manifestations in patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection and pathogenetic implications: a systematic review.** Int Ophthalmol. 2021 Aug 11. [Epub] View more
3. Cyril D, Brahmani P, Prasad S, Rashme VL, Sankarananthan R, Kamble NR, Balakrishnan L, Nagu K, Shekhar M. **Active sentry versus ozil hand piece – A prospective randomized comparative study.** J Cataract Refract Surg. 2021 Aug 4. [Epub] View more
4. Miller SC, Fliotsos MJ, Justin GA, Yonekawa Y, Chen A, Hoskin AK, Blanch RJ, Cavuoto K, Meeralakshmi P, Low R, Gardiner M, Liu TYA, Agrawal R, Woreta FA, The International Globe And Adnexal Trauma Epidemiology Study (IGATES). **Global Current Practice Patterns for the Management of Open Globe Injuries.** Am J Ophthalmol. 2021 Aug 17. [Epub] View more
5. Tripathy K, Mishra C, Addya S. **Commentary: Available evidence on early treatment of central serous chorioretinopathy.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2021 Sep;69(9):2348-2349. View more
6. Pillai MR. **Commentary: Long term outcomes of blebs repaired with scleral patch graft and conjunctival advancement in late-onset leak post-trabeculectomy**. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2021 Sep;69(9):2501-2502. View more
7. Babu N, Kohli P. **Surgical challenges in the management of morning glory disc anomaly-associated retinal detachment.** Indian J Ophthalmol. 2021Sep;69(9):2540-2541. View more

Training

Enrolments for August 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 Orbit & Oculoplasty	Madurai	2
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	2
	Theni	2

Statistics

Patient Monthly Statistics for August 2021

Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-Patient Visits															
Paying (New & Review)	231,027	55,772	29,771	8,401	26,196	28,399	4,976	7,878	12,189	5,413	4,646	3,802	27,822	12,704	3,058
Free:Direct walk-in (New & Review)	80,715	21,944	7,016	2,553	10,247	11,226	1,826	–	3,594	1,112	1,916	–	9,309	9,148	824
Outreach Out Patient															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	19,368	3,539	2,297	1,188	3,834	4,528	631	–	–	393	462	–	2,496	–	–
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	812	193	77	–	542	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Refraction Camp	753	346	–	227	–	–	180	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Mobile Refraction Unit	2,363	–	–	–	1,560	–	–	–	803	–	–	–	–	–	–
RoP Screening	1,648	242	404	176	694	16	–	–	–	–	–	–	108	8	–
Vision Centres	66,100	23,058	13,961	5,878	4,861	12,915	1,134	–	1,730	–	1,529	–	1,034	–	–
Community / City Centres	16,470	9,171	2,716	1,907	–	2,676	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total OP Examinations	419,256	114,265	56,242	20,330	47,934	59,760	8,747	7,878	18,316	6,918	8,553	3,802	40,769	21,860	3,882
Total number of camps	80	12	14	8	14	15	1	–	–	3	4	–	9	–	–
Surgeries															
Cataract	35,698	9,448	3,816	1,196	4,754	5,809	755	568	1,508	443	952	200	3,604	2,318	327
*Other Surgeries	20,087	5,936	2,531	386	3,968	2,910	101	129	561	138	104	118	2,118	1,005	82
Total Surgeries	55,785	15,384	6,347	1,582	8,722	8,719	856	697	2,069	581	1,056	318	5,722	3,323	409

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

Archives
Learn more about the happenings at Aravind
September 2021
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