Sankara Nethralaya Expands Oncology Services in MOU with Apollo Hospitals

Sankara Nethralaya’s new centre at R. A. Puram
Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai is happy to announce that we are expanding our services for patients by joining hands with Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC), Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. This collaboration with Apollo Proton Cancer Centre will enable us to provide patients with equitable care and a better quality of life. Sankara Nethralaya believes in providing all our patients with equitable eye care without any discrimination. Dr. Girish S. Rao, President of Medical Research Foundation signed the Memorandum of Understanding on 1st July, 2021 with Preetha Reddy, the Executive Vice Chairperson of the Apollo Hospitals Group. They were joined by Dr. T. S. Surendran, Vice Chairman and Director of Paediatric Ophthalmology, Dr. Ronnie George, President and Director of Research, Director of Glaucoma Services, Dr. Ambika S., Director of Neuro – Ophthalmology, and Dr. Suganeswari, Senior Consultant, along with Mr. Suresh Kumar P., General Manager. Through this MoU patients will get access to surgery modalities and neurosurgical procedures at affordable rates for treating eye cancers. This includes Intra-arterial chemotherapy (IAC) for pediatric intraocular tumours like retinoblastoma.

Proton therapy, a novel radiation therapy treatment, is considerably more comfortable for the patient as it focuses more energy on the tumour itself with less radiation to surrounding healthy tissue, compared to other methods. Sankara Nethralaya treats patients with rare cancers of the eye and is constantly researching advanced treatment methods for patients’ benefits.

This joint effort will open up Proton Therapy for our patients who would otherwise be unable to access this treatment method.
UV safety awareness happens every year in the month of July, promoted by organizations including the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs emphasizing the health impact of UV on body and eye. The campaign also works on educating people about effective and appropriate UV protection.

The Occupational Optometry Services of Sankara Nethralaya aimed to cater awareness to their employees and patients through interactive sessions, where they can participate and gain knowledge. To encourage their participation both employees and the public were rewarded, sponsored by Essilor, India #SeemoreDomore. Employees from various departments / centers participated in the event. The fun filled learning contests was conducted for 3 weeks displaying the themes: Basics of UV, causes & effects and finally the protection from UV. Amidst the busy work life a total of 60 responses were received and creative posters were prepared by employees explaining the aspects of UV and protection against the effects. For awareness to patients, danglers with UV safety information were hanged on all the OPD areas.

The winners chosen by lucky draw were awarded with Photochromatics and Sun glasses sponsored by Essilor. All the participants were given a cap as symbol of UV protection.

### UV Safety Awareness Highlights

#### Sankara Nethralaya’s UV Safety champions of July 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Winners name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pen It To Win It</td>
<td>Mr. Jeyasoorya</td>
<td>ESO-Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun-maze &amp; Uv connection</td>
<td>Ms. Porkodi</td>
<td>Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Vijayalakshmi A</td>
<td>Optometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Block Around The Clock</td>
<td>Ms. Mayuri</td>
<td>Opticals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Poster Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contest</th>
<th>Winners name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poster Participants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Vinoth Kumar</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Swetha</td>
<td>Histopathology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Usha V</td>
<td>Patient Services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Wadke Vidya Arunkumar</td>
<td>Ophthalmologist – SNK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Sankara Nethralaya conducted a Blood Donation Campaign on 16th August 2021, to mark India’s 75th Independence Day. The blood donation drive was conducted in association with Voluntary Health Services, Adyar. The drive was organized on the 3rd floor, Mahyco Block.

Our Blood Donation Campaign in association with VHS has been a long-standing tradition of service to the community. Sankara Nethralaya staff have always enthusiastically participated in the campaign and this year too, many donors came forward.

We convey our heartfelt appreciation to each one of you for setting aside time in your hectic schedule and donating blood for someone in need.
Seeking Sri Maha Periyava’s Blessings with A Ganapathi Homam Performed at Sankara Nethralaya’s new centre at R. A. Puram

Seeking His Holiness Jagadguru Maha Periyava’s’ blessings, a Ganapathi Homam was conducted at Sankara Nethralaya’s newest centre in R. A. Puram early on 12th July, 2021 between 4:30 am to 6:00am.

Mr Rajesh Bassi and Dr. Shikha Bassi, In Charge, Sankara Nethralaya R.A.Puram branch, and Deputy Director Neuro-Ophthalmology department took Sankalpam and performed the puja on behalf of Sankara Nethralaya family.

