



Director Emeritus, AECS, on being honoured with the prestigious Padma Shri, India's highest civilian award, for your remarkable contributions to the field of medicine."



News about these and much more occurred between 15th April and 15th May are featured in this edition.

Three graduates in black and yellow regalia are holding a large certificate. The man on the left is wearing a yellow sash and a yellow stole. The man in the middle is wearing a yellow sash and a yellow stole. The woman on the right is wearing a yellow sash and a yellow stole. They are all smiling and looking at the camera. The background is a blue and white geometric pattern.



Best Nurse Award to G.G. Sangeetha

Aravind Events

RAAB7 Prevalence Survey in Sivaganga District

Aravind-Madurai, March-April 2024

The survey conducted by Aravind-Madurai in Sivaganga district focused on the prevalence of cataracts, refractive errors, and service uptake. The main objectives were to test the Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB7) method in the Indian population, specifically in Tamil Nadu, and to validate the feasibility of incorporating near-vision screening into RAAB7. Developed at the International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), London, UK, the RAAB is a rapid survey methodology designed to assess blindness and visual impairment in people aged 50 and above. The new component of the current RAAB7 included near-vision screening and an assessment of enablers and barriers to the use of near-vision eyeglasses. RAAB7 employs digital data collection along with the use of an integrated Peek Acuity Mobile Application for visual acuity measure.

Prior to starting the survey, a three-day training programme was provided to the survey team by Dr. Sandeep Buttan, a certified RAAB Trainer from Dr. Shroff Charity Eye Hospital, New Delhi. During the programme, Dr. Chandrakumar, Project Director, Tamil Nadu State Blindness Control Society, delivered a keynote address and shared insights on conducting the RAAB6 survey.

During the survey, the team examined 3,582 people aged 50 years and above from 77 different locations. The findings suggest that one-fourth of the surveyed population required some form of eye care and were referred to eye care facilities. If proven, the near vision screening could be integrated into the existing RAAB method, thereby enhancing its benefits for a broader global population.



Aravind doctors and MLOPs conducting the RAAB7 survey in Sivaganga District



Aravind doctor examining a villager's eye during the RAAB7 survey



Distance vision screening



Near vision screening

Symposium on Molecular Genetics in Ophthalmology 2024: Genetics in Ophthalmology; The Future

Aravind-Madurai, 25th April

Organised by Aravind-Madurai, the CME focused on the basics of Genetics in Ophthalmology, specifically on Glaucoma, Retinoblastoma, and Pediatric Eye diseases. Additionally, there were discussions on emerging potential applications of genetic research in glaucoma, with special emphasis on gene therapy and genetic counselling for eye diseases. The panel of external faculty members, including Dr. Arif O. Khan, Cleveland Clinic, Abu Dhabi, and Dr. A. S. Karthikeyan, Dennis Lam Eye Hospital, China, along with faculty from LV Prasad Eye Institute, Narayana Nethralaya, and AIIMS, Delhi, actively participated in the discussions. The CME was awarded 2 credit hours by the Tamil Nadu Medical Council (TNMC). A total of 74 delegates, including 15 faculty members, 34 research scholars, and 25 doctors, attended this programme.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi, Prof. K. Dharmalingam



Prof. K. Dharmalingam delivering the key note address on "Genome Analysis in Clinical Practice"



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy delivering the inaugural address



Participants' interaction during the CME

AT TENSION 2024: A Surgical CME on Refractive Glaucoma

Aravind-Madurai, 26-28 April

The CME aimed to explore newer horizons in the management of glaucoma, highlighting the continuing relevance of Trabeculectomy and its complications with management, Glaucoma Drainage Devices (GDD) and their surgical techniques and complications with management, and the potential role of minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS), and non-penetrating deep sclerectomy (NPDS). Delegates from all over India, representing various institutions, attended the CME and provided valuable inputs. The programme was authorised for 3 credit hours by TNMC. A total of 137 delegates, including 40 faculty members, attended this programme. Additionally, wet lab training practices were conducted on Trabeculectomy, GDD, NPDS, and MIGS for the registered candidates and all internal Glaucoma consultants. They also earned an additional 3 credit hours from TNMC for the wet lab session.



