Editorial

A new year has ushered in bringing along with it new promises and aspirations. The entire Aravind family wishes you all a very happy and prosperous 2020. The year bygone has been one of several accomplishments; Aravind continued to expand in all levels of providing care – tertiary, secondary and primary – even crossing the state and national boundaries. For all these, Dr. V’s spirit continued to guide us, pushing each one of the staff to put in their best and collectively contributing to the cause of eliminating needless blindness. Thanks to the whole-hearted support of our friends and well-wishers in making Aravind what it is today. Thanks also to the hard work and commitment of news correspondents across the Aravind centres especially for their support in bringing out the newsletter in the first week of the month.

Aravind model continues to inspire and the organisation often receives a steady stream of visitors wanting to learn from it and imbibe the best practices. Aravind was fortunate enough to have been paid a visit by the cabinet minister of the government of Uttar Pradesh. Last month also saw many of our doctors winning awards at national conferences.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

Accolades

Pune Netra Seva National Award for Aravind Eye Care System

_Pune, December 29_

Pune Netra Seva Prathishthan conferred the award on Aravind and Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus received the same. Close to 20 Aravind alumni in and around Pune attended the award ceremony. Dr. Namperumalsamy interacted with the alumni and it turned out to be a memorable occasion.

Awards at Annual Conference of Cornea Society of India

_Kumarakom, Kerala, December 13-15_

Dr. Josephine Chrsity, Cornea and Refractive Services, Aravind-Pondicherry bagged first prize in the photo contest.

Dr. Naveen, Cornea and Refractive Services, Aravind-Madurai won first prize in Just a Minute session.
Awards at the Annual Meeting of the Indian Pediatric Glaucoma Society
Hyderabad, December 7-8


Dr Srilekha Pallamparthy, Glaucoma Fellow, Aravind-Madurai became winner in the session on *Clinic challenges in pediatric glaucoma* for *A case of unilateral congenital glaucoma associated with microcephaly and ipsilateral hemiplegia.*

AUPO Resident & Fellow Research Forum Award

Dr. Siddharth Narendran, Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, currently doing Fellowship at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA received the Association of University Professor of Ophthalmology (AUPO) Resident and Fellow Research Forum Award. This is the first time an ophthalmologist trained in India has received this award.

Best Poster Award for Dr. Mahima Bankar
Chennai, December 7-8

Dr. Mahima Bankar, Fellow, Paediatric Ophthalmology Services, Aravind-Pondicherry received the award for the poster titled *Normative data of paediatric OCT in South population* at the annual conference of Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology Society of India.

Aravind Events

UP Cabinet Minister Shri. Suresh Kumar Khanna Visits Aravind

Madurai, December 5-6

The visit was to understand the operations of AECS at all levels (Primary, Secondary & Tertiary); to have in-depth understanding of the training programmes at Aravind for Allied ophthalmic Personnel and ophthalmologists as well as to discuss the prospects of replicating the Aravind model of eye care delivery in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Honourable Minister was accompanied by a team of senior doctors and officials from Uttar Pradesh. The team visited various Arvind facilities including Aurolab and Gandhigram vision centre.
**Equitable Healthcare Access Consortium**

*Aravind-Chennai, December 06-07*

Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai hosted the sixth quarterly meeting of the Equitable Healthcare Access Consortium (EHA Consortium), an organisation that was born out of the concern for declining ethics and growing inequities in access to healthcare in India. EHAC aims to nudge the healthcare ecosystem towards humane, ethical and equitable care through building a network of like-minded institutions and individuals. The meeting was attended by over 50 participants from across India, representing organisations in healthcare, livelihood, and education, space, including DHAN Foundation, Aravind Eye Care System, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Ekam Foundation, People Tree Hospitals, Indian School of Business, Fernandez Hospital Foundation, Smiles International Institute of Colo-Proctology (SIICP), Sant Singaji Institute of Science and Management (SSISM) Education Institutions, Saksham, and the Indian Institute of Management-Udaipur.

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**Ophthalmology Sans Frontiers**

*Coimbatore, December 6-8*

Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore and University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC) collaboratively organised the conference at Hotel Le Meridien, Coimbatore. Dr. V. Narendran, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Coimbatore was the organizing secretary. The event was a great academic feast with six dry lab sessions, two wet lab sessions, open quiz and didactic lectures in eight sub-specialities. Faculty from University of Illinois and Aravind Eye Care System shared their inputs. A total of 320 ophthalmologists registered for the conference.

Aravind-Alcon vitrectomy training centre was inaugurated by Dr P Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System in the presence of many dignitaries. Dr P Namperumalsamy, Dr G Natchiar, Dr M Srinivasan and Dr P Vijalakashmi shared their training experience at UIC which was very motivating. Dr Paul Chan, Chair, Dept of Ophthalmology, UIC shared his views on the ways to carry forward this collaboration.
Ophthalmology Update for General Practitioners

Aravind-Tirupati, December 15

Organised by Sri Venkateswara Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirupati and IMA, Tirupati, the interactive CME focused on diabetic retinopathy, systemic conditions and the eye, recent advances in cataract surgery, AI in health care and RoP. Hands-on training programmes were arranged on topics such as direct ophthalmoscope, digital fundus imaging, virtual perimetry for visual field imaging and pin touch IOP check. A total of 171 general practitioners in and around Tirupati participated. Many delegates also had their eyes examined.