The puja was attended by Dr. Girish S. Rao, the President of Medical Research Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr. T. S. Surendran, Vice Chairman and Director of Paediatric Ophthalmology, Dr. Sripriya Krishnamurthy, Director, Department of General Ophthalmology, Dr. Suganeswari Ganesan, Senior Consultant, Vitreoretina and Oncology services, Dr. V. V. Jaichandran, Anaesthetist, Dr. Sharanya Sarah Abraham, Associate Consultant, Department of Uvea, and Dr. Srivalli Kaza, Senior Consultant, Department of General Ophthalmology.

Mr. and Mrs. V. Sriram, who came forward to offer their house for SN’s mission, were also present. We are grateful to the kind-hearted, service-oriented couple who are helping us to continue serving the community.

Spread out over 6,000 sqft, the new branch has a ‘state of art’ operation theatre (OT) equipped for advanced technology cataract surgery, and an Outpatient setup equipped with a Humphrey Visual Field Analyser, YAG laser, orthoptics, Contact lens department, optical outlet, Pharmacy and Laboratory service. Comprehensive eye care, with other speciality services like Glaucoma, Uvea, Squint and Paediatric ophthalmology, Oculoplasty, Neuro-ophthalmology and Medical Retina are offered at R.A Puram SN. The branch is an ambulatory care facility offering the same quality of service as our apex facility in a cosy setting to our patients closer to their homes.

Due to the prevailing pandemic situation, the Homam had only a small physical gathering while many joined on the Zoom platform.
Devotional Flute Concert Fundraiser A Grand Success

Sankara Nethralaya (SN) is a non-profit charity organization providing ophthalmic (eye) care throughout India. For the last four decades, SN has treated millions of patients.

Sankara Nethralaya USA (SN USA) was formed in the USA thirty years ago so NRIs could contribute to the mission of SN. SN USA, based in the USA, has received the highest rating of four stars by Charity Navigator for maintaining financial accountability and fiscal transparency for funds donated by donors and how they are utilized towards the stated cause.

Every year, Sankara Nethralaya USA organizes Indian classical dance and music programs in various cities to raise awareness and raise funds. Because of the pandemic, all programs have been conducted virtually.

As part of our mid-year campaign, Kalaratna Vidwan Flute Nagaraju Talluri gave a devotional flute music concert on July 25th, 2021. He performed the following songs:

- Maha Ganapateem - Lord Ganesh
- Adivo Alladivo - Annamayya
- Janani Janani - Tamil song by Ilayaraja
- Shyam Teri Bansi- Hindi- Lata Mangeshkar
- Bhagyada Laxmi Baaramma- Kannada
- Tandanaanaa Hare - Annamayya
- Payoji Maine Raam Ratan Dhan Payo - Hindi - Meera bhajan
- Harivaraasanam – a popular Malayalam song for Ayyappa Swami first sung by Shri K. J. Yesudas
- Shankara Nada Sharirapara - SPB - Sankarabharanam
- Sathyam Shivam Sundaram - Hindi - Lata Mangeshkar

Sankara Nethralaya executive committee members - President Emeritus S V Acharya, President Bala Reddy Indurthi, Vice President Moorthy Rekapalli, Secretary Srinivas Ganagoni, Treasurer Banumati Ramkrishnan, Joint Secretary Sowmiya Narayanan, Joint Treasurer Raja Krishnamurti, and Past President Leela Krishnamurthy appealed the audience through TV channels to support the cause and help indigent blind patients in India.

- Virtual music concert was broadcasted in the following major channels:
  - ManaTV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g52jaxiPe1I
  - TVAsia Telugu: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVEzgUI8nmk
  - Saakshi TV: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWKhCEjTOVO
  - TV5: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtHjP2nthGQ
  - GNN: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxXoGUQzCVk

Viewers thoroughly enjoyed the concert and Sankara Nethralaya midyear campaign raised significant amount to restore the vision to many indigent blind patients in India. Kudos to the fundraising team, philanthropists, and the community for their unconditional support.

