

EYEFLIGHTS

April 2005

Sankara Nethralaya

Number 38

Sankara Ratna for Sri A.M. Naik



Picture: Sri A M Naik, Chairman and Managing Director, Larsen Toubro, receiving Sankara Ratna Award from Sri Surjit Singh Barnala, His Excellency The Governor of Tamil Nadu. Looking on are Richard D Haynes, Consul-General, American Consulate, Chennai(left), and Dr. S S Badrinath, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya.

The Sankara Ratna Award 2004 was bestowed on **Shri A. M. Naik**, Chairman and Managing Director of Larsen & Toubro, in recognition of his outstanding support and most distinguished service to the cause and philosophy of Sankara Nethralaya. His Excellency Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, Governor of Tamilnadu handed over the award to Shri A. M. Naik at a function held on Saturday, February 19, 2005 at KRS Auditorium, Meenakshi College for Women, Kodambakkam, Chennai. This award was instituted in 2002, the Silver Jubilee year of Sankara Nethralaya. It recognises and honours the most distinguished individual or an Institution supporting and contributing to Sankara Nethralaya's mission.

L&T Ltd, headed by Sri. A.M Naik has made significant strides in community welfare with VIKAS - Village Improvement Know-how and Skills. Apart from this, L&T's Health Centre

in Mumbai provides services like immunization programmes, family welfare programmes. L&T also runs a TB clinic free of cost, for the community. L&T, the rapidly emerging knowledge based, premium conglomerate with a global reach has already come forward with a contribution of Rs. 2 million in support of Ocular Pathology Department at Sankara Nethralaya. Lauding Mr. Naik for his initiative in supporting eye care, Dr SS Badrinath outlined the projects supported by Larsen and Toubro, including the operation theatre complex, inaugurated in 1982, the Elite School of Optometry and the C.U.Shah, Shantilal and Vijayalakshmi blocks.

The Governor, Surjit Singh Barnala, stressed upon the importance of the eye donation and responsibility of non-governmental organisations, voluntary bodies and the Health Department in eye care delivery.

Celebration Time



L.C. Dutta Award for Dr. Lingam Gopal

Dr. Lingam Gopal has won the L. C. Dutta Award for best paper of original work done in India and published in the Indian Journal of Ophthalmology. Congratulations! You make us proud!

Milestones



December 15, 2004 marked the first time in the C.U. Shah Eye Bank's history to have received **1000 eyes in a year**. Auxiliary services have taken up the task of improving the awareness of the public about our LASIK services.

Call Us Toll Free At 1-877-EYE-SNOM

If you are based in the US or Canada, please call us toll-free **1-877-EYE-SNOM** (1-877-393-7666) for more information about Sankara Nethralaya. This new service is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m to 4 pm, Eastern Standard Time. We look forward to answering your questions.

Vienna Visit

Dr. S. Bhaskaran, Dr. Rajiv Raman, Dr. Tarun Sharma and Mr. D. Senthil participated in the meeting organized by Eli Lilly Company at Vienna, Austria on January 27 & 28, 2005. The Eli Lilly project is about using Protein Kinase C inhibitor (PKC-inhibitor), and oral drug: Ruboxystaurin Mesylate, 32 mg/day for 3 years and evaluating its role in minimizing the progression of non-clinical significant macular edema. Photographer, Mr. M. S. Krishna has been certified by the Wisconsin Photographic Reading Center for this project. European Optometrist Society has certified Mr. D Senthil. The project started in India on March 10 and results will be ready by 2009.

Quality Eye Care Assured

Sankara Nethralaya, the hospital wing of Medical Research Foundation was the first ophthalmic institution in Asia to get ISO quality certification. The patients who visit the outpatient area or the operating theatres are indeed aware of the stringent quality systems in all aspects of the institution's operations. The Inspecting agency - BVQI - surveyed the hospital in January 2005 and found that it continues to conform fully to those very high standards.



Coming Soon

Indo-Israel Ophthalmic Congress



thy and ARMD.

