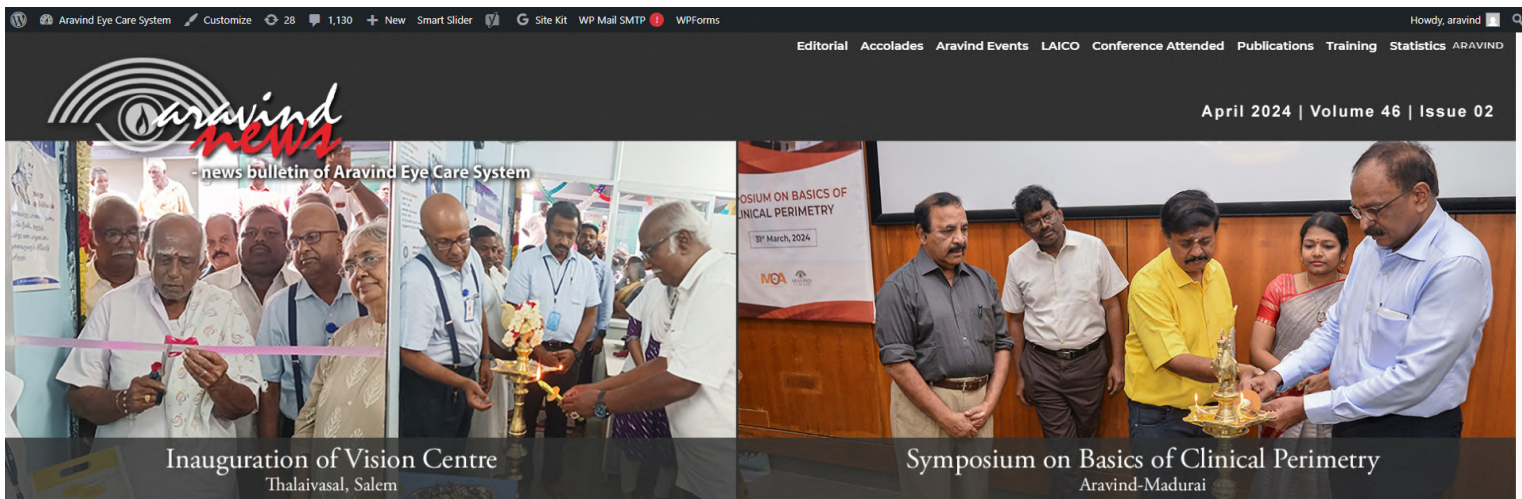




Editorial

In pursuit of Dr. G. Venkataswamy's visionary goal to extend eye care services to every corner of society, Vision Centres have been established across diverse locations. The very first vision centre was launched in Ambasamudram on 14th April 2004, which is now functioning in Kandamanur. The recent addition of the Thalaivasal Vision Centre in Salem marks a significant milestone, bringing the total number of Aravind's Vision Centres to an impressive 113. Over the past two decades, Aravind Vision centres have handled 7.8 million patient visits, covering a population of more than 10 million. This growth highlights Aravind's unwavering commitment and consistent efforts towards its noble mission.

Observing special occasions provides Aravind with a platform to engage with patients, caretakers and the public, spreading informative awareness messages through posters and models to promote eye care initiatives. In line with this approach, Aravind observed World Optometry Week, acknowledging the indispensable role optometrists play in extending and strengthening the scope of comprehensive eye care services.

News about this and much more are featured in this series.

Note: The events that occurred between 15th March and 15th April are included here.

Accolades

Dr. Ranjan Akhoury Oration Award

Patna, 13th April

Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli was conferred with "Dr Ranjan Akhoury Oration Award" at the Annual meeting of Patna Ophthalmic Society (POSCON), held at Patna, on 13th April 2024.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, third from the right, receiving the Dr. Ranjan Akhoury Oration Award

Awards at the 50th Anniversary American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)

Boston, 5-8 April

Aravind doctors won prizes at the 50th Anniversary American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS 2024) held in the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Massachusetts, USA.