Dr. R.D. Ravindran lighting the lamp in the presence of Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Dr. R. Kim, and Dr. George Varghese Puthuran



Dr. Krishnadas delivering the inaugural address



Dr. R. Venkatesh handling a session on "Can one size fit all: Tailoring Glaucoma surgery"



Dr. Ganesh V. Raman, handling a session on "Ab externo suture assisted canaloplasty When? Why? & How?"



Dr. Manju R. Pillai addressing the audience



Participants' interaction during the CME



Wet lab - Hands on training by Dr. Indira Durai

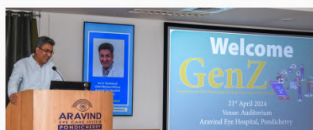


Wet lab - Hands on training by Dr. Swati P Upathya

GenZ Symposium

Aravind-Pondicherry, 21 April

Aravind-Pondicherry organised the Symposium, a first of its kind with the aim of delving deep into the psyche of GenZ. It explored how GenZ differ and what new strategies can be incorporated to engage them in learning. The session started with a welcome address by Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry. The programme featured insightful sessions by Dr. Naveen Radhakrishnan, Dr. Annapurna Kumar, Dr. Pranesh Balasubramaniam, Prof. N. Ananthakrishnan, Dr. Sudha, Dr. Deepak Megur, Dr. Pavan Kumar, Dr. Mahalakshmi, and Dr. Prasanna Venkatesh. The session concluded with a few skill transfer courses on surgical video editing, effective PowerPoint presentations, and how to use social media for the advantage.





Dr. R. Venkatesh, delivering the welcome address



Group activities during the skill transfer session



Participants of the GenZ Symposium

LAICO

Gap Assessment Visits

Maharashtra, 12-18 May

As part of LEAP- Closing the Loop Collaborative series, Dr. G. Anitha, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tuticorin, and Mohammed Gowth, Senior Faculty, LAICO, made a Gap assessment visit to Nandadeep Eye Hospital, Sangli, and its branch hospital at Kolapur, Maharashtra between 12th and 16th May. Similarly, Dr. B. Harini Krishna, Medical Consultant, Aravind-Kovilpatti, and Udayakumar, Senior Faculty, LAICO, visited M.N. Eye Hospital, Chennai, between 16th and 18th May. The main objective of these visits were to gain a deep understanding of the hospital's activities and identify potential focus areas for improvement on enhancing the acceptance rate for cataract surgery and spectacles. During the visit, they have identified and discussed the key areas of improvement and facilitated the hospital's team for action plan to achieve completing the service loop.



Dr. G. Anitha and Mohammed Gowth seated in the middle, with Nandadeep Eye Hospital team



Dr. B. Harini Krishna and B. Udayakumar, during the gap assessment visit to M.N. Eye Hospital

Management and Systems Development for Eye Hospital Administrators and Managers

LAICO, 4th April – 2nd May

The one-month course held at LAICO aimed to equip hospital administrators with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage an eye hospital, both in its day-to-day operations and in developing the hospital according to the needs of the community it serves. Seven participants from Lusaka Eye Hospital, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa Eye Foundation, Magrabi – ICO Cameroon Eye Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon, Nepal Eye Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, Arasan Eye Hospital, Erode, Tamil Nadu, Nayana Eye Care, Andhra Pradesh, NBJK – Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra, Hazaribag, Jharkhand, and Mahanadi Netra Chikitsalaya- LEPR Society, Odisha, attended the course.



Ceremonial lamp lighting at the inaugural day of the one-month course conducted by LAICO



Dr. Usha Kim delivering the keynote address



B.S. Ganesh Babu delivering the welcome address



Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, delivering the valedictory address

Conference Attended

Annual Meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2024

Washington, 5-9 May

Scientists and Research Students from Aravind Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) including Prof. K. Dharmalingam, Director, Research, AMRF, Scientists Dr. P. Sundaresan, and Dr. C. Gowri Priya Chidambaranathan, and research students R. Sethu Nagarajan, and Shreya Dinesh, attended and presented papers and posters at the annual meeting held in Seattle, Washington. Sethu Nagarajan and Shreya Dinesh received the ICMR Travel Grant, and the SERB Travel Grant, respectively. Additionally, Shreya Dinesh's poster was selected as a Hot Topic during one of a session.