- President Bala Reddy Indurthi, President Emeritus SV Acharya thanked all the Trustees and Volunteers who are working selflessly to restore vision for indigent patients. Vice President Moorthy Rekapalli thanked the efforts of Sankara Nethralaya USA and the service of NRIs. President of Sankara Nethralaya India, Dr. Girish Rao elaborated various services provided by Nethralaya to the needy people during pandemic.
Special Discussion with Sri S. V. Acharya, President Emeritus, SN USA on Mana TV International HD

The Founder of Sankara Nethralaya USA, Mr. S. V. Acharya and his wife Mrs. Nirmala Acharya were interviewed by Mana TV and the interview was broadcasted by ManaTV on July 23rd, 2021. Mr. & Mrs. Acharya spoke about their meeting with SN Founder Living Legend, Padma Bhushan Dr. S. S. Badrinath, their involvement with SN and the growth of Sankara Nethralaya USA during past 33 years.

Please click here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0788IoUDVpA to view the interview. We thank Leela Krishnamurthy and Narayan Reddy Indurthi for coordinating musical concerts and the walkathon event in Houston TX.

For more information and to donate please visit us at https://www.sankaranethralayausa.org

If you like to donate using PayPal please click the following link: https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1769240

*Special thanks to Shyam Appali, Prameela Gopu, Suresh Kumar, Theagarajan, and Sunita Doss for their assistance in organizing this program and taking care of technical aspects to present the content in different channels.

*Thanks are due to K.G. Venkatraman, Krishnaraj Bhat, Dr. Raj Modi, Dr. Reddy Urimindi, Srini Vangimalla, Shankar Setty, Jagannath Vedula, Narayan Indurthi, Upendra Rachupally, Rajasekhar Aila, Ravi Maraka, and Prasad Rani for promoting the event in social media, and TV channels.

*Thanks, are also due to media partners ManaTV, TVAsia Telugu, SakshiTV, TV5, GNN, US1, and Tori for promoting Sankara Nethralaya activities.

*If you have any questions, feel free to reach our committee members at the following link: https://www.sankaranethralayausa.org/committee-members.html*
Sri Nathella Sampathu Chetty Clinical Laboratory Unit of Medical Research Foundation
Installation of New Equipment
DXH 560- Small And Mighty From Beckman Coulter

DxH 560
The compact 5 part differential autoloader Hematology Analyzer with effective clinical sensitivity, low sample volume (17µL), increased throughput has been successfully installed in Department of clinical Hematology and Clinical pathology.

DxH 800
This machine will be serving as a standby equipment for the existing higher version DxH 800 (with automated slide makes and stainer)

Dr. S. Vasanthi Badrinath (Lab Advisor, SNSC Clinical lab) did the honor of inaugurating the equipment on 8/7/21. This is the first equipment of its kind to be installed in Tamil Nadu at Sri Nathella Sampathu Chetty Clinical laboratory Medical Research Foundation.
Community Activities of the Elite School of Optometry

A Comprehensive Eye Screening for people in Old age home

Screening camps for adults generally concentrate on checking vision and a preliminary assessment for cataract. But GOOD study (Geriatric Outreach and Ocular Diagnosis) ensures that the comprehensive evaluation provided inside the hospital premises is available at the old age homes. The first Home that was covered under this project was Sri Sathya Narayana Charitable Trust, Nanmangalam, conducted on the 15th of August 2021.

The services included:

a) A detailed history of the patient's ocular and systemic conditions  
b) Screening and testing for refractive errors (Need for spectacles)  
c) Screening for other ocular problems like cataract, Conjunctival and corneal degenerations  
d) Screening for the "Silent killers of sight" - glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy

Other Activities

1. Screening for general health conditions  
2. Questionnaire on cognitive assessment and visual function assessment  
3. Fun activities with the inmates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report on the screening</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of People Screened</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Given Spectacles</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Referrals</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataract</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornea</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glaucoma</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oculoplasty</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posterior Capsular Opacity</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retina</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squint</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuro</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SNEHAM: (Sankara Nethralaya Eye Hospital Anjali to Mahatma)

SNEHAM is a special community project aimed at the villages of Thiruvannamalai. This unique project was started in 2020 commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma. Comprehensive vision screening for three villages in Thiruvannamalai district included the provision of free spectacles, surgical services and other specialty services to the villagers.

Highlight of the camp included provision of services by stationing in every village for 3-4 days, in person distribution of spectacles, and choice of surgical services either at Chennai or our secondary centre, Suraj Sankara Nethralaya at Thiruvannamalai.
Help a Poor Person Regain His Sight

Dear Well-wisher,

Warm greetings from Sankara Nethralaya,

I hope you and your family are safe during these difficult times. With the country still recovering from the second wave of the Covid19 pandemic, not-for-profit organizations like ours are especially vulnerable as we don’t collect payment for any of our eye care services to the needy.