Dr. R. Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Pondicherry

1st prize

Category: Glaucoma surgery

Video title: *Ab interno Schlemm's canal surgery: A comprehensive guide to navigating the canal with precision – touch, tear, and thread the canal*

Dr. K. Veena, Chief, Paediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus Services, Aravind-Pondicherry

Runner-up

Category: Special interest

Video title: *Fostering innovation in ophthalmology: A spotlight on Hackathon*

Dr. Haripriya Aravind, Chief, Cataract & IOL Services, Aravind-Chennai

Best Paper of Session

Category: Free paper

Title: *Comparative analysis of intraoperative sub-conjunctival depot steroid to routine topical steroids and NSAIDs in phacoemulsification*

Runner-up

Category: Glaucoma surgery

Video title: *From soil to sight: An inconceivable invasion*



Dr. R. Venkatesh, on the left, receiving the first prize for his video presentation



Dr. K. Veena, on the right, accepting the runner-up award for her video presentation



Dr. Haripriya Aravind, on the left, receiving the runner-up award for her video presentation



Aravind doctors, at ASCRS 2024, held in the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Massachusetts, USA

Alumni Award

Madurai, 7th April

On the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, Thiagarajar College, Madurai honoured Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Aravind Eye Care System, with the illustrious Alumni Award for his outstanding contribution to perpetuating the reach of quality eye care to the poor and needy through active community involvement, screening camps and establishing IT enabled vision centres in rural areas.



Thiagarajar College honours Dr. P. Namperumalsamy with

Aravind Events

Training of Trainers Workshop

Aravind-Madurai, 11-13 April

Aravind-Madurai organised two workshops as part of Training the Trainers. The first one-day workshop held on 11th April aimed to teach the trainers Life Skill Programmes for MLOPs. Ariara Velan, Founder, Thilir Thirani Thittam (TTT), and Bhaskaran, Tamil Nadu State Head, TTT, conducted sessions on how to handle the Life skill programmes. The second workshop was a two-day event, organised on 12 and 13 April 2024, for the MLOP Academic team of Aravind Eye Hospitals, comprising MLOP Doctor In-charge-2, MLOP Superintendent-2, Academic Coordinators, Academic Managers, and Tutors from each department. The objective of the workshop was to bring 'Role Clarification' among the different academic teams and train them in effective administration skills. The programme included various sessions on Sharing best practices at each centre, Role clarity & key performance indicators, Mentoring, How to conduct rounds, Importance of logbooks and documentation, Training slow learners, How to conduct general orientation effectively, Overview of academic calendar and monthly planning, and Auroshiksha Reports. The team also engaged in reviewing the yearly calendar of their department and finalising the skill set for the first year of the training programme. The Programme concluded with action points and suggestions by Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman, AECS, and Dr. Usha Kim, Regional HR Director, AECS. About 64 participants from all hospitals participated in the workshops.



Dr. Usha Kim and G. Krishna Veni, on the right, gracefully lighting the ceremonial lamp during the inauguration of the TOT workshop



Ariara Velan leading a session during the workshop



Participants' interaction enriching the session



G. Krishna Veni interacting with the MLOPs



Participants of the Life Skill Programmes



Dr. R.D. Ravindran addressing the audience



Dignitaries at the TOT workshop



Participants of the Training of Trainers workshop

TNOA Gurukulam @ 2.1: A Postgraduate Refresher Meet

Aravind-Madurai, 7th April

The Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association (TNOA) organised TNOA Gurukulam @ 2.1: A Postgraduate Refresher Meet in collaboration with the Madurai Ophthalmologists Association (MOA) at Aravind-Madurai. The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Usha Kim, Regional Director of HR, followed by the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. T. Nirmal Fredrick, President of TNOA. The programme featured scientific discussions held in two separate halls to accommodate all registered postgraduates. Eminent faculty from Government and Private Colleges presented exam-oriented lectures, providing valuable insights for postgraduates pursuing degrees in ophthalmology. Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, President of MOA, extended gratitude to the office bearers of TNOA, MOA, and all participants. The symposium garnered significant attendance, with a total of 201 participants, including faculty and postgraduates.