Aravind-Tirupati Completes First Year of Service

Aravind-Tirupati, December 14

A year has gone by since the opening of Sri Venkateswara Aravind Eye Hospital in Tirupati. The OP services was started on December 12, 2018 while the formal inauguration of the hospital was held in March. During December 12, 2018 – December 11, 2019, the hospital catered to 90,922 out-patient visits through paying, subsidised and outreach camps. A total of 8,723 surgeries, lasers and intravitreal injections were performed. Dr. Ashok Vardhan, Chief Medical Officer presented a report on the activities of the last year. Senior leaders of Aravind including Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman were present. Various cultural programmes were staged.
Christmas Celebration

*Aravind, December 20*

Christmas was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm at Aravind-Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, Madurai and Pondicherry. The evening was marked with glittering lights and stars. Cultural programmes like dance, skit and music were performed along with fun games.

Employee Welfare Activity – Bhajan Session

*Aravind – Tirunelveli, December 19*

A special bhajan session was organised for the staff by the members of Sri Swami Sivananda Trust, Pathamadai. All staff members attended the bhajan and satsang.

Celebrating Margazhi

*Aravind-Chennai, December*

Aravind is not just limited to providing quality eye care. It actively invests in activities that promote the unique culture and tradition of the state of Tamil Nadu. Margazhi Fest is an annual festival of dance and music celebrated in Chennai to commemorate the spirit long treasured by Carnatic music and traditional dance forms. Aravind-Chennai organised a similar event for the general public and patients in the hospital premises. Vid. Vaibhav Ramani and Sunadaha Krishnamai, both accomplished artistes in violin and mridangam respectively mesmerized the audience with their enchanting recitals.
**Special guest to Aravind-Tirupati**

*Aravind-Tirupati, December 30*

Ms. Sudha Murthy, Chairperson, Infosys Foundation made a visit to Aravind-Tirupati. She is one of the board members of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam. She expressed great interest in knowing more about Aravind’s free services and was taken on a hospital tour.

**New Equipment at Bio Chemistry Lab**

*Aravind-Tirunelveli, December 20*

“Selectra Pro M”, a fully automated machine was procured and was inaugurated by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli.

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**Aurolab**

**Immense Response for Aurolab’s Autorefractometer**

*December 2*

Aurolab’s portable Auto Refractometer (e-see) has been receiving wide response from the ophthalmic community. Aurolab has supplied 130 e-see devices to the government of Andhra Pradesh. These devices are used in 13 districts of AP to initiate mass free eye screening programmes to eradicate blindness. Aurolab has supplied 32 devices to the government of Tamil Nadu for setting up Tele V Care Centers at Primary Health Centres. This initiative will significantly revolutionise the way eye care is being delivered in rural parts of Tamil Nadu.

**Round Table Meeting**

*Aurolab, November and December*
Conferences attended

**Annual Conference of Vitreo Retina Society of India**

*Lucknow, December 5-8*

Dr. Kim
- Co-chair for *The Buckle symposium*
- Co-chair for *The top 7 lessons learnt in DME management*
- *Basic steps of scleral buckling: Getting it right*

Dr. Karthik Kumar
- *Surgical drainage of choroidal effusion using trochar with cannula: An effective and easy way*
- *Wetlab- EYESI simulator*

Dr. Renu P Rajan
- *Quantification of relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD) by automated pupillometer and its relationship with AMD dimensions and visual acuity*
- *Hyper-imaging by "OC(T)ean’s Twelve" – focal choroidal excavation*

Dr. Jayant
- *Comparison of non-mydriatic ultra wide field fundus images by OPTOS and CLARUS and its association with pupillary size and reaction*

Dr. Piyush
- *Comparison of various surgical techniques for optic disc pit maculopathy*

Dr. Naresh Babu
- “*Getting out of jail*” - Managing surgical complications / complicated situations
- *Moderator for Advanced VR surgery Part 2*
- *Optic disc pit-maculopathy -management methods*

Dr. Dr. Aditya Maitray
- *Endogenous serum cortisol levels and anxiety assessment in patients with polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy(PCV): A new insight into pathogenesis*

Dr. Chitaranjan
- *Incidence and outcomes of endophthalmitis with prefilled intravitreal bevacizumab injections: a multicentric prospective study*

Dr. Soumya Jena
- *Comparison of outcomes of PPV in Rheumatogenous retinal detachment cases using 3D visualization system versus analog microscope*

Dr. Anirban
- *Subthreshold micropulse yellow laser and eplerenone drug therapy in chronic central serous chorioretinopathy patients: A comparative study*

Dr. Sourav
- *Indigenous low cost heads up vitrectomy simulator*
60th Annual Meeting of the Ophthalmological Society of Taiwan
December 13-15

Dr. Haripriya Aravind

- Tips and tricks to apply on a patient with a hard lens or white cataract
- Sharpen surgical skills: Managing posterior polar cataracts and subluxated lenses
- Managing challenging cases with advanced phaco technology

IAPB South East Asia Eye Health Experts meeting
Kathmandu, Nepal, December 9-12

Mr. Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director-LAICO attended the meeting and shared inputs.