L. V. Prasad Eye Institute, Aravind Eye Hospital, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati and Shri Ganapati Netralaya, Jalna have joined hands with Sankara Nethralaya to co-host the Congress. **EIVOC**



Elite School of Optometry, part of the Medical Research Foundation, will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in the year 2005. To commemorate

this milestone, there will be an International Conference in Vision Science and Optometry in August 2005. The conference will be the first of its kind in India and will cover a variety of topics such as Myopia, Refraction, Contact Lens, Dispensing, Binocular Vision, Low Vision, Ocular and Retinal Physiology, Ocular Diseases and Management and Tele-Optometry. Several internationally acclaimed researchers and stalwarts of vision science and optometry will participate and present papers in the conference.

In the last 20 years, ESO has been acclaimed internationally as a quality optometry education center. ESO offers B.S., M.Phil, Ph.D in collaboration with BITS, Pilani. For details about the forthcoming conference, please write to eivoc_2005@rediffmail.com or varadharajanESO@rediffmail.com.



SANKARA NETHRALAYA

(A Unit of Medical Research Foundation)

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Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.

14613 Pommel Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 USA Phone No. 301-251-0378 Fax No. 202-673-4333

ANNUAL COMPLIMENTARY COURTESY MASTER EYE CHECK-UP (A C C M E C)

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE OVERSEAS RESIDENT FAMILY PACKAGE (P1 & P2)
Comprehensive eye check-up for aged Parents / In-laws / Uncles / Aunts / other near & dear in India

**P1*. Life time for 2 nominees every year
US \$ 1,000 (One Thousand only)**

**P2*. Single check-up for 2 nominees for a year
US \$ 100 (One Hundred only)**

- Patient Relation Officer will get in touch with the nominee(s), ascertain convenience, arrange consultation, transport / escort, drop back after check-up.
- Courtesy transport with escort provided by Sankara Nethralaya for those in and around Chennai (a distance of within 30 kms)
- Master eye-check up report provided to sponsor on concurrence by the nominee(s)
- If further procedure(s) warranted, on nominee's concurrence, details communicated to sponsor with relevant costing for decision/approval.

To avail of the above service : Mail to acharya@omtrust.org with a copy to donation@sankaranethralaya.org expressing your interest, with your details and that of the nominees as per the tear off slip.

To

S V Acharya

Treasurer,

Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc.,

14613, Pommel Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone : 301-251-0378

email : acharya@omtrust.org cc : donation@sankaranethralaya.org

Date : _____

I am interested in nominating the following persons for the Annual Complimentary Courtesy Master Eye Check-up (ACCMEC) –

P1* / P2* - being organised by Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, India.

Name : 1. _____ 2. _____

Age : 1. _____ 2. _____ Relationship (Father / Mother / Uncle / Aunty / in-laws) 1. _____ 2. _____

Postal Address in India : _____

Tel. No. / Fax No.: _____ Email id : _____

Sponsor Name : _____ Postal Address : _____

Tel. No. / Fax No.: _____ Email id : _____

I am arranging to remit US \$ _____ favoring Sankara Nethralaya OM Trust Inc., towards P1* or P2*.

Thanks

Signature (Name).

* Please tick (✓) your choice.

Paramacharya Aradhana



The 11th Aradhana function for Kanchi Paramacharya Shri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal was performed at Sankara Nethralaya on January 7, 2005. The Paramacharya, fondly called Mahaperiyava, was the 68th Pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

The function started with the invocation being rendered by Sangeetha Kalanidhi Smt. R. Vedavalli. Dr. S. S. Badrinath, Chairman, Sankara Nethralaya, welcomed the gathering and introduced the Chief Guest, Kalyanapuram Sri Aravamudhachar.

The Chief Guest spoke about the greatness of Mahaperiyava and his influence on many people in India and outside. The function came to a close with the rendition of Mythreem Bajatha, a composition of Mahaperiyava, sung by the late Dr. M. S. Subbulakshmi at the United Nations praying for World Peace.

Tribute to Tsunami Victims



Members of the Sankara Nethralaya family are deeply shocked and sincerely condole the uncontrolled and sudden loss of lives in such high proportions in India and neighboring countries in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster. We conducted a solemn ceremony on December 29, 2004 at our hospital and lit a Moksha Deepam (an oil lamp) to pray for all the departed souls. The employees contributed a day's wages and the organization proposed a matching contribution. This amount will be spent towards medical assistance in the likelihood of an epidemic in the affected areas. Employees from Sankara Nethralaya also collected clothes for distribution among the affected living close to the seashore.