Paper Presentation

Sethu Nagarajan, Dr. Gowri Priya Chidambaranathan, Dr. R. Kim, Dr. Usha Kim, Prof. K. Dharmalingam, and Dr. A. Vanniarajan

- *Inhibition of KIF14 suppresses the retinoblastoma tumor progression with favourable outcome.*

Poster Presentations

Dr. P. Sundaresan, Prakash Chermakani, Shanmugam Maheshkumar

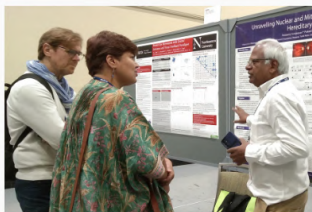
- *Unravelling Nuclear and Mitochondrial Contributions in Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy*

Dr. Gowri Priya Chidambaranathan, Sneha Nair, Dr. R. Krishnadas, Dr. V. Muthukkaruppan, Dr. A. Vanniarajan, Dr. D. Bharanidharan

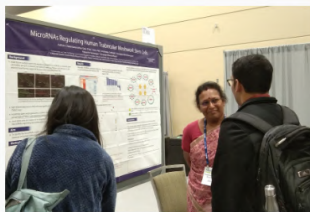
- *MicroRNAs regulating human trabecular meshwork stem cells*

Shreya Dinesh, Prof. K. Dharmalingam, Dr. Lalitha Prajna, Dr. N.V. Prajna, Dr. D. Bharanidharan

- *Dysregulated miRNAs and their role in Fusarium Keratitis*



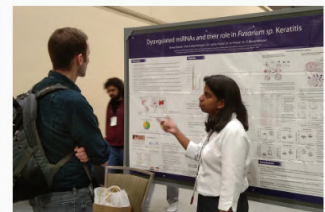
Dr. P. Sundaresan explaining the poster



Dr. Gowri Priya showcasing her research poster



R. Sethu Nagarajan presenting his paper



Shreya Dinesh discussing the details of her research poster

Visit to Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology and Nepal Eye hospital

Nepal, 8-10 April

Dr. Anu Paul, IOL Fellow, Aravind-Madurai was a resource person for the workshops held at the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology, and Nepal Eye Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, to train the hospitals' staff in Aurbenton Anesthesia.



Dr. Anu Paul with Dr Sanduk Ruit, Founder and Executive Director of Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology



Dr. Anu Paul at the workshop on Sub-Tenon Anesthesia

12th International Congress on Glaucoma Surgery

the Netherlands, 18-20 June

Dr. R. Shamila participated in the Congress held at Hilton Hotel, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, and presented a video titled, *Sailing through shallow seas: Managing post op hypotony following tube surgery*. She further delivered a talk at the conference on *Nanophthalmos (Bad eyes)*.