While the second wave has been ravaging our nation, we have put in place rigorous guidelines to protect our patients as well our frontline workers and staff who are in close contact with patients and their caregivers. Patients, caretakers, doctors, nurses and frontline staff are provided with Government regulation PPE kits. Our attention to the safety of those we serve and employ means the burden on our resources is under severe strain.

We had slowly gotten back to our normal patient flow after the initial lockdown and the second wave struck. Sankara Nethralaya does not believe in over-charging our paying patients in order to subsidise our community efforts. Every one of our patients who come to us is treated equally. Your support would go a long way in improving existing infrastructure and adapting it to the prevailing Covid-19 requirements.

We thank you once again for your support in our mission to provide quality treatment and look forward to your most timely support for upgrading our ophthalmic facilities during these difficult times. Your help and support is vital in the mission to shine a light in the lives of so many blind people and raise them out of poverty.

With warm regards and best wishes

Dr. Girish S. Rao
President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation Schemes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 5,000 - 1 cataract surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 17,500 - 1 major surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 20,000- Rural Tele-ophthalmology camp - 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 20,000 - Rural school screening camp - 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 20,000- Rural Tele-ophthalmology camp - 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 2,00,000 - approximately 40 surgeries per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rs. 10,00,000 - Naming a room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Corpus fund for community outreach programs : Any Amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Eye Surgical Unit Rural Camp - 10 Days - Rs. 8,75,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donate Online: https://www.supportsankaranethralaya.org/ssndonation/Donate-Now.aspx
Reach us at

Sankara Nethralaya - Main Campus
Old No,18, New No.41, College Road, Chennai - 600 006.
Ph: 044-2827 1616, 4227 1500

Jagadguru Kanchi Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Nethra Nilayam
21, Pycrofts Garden Road, Chennai - 600 006. Ph: 044-2827 1616, 4227 1500

Elite School of Optometry (ESO) & The Sankara Nethralaya Academy (TSNA)
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Ph: 044-2234 9209 (ESO) / Ph: 044-4908 6000 (TSNA)

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Please mail your feedback to us at
eyelights@snmail.org

Join our Mission for Vision

DONATION SCHEME AMOUNT IN INR

1. One time on a designated date
Single Cataract Surgery Rs. 5,000
Single Major Surgery such as Retina, Glaucoma Rs. 17,500

2. Single day free service
Approximately 40 Surgeries per day Rs.2,00,000

3. Year after year on a designated date for 12 years
Single Free Cataract Surgery Rs.50,000
Single major Surgery (Retina, Glaucoma) Rs.1,50,000

4. Tele-ophthalmology
Sponsoring the Tele-ophthalmology camp for one day Rs.20,000

5. Corpus Fund
For Community outreach program Any amount

6. Mobile Eye Surgical Unit
Rural Camp - 10 Days Rs. 8,75,000

7. Naming a room
Rs.10,00,000

Kindly draw your cheques in favour of “Medical Research Foundation”
Donations are exempt under Section 80G

For more details, contact
Ms. Kavitha B,
Manager, Resource Mobilization
Sankara Nethralaya
e-mail: donation@snmail.org
Ph: 044-28202448, 044-28271616 (extn - 1438)
Websites : www.sankaranethralaya.org,
www.supportsankaranethralaya.org,

Insight- A passion for compassion
Read a great book, fulfill a greater cause!
We seek your kind patronage for 'Insight' the poignant narration of Sankara Nethralaya's growth to a world class humanitarian eye care institution and success of a social enterprise by noted biographers Shri. George Skarias, Shri. VV.Ranganathan and Ms Meera Prasad, with interesting inputs from eminent personalities. 'Insight' is a most enjoyable and informative book and a wonderful gifting option for all age groups and occasions. Entire sales proceeds go towards providing cost free eye care to the poor and needy. Please pick your copy of this great literary work of compassion at the SN main centre, Higginbotham’s and Rasi Silk emporiums at Anna Nagar, Mylapore and Nanganallur.

Happy
Vijayadashi
Start the practice of eye health care on this auspicious day!
Healthy eyes are worth more than gold!