ARVO's US-Indo Workshop



US-Indo Team visited Sankara Nethralaya on 15.02.05. They were given a traditional welcome and Chairman gave a presentation "about Sankara Nethralaya". He also mentioned the collaborative areas where we are interested. Dr Paul Sieving gave the concluding remarks. Dr. Paul Kaufman highlighted the topics that would be discussed at the next workshop at Fort Lauderdale.

The idea to bring researchers from the US and India together began in 2002 when individuals at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology gathered to discuss the research opportunities between the US and India. The goal of these programs, funded by a grant awarded in 2004 by the National Eye Institute, is the development of a research plan for collaborative projects incorporating methods for identifying fiscal, scientific and intellectual resources in the US and India that promote collaboration and identifying research areas where there is a need.

Tsunami Relief

The enormity of the sufferings and the dire need for reconstruction help has stirred the world into noble action. Like the proverbial squirrel helping Sri Rama to build the bridge across the ocean, the employees of Sankara Nethralaya mobilized a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs as a donation towards a tsunami relief fund.

It was a matter of strange coincidence that when the NDTV team visited Nagapattinam to cover the havoc, they found a 6-month old baby with an eye problem. The child was brought to us in Chennai for a detailed examination and surgery was performed totally free of cost.

TELEOPHTHALMOLOGY

Our Commitment to the rural India



The rural population of India stands at 72.22%. But the number of ophthalmologists living in the rural areas of the country is only around 25%. Adequate health care therefore, remains a dream for many of the people in the rural areas.

Understanding this need of the people, Sankara Nethralaya, decided to take the "hospital" to the people. In October 2003, Sankara Nethralaya launched its "Teleophthalmology" project.

The key objective of the "Jagadguru Kanchi Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal Teleophthalmology Project" is to take eye care to the doorsteps of those deprived of these facilities. This has been made possible by the mobile van which has a satellite link to the base hospital in Chennai. This project was inaugurated by the Honorable President of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, on October 23, 2003. While ISRO helped us with the communication equipment, Ashok Leyland donated the chassis. With the continued support from philanthropists, we cover the operational expenses for this project.

The Rural Ophthalmology Mobile Unit consists of a fully equipped van with a satellite link to the base hospital in Chennai travels to the villages in the various districts in Tamil Nadu. A thorough examination of the patients is carried out in the villages by optometrists. The patients then undergo a tele-consultation with an ophthalmologist at the base hospital. When a patient requires optical correction (spectacles), he can purchase it at a minimum cost. A person trained in making the spectacles accompanies the van. This ensures that the patient receives his spectacles in his place itself and does not have to travel to the city. A social worker who accompanies the van counsels patients who have been advised further treatment or surgery.

In the last one year we have reached out to over 14,000 poor, by over 200 camps. The van covers about 160 km radius around the city of Chennai. We cover seven districts Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Cudappah, Nellore, and Chittoor. Sankara Nethralaya extends examination, free surgery, post operative care, boarding and spectacles to the rural poor. Comprehensive eye checkups are carried out. Education programs and Awareness sessions on Visual impairment causing conditions are also conducted.



You can partner our out reach program. The cost of conducting a camp for one day in a rural area costs USD 250. Visit <http://www.omtrust.org> to donate online or write to donation@sankaranethralaya.org.

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World Sight Day @ Sankara Nethralaya



The Elite School of Optometry and the C U Shah Rural Eye Hospital facility of Sankara Nethralaya celebrated the World Sight Day on October 14, 2004.

Sankara Nethralaya had an all day counseling and screening happening at the CU Shah Rural Eye Hospital. There were eight stations where information on the eye care and common vision related diseases were discussed. The public got to know more of Cataract, Glaucoma, Diabetic Retinopathy, Refractive error and LASIK, Pediatric eye care, and Computer Vision Care.

A vision screening for over 503 students at the Shriram Primary School, Thiruneermalai was done. A family eye card was given away to the students, to improve their awareness of vision care. At the Rural Eye Hospital, vision screening for 133 was done.

There was a painting competition for school children between 3 PM and 5 PM at the Elite School of Optometry. About 70 children in two age categories under 12 years and above 12 years category participated in the competition. The topic was "Eye and Vision". The paintings depicted themes of eye donation, proper eye care, vision as god's gift to the mankind. All the children received participation certificates, and the Comprehensive Eye Check up brochure.