Publications

1. Kannan NB, Goswami A, Vallinayagam M, Sarkar AD. Couching of cataractous lens in microphthalmic eyes with irido-fundal coloboma: revisiting the historical technique. Int Ophthalmol. 2024 Apr 25;44(1):198. [View More](#)
2. Govindaraj I, Mahalingam M, Maheswari U, Kumar HSY, Suganya BS, Subramanian V, Rajendran A. Quantification of vascular changes in macular telangiectasia type 2 with AngioTool software. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2024 Apr 27. [Epub] [View More](#)
3. Manapakkam M, Ramamoorthy D, Mohan N. Posterior Capsular Pigment Deposition in a Case of Pigmentary Glaucoma. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2024 Apr 28. [Epub] [View More](#) Dsouza P, Mohan M, Mohanakumar M, ShivaSwamy M, Kanakath A, Vr S. Pits of Fire: Post Scleral Graft Vasculitis in Patients With Optic Disc Pit Maculopathy. Ophthalmic Surg Lasers Imaging Retina. 2024 Mar;55(3):172-175. [View More](#)
4. Kannan NB, Dey Sarkar A, Vallinayagam M. A retrospective analysis of surgical outcome in sutureless glueless scleral fixation of foldable intraocular lens. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2024 Mar 8. [Epub] [View More](#)
5. Chandran P, Bhanuman R, Raman GV. Candy-Stripe Hyphema after Laser Peripheral Iridotomy. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2024 May 13. [Epub] [View More](#)
6. Kalita IR, Kannusamy V, Mouttapa F, Singh HV. Primary eyecare in paediatrics population (PREPP) – II study: Study of satisfaction of services and barrier for not reporting to the base hospital on referral among pediatric patients treated in six major vision centers of a tertiary eye care facility in Southern India. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2024 May 20. [Epub] [View More](#)
7. Nath M, Odayappan A, Tripathy K, Nachiappan S. Air bubble guide for adequacy of ophthalmic viscosurgical device during phacoemulsification. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2024 Jun;72(6):916-918. [View More](#)
8. Ganesan N, Narayana S, Gubert J, Bhosale NK, Sundar B. Clinical, microbiologic, and treatment outcomes of dematiaceous fungal keratitis – A retrospective study. Indian J Ophthalmol. 2024 May 20. [Epub] [View More](#)

Training

Enrolments for May 2024		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Cornea	Pondicherry	1
	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Medical Retina	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina and Vitreous	Tirunelveli	1
Short-Term Fellowship Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
Short-term Fellowship in Glaucoma	Pondicherry	1
Short-Term Training Programmes - For Ophthalmologists		
HelpMeSee Simulation-based Training in MSICS	Madurai	1
Clinical Observership Programme in Diagnosis and Management Of Glaucoma	Coimbatore	1
Phacoemulsification	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirunelveli	2
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Tirunelveli	2
	Coimbatore	1
	Chennai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Short Term Training Programme - For Paramedicals		
Traning for FFA & USG	Madurai	1

Statistics

Patient Statistics – April 2024															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	2,44,740	54,848	30,165	8,311	31,909	25,842	4,161	8,815	11,667	5,724	4,245	4,407	38,479	13,106	3,061
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	97,674	22,336	8,135	2,791	12,262	9,728	2,104	2,413	6,581	1,591	2,759	-	12,540	13,197	1,237
Outreach Out-patients															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	14,005	3,105	1,275	234	2,730	2,934	323	-	1,019	-	27	-	2,233	-	125
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	999	114	-	296	422	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	56	-
Glaucoma Camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refraction Camp	6,022	961	707	787	737	418	105	-	1,008	-	-	-	762	336	201
Mobile Refraction Unit	363	-	-	-	328	-	-	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening	6,614	5,897	-	24	693	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Eye screening camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RoP Screening	1,492	199	179	93	770	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	197	14	-
Vision Centres	77,227	26,385	14,078	5,298	5,579	15,422	1,589	-	3,815	-	1,982	-	3,079	-	-
Community / City Centres	16,653	8,264	2,147	2,624	-	2,657	-	-	-	-	-	-	904	57	-
Total OP Examinations	4,65,789	1,22,109	57,163	19,981	55,430	57,041	8,282	11,228	24,236	7,315	9,013	4,407	58,194	26,766	4,624
Total number of camps	82	16	9	2	18	14	2	-	7	-	1	-	12	-	1
Surgeries															
Cataract	35,512	7,987	3,395	1,077	4,712	4,398	616	987	2,671	616	1,069	233	4,712	2,641	398

*Other Surgeries	23,212	5,950	2,852	482	4,854	2,643	90	211	780	117	103	170	3,411	1,491	58
Total Surgeries	58,724	13,937	6,247	1,559	9,566	7,041	706	1,198	3,451	733	1,172	403	8,123	4,132	456

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

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

May 2024

More Archives

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