Dr. R.D. Ravindran lighting the ceremonial lamp in the presence of Dr. R. Kim, Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, and Dr. T. Nirmal Fredrick



Engaged attendees during a session at the refresher meet



Dr. T. Nirmal Fredrick addressing the audience



An interactive session



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan honouring Dr. S. Mahesh Kumar



Dr. Usha Kim presenting prizes to the participants



The dignitaries of the Postgraduate Refresher Meet



Dr. S.R. Krishnadas proposing vote of thanks

Inauguration of Thalaivasal Vision Centre

Aravind-Salem, 3rd April

The eighth vision centre of Aravind-Salem, marking the 113th centre for the Aravind Eye Care System, was opened in Thalaivasal, Salem. The centre was inaugurated by Subburaman, Founder, Ayyappan Bhajana Mandali, Dr. Selvam, Chief Doctor, Karthik Nursing Home, Dr. A.K. Ramasamy, Secretary, Bharathiyar College of Education, Jagathesan, President, Attur Aadhavan Lions Club, Chandran and Shankar, representatives from Lions Club. The leadership team of Aravind-Salem, including Dr. B. Manohar Babu, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Salem, Dr. R. Sankarananthan, Medical Consultant, and Dr. Supraja, Medical Consultant, as well as the hospital staff, participated in the inaugural event. On the first day, approximately 97 patients underwent screening at the centre.



The chief guest, Subburaman inaugurating the Thalaivasal Vision Centre



Ceremonial lamp lighting during the inauguration



Dr. B. Manohar Babu extends his gratitude to the invitees



Patients flow on the opening day of Thalaivasal Vision Centre

Inauguration of REMIDIO Fundus Camera

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 5th April

The Remidio fundus camera at the free outpatient section was inaugurated by Dr. R. Ramakrishnan Advisor, Aravind-Tirunelveli, in the presence of Dr. S. Padmavathy, Regional HR Director.



Dr. R. Ramakrishnan inaugurating the Remidio fundus camera



MLOPs operating the new fundus camera

Symposium on Basics of Clinical Perimetry

Aravind-Madurai, 31st March

In observance of World Glaucoma Week, Aravind-Madurai, in collaboration with the Ophthalmologists Association, organised a symposium on the Basics of Clinical Perimetry. Dr. K. Naresh Babu, Chief, Retina Vitreous Services, Aravind-Madurai, welcomed the gathering, and Dr. R. Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Madurai, delivered the inaugural address. The invited guest faculty, Dr. Gudimetla Ramachandra Reddy, Ophthalmologist, Dr. G.R. Reddy Eye Care Centre, Tadepalligudem, Andhra Pradesh, delivered a keynote address on Structure function correlations, and engaged in interactive discussions on complex concepts in Perimetry, being authored the textbook on Perimetry. Additionally, Dr. A. Vijayalakshmi, Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai, discussed the Perimetric interpretation of glaucomatous visual fields. The symposium was attended by a total of 119 participants, including faculty and postgraduates.



Dr. H. Kasthuri Bai lighting the lamp in the presence of Dr. R. Kim, Dr. Gudimetla Ramachandra Reddy, Dr. K. Naresh Babu, and Dr. A. Vijayalakshmi



Dr. K. Naresh Babu proposing the welcome address



Dr. R. Kim delivering the inaugural address



Honouring the guest during the Symposium

World Optometry Week

Aravind-Tirunelveli, 17-23 March

During World Optometry Week from 17 to 23 March, Aravind-Tirunelveli organised a series of programmes and activities. On 19th March, a session on “Newly introduced lenses and troubleshooting” was conducted for both Refractionists and optical staff by Essilor Company.

The following day featured a session titled “Updates in refraction”, organised for optical staff by Ayirathammal, Senior supervisor, Refraction, Selvi, Senior refractionist, and Uma Parvathi, Senior refractionist.

Additionally, on 21st March, a session on “Updates in lenses, frames, and grinding” was organised for refraction staff by Parvathi, Senior optical refractionist, and Ram Karthika, Senior optical staff.