An awareness program on vision care by distributing hand bills and direct contact with thirteen schools and other companies in that area is also on. The Lions Club Central supported Sankara Nethralaya in conducting the World Sight Day event.

Knowledge Sharing

Dr. E Subramanian, Emeritus Professor of Biophysics, University of Madras gave a guest lecture on December 24, 2004 on the topic of "Managed Care to Molecular Medicine " Bio-Informatics in Clinical Practice."

Newbies

Dr. Narayani Murthy, graduate from Columbia University and the University of Michigan, USA has joined the department of Genetics and Molecular Biology at Sankara Nethralaya.

Mr. H. D. Malesra, Secretary and Chief Accountant of Sir Ratan Tata Trust has joined the Board of Management of Medical Research Foundation on December 28, 2004. Welcome!

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Nethralaya News



Art for Vision... the eye of the Philanthropist

October 15 - 30, 2004

First of its kind Art show was inaugurated by Honorable Finance Minister Mr P Chidambaram in Delhi on October 15, 2004 evening. Acclaimed artists have contributed their works to the exhibition at Lalit Kala Academy Delhi. The site on the show has a printed catalog, the works so that it is possible for the corporate to take a look at the gallery. The picturesque site www.artforvision.org supported the philanthropic event online.

The inaugural function was followed by a Violin concert by the brother-sister duo Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Lalgudi Vijayalakshmi. On October 16, 2004 there was a get together organized for the SN alumni residing in Delhi.

EVC & DVC

Executive Vision Care (EVC) is a method developed by SN to bring comprehensive eye examination at the workplace, for the professionals at the corporate level. More than 1,300 professionals from Lister Metropolis, Cognizant Technology Solutions India Pvt. Ltd, Urjita Electronics, Ashok Leyland Finance Limited, IndusInd Bank and Tata Honeywell benefited with EVC in December alone.

Drivers Vision Checkup (DVC) has begun at Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya. On the first day alone 25 drivers from Ashok Leyland came in to have their eyes examined. Ms. Akila, Head of Auxiliary Services can be contacted at akila@sankaranethralaya.org regarding EVC & DVC.

"Mrs. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture Oration"



World-renowned ophthalmic genetist, Dr. Irene H Maumenee, Professor of Ophthalmology and pediatrics at the Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute, John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, USA delivered the Mrs. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture Oration on congenital Lebers amaurosis. The lecture was held in Hotel Le Royal Meridien, Chennai and was attended by at least 200 guests. The lecture was extremely informative and was followed by lots of questions and interaction.

Institute of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology

The opportunities for Sankara Nethralaya Institute of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology appear to be becoming brighter with every such interaction. We have had a few distinguished visitors recently at Sankara Nethralaya.

Dr. Colin Blakemore, Head of Medical Research Council, United Kingdom visited the hospital and the research laboratories on January 6, 2005. He expressed interest in carrying out epidemiology and clinical trials in collaborative research projects with Vision Research Foundation.

Dr. Niranjana Viswanathan, an American Board certified Pediatrician with post doctoral experience in Molecular Biology visited Sankara Nethralaya on January 9, 2005. He gave an interesting presentation about clinical research contract organization and site monitoring organization.

Dr. Nathan Ravi, a polymer scientist and ophthalmologist and Dr. Fischer, an ophthalmologist visited Sankara Nethralaya on January 3rd and 4th, 2005. Dr. Nathan Ravi spoke on Nano-medicines in Ophthalmology.

Dr. David Zee, an eminent neurologist from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, United States visited Sankara Nethralaya on January 10, 2005. Dr. Zee gave an exhilarating presentation on "Nystagmus and Ocular Oscillations" which was very informative and interesting.

Dr. Brian Anderson, Associate Professor, Paediatric Anaesthetist & Intensivist, Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand, visited our institution on October 1, 2004. He was taken around the various departments including Anaesthesiology, Genetics and Paediatric Ophthalmology. He was very impressed with the hospital and happy to see how well modern western methods are being adapted to the Indian scenario. He was here to deliver the Vth millennium oration on Pitfalls in Sedation & Analgesia in the PICU during the Paediatric Critical Care Conference organized by the Kanchi Kamakoti Child's Trust Hospital on October 3, 2004. He interacted with members of the Anaesthesiology department.