Keracon – Annual Conference of Cornea Society of India
Kumarakaom, December 13-15

Dr. Josephine Christy

- First prize in photo contest titled “Ripple Effect Warpage”
- Talk on Donor characteristics and tissue utilization in tertiary eye bank.
- Wed lab trainer for DMEK skill transfer course

Dr. Kunal

- Video: Anxiery- A Silent battle
- Poster: Rare case of scytalidium keratitis

Dr. Naveen

- Invited speaker: Literature review in aqueous deficiency dry eye.
- E-poster: Recycled Intralase patient interface for DMEK wet lab training
- E-Poster: Comparison of donor characteristics of corneas collected through hospital corneal retrieval program and voluntary eye donation
- Coordinator of the session: Dry eye – ATD
- Photo contest: Drug deposit on endothelium
- Photo contest: Archipelago of epithelium

Dr. Sikha Misra

- Paper presentation: Fungal load analysis on repeat scrapping of fungal keratitis patients treated with topical natamycin vs topical natamycin + voriconazole
**LAICO**

**LEAP Series 2 – Increasing Efficiency of Outreach Services through Collaborative Approach**

*LAICO, December 26-28*

Inspired by the model developed by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement – IHI, LEAP Series 2 aimed to collectively come up with sustainable solutions to increasing efficiency of outreach services by facilitating the participant hospital teams to review existing protocols in outreach and to develop an effective monitoring and review mechanism. Teams from Kumudini Eye Hospital, Tangail, Bangladesh; Deep Eye Care Foundation, Rangpur, Bangladesh and Midnapore Rotary Eye Hospital, West Bengal. Apart from LAICO faculty, Dr. Kedar Mate, Chief Innovation and Education Officer, IHI facilitated various sessions.

**Consultancy Visits**

Mr. R. Meenakshi Sundaram, Senior Manager-Operations made follow up visit to Kumudini Eye Hospital, Mirzapur, Bangladesh and Deep Eye Care Foundation, Rangpur, Bangladesh

Mr. Mohammed Gowth, Faculty, LAICO visited Midnapore Rotary Eye Hospital, West Bengal.

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**Publications**

**December 2019**


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### Statistics

**Patient Monthly Statistics**

#### December- 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitals</th>
<th>Madurai</th>
<th>Tirunelveli</th>
<th>Theni</th>
<th>Coimbatore</th>
<th>Pondicherry</th>
<th>Tirupur</th>
<th>Dindigul</th>
<th>Salem</th>
<th>Tuticorin</th>
<th>Udumalpet</th>
<th>CbeCC</th>
<th>Chennai</th>
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<td><strong>HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS</strong></td>
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<td>Paying (New &amp; Review)</td>
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<td>27,511</td>
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<td>33,356</td>
<td>25,002</td>
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<td>4,838</td>
<td>3,643</td>
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<td>9,426</td>
<td>8,044</td>
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<td>1,688</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Eye Camps</td>
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<td>Glaucoma Camps</td>
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### Training

**Screening camps**

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<th>School</th>
<th>170 Acclades</th>
<th>226 Events</th>
<th>1,651 Publications</th>
<th>4,453 Statistics</th>
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<td>Paediatric Camps</td>
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<td>682</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>583</td>
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<td>RoP</td>
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<td>140</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>431</td>
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<td>Vision Centres</td>
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<td>5,951</td>
<td>4,707</td>
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<td>Community Centres / City Centres</td>
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<td>2,635</td>
<td>1,903</td>
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<td>Total OP Examinations</td>
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<td>55,641</td>
<td>33,937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Camps</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>32</td>
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**SURGERIES**

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<th>Service Proportion of Cataract Surgeries</th>
<th>Paying</th>
<th>Free (Direct)</th>
<th>Camp</th>
<th>Total Cataract Surgeries</th>
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<td>Paying</td>
<td>2,621</td>
<td>1,177</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>5,101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free (Direct)</td>
<td>1,494</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>986</td>
<td>661</td>
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<td>Total Cataract Surgeries</td>
<td>5,101</td>
<td>2,355</td>
<td>798</td>
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**Note:** NA – Not Applicable

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**Enrolments for December 2019**
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<th>Course title</th>
<th>Training Centre</th>
<th>No. of enrolments</th>
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<td><strong>LONG TERM FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Cornea</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Retina</td>
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<td>Fellowship in General Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Orbit and Oculoplasty</td>
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<td>Fellowship in Glaucoma</td>
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<td><strong>SHORT TERM CLINICAL COURSES – FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS</strong></td>
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<td>Management of Retinopathy of Prematurity and Paediatric Retinal Disorders</td>
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<td>Phacoemulsification</td>
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<td>Small incision cataract surgery</td>
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<td>Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy</td>
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<td><strong>PARAMEDICAL COURSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate course in Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography</td>
<td>Madurai</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE COURSE</strong></td>
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