On 22nd March, an awareness exhibition showcasing informative charts and display models was inaugurated by Dr. R. Meenakshi, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind-Tirunelveli, in the presence of Dr. S. Padmavathy, Regional HR Director.

Furthermore, a quiz programme was conducted with enthusiastic participation from Refraction and Optical staff. Additionally, skill and theory exams were held for all Refractionists. Dr. R. Meenakshi and Dr. S. Padmavathy presented the winners with prizes.



A rangoli on the World Optometry Week



Dr. R. Meenakshi inspecting the charts and models at the awareness exhibition



Skills and theory exams for all Refractionists



An informative session for refraction staff

LAICO

Needs Assessment Visit to Shree Jagannath Netralaya Hospital

Odisha, 15-19 March

As part of LEAP- NABH Collaborative series R. Suresh Kumar, Senior Faculty, LAICO, and T. Balaji, Manager, Aravind Eye Hospital, Tirupur conducted a follow-up visit to Shree Jagannath Netralaya (SJN), Bhawanipatna. The main objective of this visit was to initiate and complete the online application process for Healthcare Organization Platform for Entry Level Certification (HOPE), a revision of NABH's current certification process for entry level accreditation. During this visit, the LAICO team conducted a few training sessions for the staff, participated in facility inspection rounds along with the SJN hospital team members, and provided suggestions for implementing certain aspects before the NABH assessment. The hospital plans to submit the NABH application on or before 30th April 2024.

NABH onsite visit to Netaji Eye Hospital

Purulia, 14-17 March

B.S. Ganesh Babu, Senior Faculty, LAICO, and M. Vikky Kumar, Manager, Quality & Inpatient Services, Aravind-Tirunelveli visited the Netaji Eye Hospital, Purulia, West Bengal, as part of the LEAP Collaborative series for fulfilling NABH standards. The purpose of the visit was to assess and provide support for compliance as well as to initiate the application process for NABH accreditation. Following the visit, the team continued to coordinate with the hospital for completing the application process. The hospital submitted the application on 29th March 2024.



M. Vikky Kumar, on the right, engaging with the hospital team during the NABH onsite visit



B.S. Ganesh Babu, and M. Vikky Kumar conducting an inspection of the hospital's infrastructure

Conference Attended

Seminar on Structure - Function Alterations in Glaucoma

Pondicherry, 31st March

Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Senior Medical Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Aravind-Madurai, was invited as a keynote speaker at the Seminar on “Structure-function alterations in glaucoma” held at JIPMER, Pondicherry. He delivered a presentation on the topic, Structure & function testing in glaucoma: Then & now.

Guest Lecture at the Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia University

New York, 4th April



Dr. Haripriya Aravind delivered a guest lecture at the Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia University, New York, on Combining Scale and Quality: The Aravind Way. During the event, she met with Dr. R. Christine Melton, MD, Ophthalmologist, New York, Dr. George Cioffi, Chairman, Department of Ophthalmology, Columbia University, and Dr. Lisa Park, Professor of Ophthalmology, Columbia University.



Dr. Haripriya Aravind, second from the left, with Dr. R. Christine Melton, Dr. George Cioffi, and Dr. Lisa Park, during her visit to Columbia University

50th Anniversary American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS)

Boston, 5-8 April

During the 2024 ASCRS annual meeting, held at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Boston, Massachusetts, United States, Dr. Haripriya Aravind presented a paper on *The Aravind pseudoexfoliation study: Ten year post-operative results*. Additionally, she delivered a few instruction course talks on the following topics:

- *Aravind’s RCT trial on sub conj steroid for cataract surgery*
- *Intracameral Moxi prophylaxis*
- *MSCIS in challenging cases*
- *Management of subluxated hard cataracts*

Publications

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3. Steger JS, Durai I, Odayappan A, Raman R, Sruthi T, Song AJ, Puthuran G, Venkatesh R, Colantuoni E, Robin AL. **An Evaluation of the Efficacy and Safety of Timolol Maleate 0.5% Microdrops Administered with the Nanodropper®.** Ophthalmology. 2024 Mar 14. [Epub] [View more](#)