Nethralaya News

Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya Expansion



A new operation theater to serve thousands of patients in South Chennai was inaugurated at Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya. Over 250 people attended the inauguration and Dr M.A.M.Ramaswamy, Pro Chancellor, Annamalai University was the Chief Guest. Dr.S.S.Badrinath, Chairman, Dr K.Ravishankar, CEO and Dr.T. S. Surendran, Vice Chairman were present.

Dr. Ashok Rangarajan briefed those present about the facilities at Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya. He said, "In addition of the operation theater, the center has become a one-stop solution for all cataract patients. All services for cataract surgeries including laboratory services and physician check up are offered under one roof so that patients can be admitted, go through surgery and be discharged on the same day.

Republic Day Celebrations



Mr. A.S.Krishnamurthy, Retired Deputy Controller and Auditor General of India, was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations at Sankara Nethralaya. Ten-year service awards to the employees and merit scholarships for employees children were distributed on the occasion.

TOLL FREE Help Line
For Eye Donation Call
24 x 7 1919

Service available for places within CHENNAI

IntraKNIT

Sankara Nethralaya has always kept its focus on continually improving the delivery of services to our patients. As a part of such ongoing efforts, we have taken up another major initiative to improve our internal communication - INTRANET!

The institution's intranet was formally inaugurated on January 26, 2005 enabling the flow of internal information in a more efficient manner. To make it effective, we made sure our employees were trained on the new system.

Philanthropy from Insurance Company

United India Insurance gave Rupees three lacs to Sankara Nethralaya, sponsoring a room. Mr V Jagannathan, Chairman UII, and team came to our facility and handed over the check to our Vice chairman, Dr T S Surendran on October 18, 2004.

Hello Ungalludan

Dr SS Badrinath participated in a one hour live show called 'Hello Ungalludan' in Podhigai TV channel that has a wide reach. The questions on different facets of vision care were responded to with a lot of understanding and compassion by our Chairman.

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DONATION SCHEME	AMOUNT IN USD*
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1. One time on a designated date

Single Cataract Surgery	50 \$
Single Major Surgery such as Retina, Glaucoma	175 \$

2. Single day free service

40 Surgeries per day	2,000 \$
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3. Year after year on a designated date

Single Free Cataract Surgery	500 \$
Single major Surgery (Retina, Glaucoma)	1,750 \$

4. Dedication scheme

A bed in General ward	2,200 \$
A Room	6,500 \$ to 11,000 \$
An Operation theater	35,000 \$

5. Tele-ophthalmology

A single day screening of 200 rural poor for vision care	250 \$
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6. Corpus Fund

For Community outreach program	Any amount
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*100% IRS Tax exempted in US IRS Registered 501 (C)(3)

*A scheme for every occasion
Share and Celebrate with us*



Keep in Touch

write to us at
eyelights@sankaranethralaya.org
to learn about the activities of
Sankara Nethralaya.
Please send us your mail address to
receive a copy of Eyelights.

Nethralaya's CORPUS FUND

Medical Research Foundation is a charitable, not-for-profit organization committed to Community Ophthalmology, providing comprehensive free eye care to the urban and rural poor.

- 1 **AIM** : To create a Corpus Fund.
- 1 **AMOUNT** : 120 million Rupees (US\$ 2.7 million) in Phase 1.
- 1 **PLAN** : To provide high quality inpatient free eye care surgery to the economically poor in India, out of the interest earned.
- 1 **GOOD NEWS** : Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai has evaluated our program to perform 10,000 such free surgeries every year perennially, found it acceptable and is considering to part fund of the corpus. The first and second contribution to the fund came from Sankara Nethralaya consultants and employees. The Alumni of Nethralaya have also made a contribution.

How You Can Help Us

Donation of USD 1000/- to Medical Research Foundation

- 1 **TAX EXEMPT** : Donations are now 100% tax Exempt as per Section 35 AC of the Income Tax Act, India. In USA, donations to SN OM Trust are 100% IRS tax exempt.

Contribution Details

For questions about tax exempt status and contributions, please contact :



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The issue of Eyelights is sponsored by : **M/s. Alcon Laboratories**, Bangalore
Warren Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai

Micro Vision, Bangalore
M/s. Apex Laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Chennai

Edited & Designed by Dr.Rajiv Raman Typeset by A.L.Senthilkumar. Printed at Gnanodaya Press, Chennai - 600 034

For Private Circulation only