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5. Senthilkumar VA, Prakash S, Puthuran GV, Uduman MS, Krishnadas SR, Gedde SJ. **Surgical Outcomes of Early Versus Late Onset Glaucoma Associated with Sturge-Weber Syndrome.** J Glaucoma. 2024 Mar 4. [Epub] [View more](#)

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Training

Enrolments for April 2024		
Course title	Training Centre	No. of enrolments
Long Term Fellowship Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
Fellowship in Cornea	Madurai	1
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	1
	Pondicherry	1
Fellowship in General Ophthalmology	Madurai	2
Fellowship in Comprehensive Ophthalmology	Theni	2
Fellowship in Orbit & Oculoplasty	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Retina-Vitreous	Pondicherry	1
	Coimbatore	1
Fellowship in Glaucoma	Madurai	2
Short Term Training Programmes – For Ophthalmologists		
HelpMeSee Simulation-based Training in MSICS	Madurai	2
Phacoemulsification	Coimbatore	2
	Madurai	2
	Pondicherry	1
	Tirunelveli	1
	Tirunelveli	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Coimbatore	1
	Madurai	2
	Chennai	1
Short-Term Training Programs – For Paramedicals		
Ocularist	Madurai	1
Management Courses		
Management Training and Systems Development for Hospital Administrators / Managers	Madurai	7
Eye Bank Courses		
Training in Eye Bank Techniques	Madurai	2
Instrument Maintenance – For Technicians		
Instrument Maintenance – For Technicians	Madurai	6

Statistics

Patient Statistics – March 2024															
Hospitals	Total	Madurai	Tirunelveli	Theni	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Tirupur	Dindigul	Salem	Tuticorin	Udumalpet	CbeCC	Chennai	Tirupati	Kovilpatti
Hospital Out-patient visits															
Paying (New & Review)	2,51,111	55,952	29,557	8,272	31,234	26,033	4,511	9,166	12,164	5,891	4,263	4,367	42,119	14,335	3,247
Free: Direct walk-in (New & Review)	1,00,492	22,754	8,758	2,824	12,533	10,761	2,555	2,295	6,464	1,680	2,503	-	12,675	13,578	1,112
Outreach Out-patients															
Comprehensive Eye Camps	33,548	8,851	3,272	965	5,173	6,520	815	-	1,547	-	135	-	4,639	1,552	79
Diabetic Retinopathy Camps	1,673	882	-	235	556	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Glaucoma Camps	643	-	-	643	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refraction Camp	6,597	921	1,466	934	850	190	-	-	1,104	-	-	-	1,017	115	-
Mobile Refraction Unit	1,450	-	-	-	436	-	-	-	1,014	-	-	-	-	-	-
School Screening	1,891	383	-	77	1,431	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paediatric Eye screening camps	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RoP Screening	1,755	231	251	222	784	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	26	-
Vision Centres	82,705	27,558	15,570	6,307	5,810	16,279	1,785	-	3,961	-	2,018	-	3,417	-	-
Community / City Centres	18,087	9,188	2,817	2,262	-	2,810	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,010	-	-
Total OP Examinations	4,99,952	1,26,720	61,691	22,741	58,807	62,654	9,666	11,461	26,254	7,571	8,919	4,367	65,057	29,606	4,438
Total number of camps	164	36	19	7	29	28	3	-	7	-	1	-	22	11	1
Surgeries															
Cataract	38,446	8,947	3,282	948	4,801	5,300	733	997	2,774	585	1,016	237	5,560	2,887	379
*Other Surgeries	23,207	6,371	2,937	335	4,487	2,669	99	196	701	133	74	154	3,437	1,523	91
Total Surgeries	61,653	15,318	6,219	1,283	9,288	7,969	832	1,193	3,475	718	1,090	391	8,997	4,410	470

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

Archives

Learn more about the happenings at Aravind

April 2024

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