Station Director of the Madras Atomic Power Station pays glowing tributes to the Mobile Eye Surgical Team

Sankara Nethralaya organizes a high power international meet on genetics and genomes
Global body chooses expert from Sankara Nethralaya to lead its Asia Pacific region

Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan, Head of the Contact Lens Centre, Sankara Nethralaya and Assistant Professor, Elite School of Optometry, has been appointed as the 'Asia Pacific Regional President' of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE), the global educational organization dedicated to raising the standard of contact lens education worldwide and promote the widespread and safe use of Contact lens.

High recognition from BITS Pilani

Dr.Vinita Kumari, Junior Scientist, SN ONGC Department of Genetics & Molecular Biology has successfully completed her viva voce examination on the Ph.D thesis titled "Association Study, Analysis for Genetic and Environmental Interaction of Variants in Candidate Genes for Inflammation (ICAM-1, CFH) and Neuroprotection (PEDF, EPO) in Type 2 Diabetic Retinopathy Patients from South India" on 8th January 2016 at BITS, Pilani under the supervision of Dr. S.Sripriya, Associate Professor from SN ONGC Department of Genetics & Molecular Biology.

Researcher at SN ONGC Dept of Genetics bestowed doctorate

Ms SathyaPriya, Ph.D Scholar from SN ONGC Department of Genetics has successfully defended her Ph.D thesis titled "Homozygosity mapping based genetic analysis of autosomal recessive families affected by Bardet-Biedl syndrome in Indian population" through the Viva Voce examination conducted on 22nd January 2016 at SASTRA University, Thanjavur. Her guide was Dr. S.Sripriya, Associate Professor of SN ONGC Department of Genetics & Molecular Biology..

SN's L&T Microbiology Researcher bestowed doctorate

Dr. A.R. Rajalakshmy, Ph.D Scholar from L & T Microbiology Research Centre has successfully defended Viva Voce examination for her Ph.D thesis titled "Molecular Immunology of Ocular Manifestations and Neuroinvasion of Hepatitis C Virus: Immune Response Against Virus and Viral Antigens" conducted on 15th February 2016 at SASTRA University, Thanjavur. Her guide was Dr. H.N. Madhavan, Director of L&T Microbiology Research Centre.
Station Director of the Madras Atomic Power Station pays glowing tributes to the Mobile Eye Surgical Team

The Sri V.D. Swami auditorium at the Sankara Nethralaya came live to a lot of jubilation and adulatory observations on the institution's revolutionary community ophthalmology initiative by senior officials of the Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) Kalpakkam, on the 6th of April 2016. The occasion was the felicitation and honouring of the team operating the 'Mobile Eye Surgical Unit,' which had performed a high number of Cataract surgeries, benefiting villagers surrounding the Kalpakkam plant, as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Power Station.

Welcoming the audience Dr P.S.Rajesh, Head of the MESU complimented his teammates for their 'Sankara Nethralaya Spirit'. Speaking on an emotional note Chief Guest Shri Ravi Satyanarayana, the Station Director of the facility expressed that the selfless spirit by the MESU team filled him with an unshakeable belief and faith that 'India will grow and prosper' with its future in the hands of such spirited and committed young men. Sharing his views Shri K.Suresh, Superintendent Quality Assurance and Convenor CSR Committee, MAPS underlined that the MESU camp helped in endearing its institution with the local community and enhanced its image as a humane institution going beyond atomic power generation and management of energy. The event witnessed the honouring of every member of the MESU team comprising of camp in-charge, operation theatre staff, maintenance staff, IT support staff, nurses, anaesthetists, Fellows, drivers of the unit and Consultants, with a plaque by the Chief Guest Shri Ravi Satyanarayana, Station Director, Madras Atomic Power Station.

Thanking the senior officials of the MAPS and the Korean Consul General to Chennai for gracing the occasion Dr. SS.Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya, observed that it was most heartening to note that the MAPS and its officials have spent their time and resources in conducting such a noble camp.

Sankara Nethralaya organizes an international meet on genetics and genomes

Vision Research Foundation (VRF) the research arm of Sankara Nethralaya hosted the 41st Indian Society of Human Genetics, Annual meeting and international Conference (ISHG 2016) at the Lady Andal Auditorium (SMVRC Hall), Chetpet, Chennai from 3rd March to 5th March, 2016.

The conference titled “Celebrating Genetics- the Human Way” aimed at understanding the various facets of human genetic diseases with the recent technological advancements. The program included sessions on Cardiac genetics, Epigenetics, Immuno-genetics, Neuro-genetics, Nutrigenomics, Ayurgenomics, Oculogenetics, Oncogenetics, Pediatric genetics, Pharmaco & Personalized genetics, Population genetics and Systems Biology.

Extending a warm welcome to the gathering Dr. A.J.Pandian, HOD, Genetics Department, expressed that the 3 day event would be an exciting forum to exchange and understand cutting edge research in genetics. Speaking on the occasion Dr T.Ramasami distinguished researcher and former Science and Technology secretary to the government of India expressed that the ISHG-2016 would be a wonderful opportunity for researchers working in the realm of genetics to come together and find solutions for diseases at a molecular level and through an integrated approach.

Delivering the keynote address on the topic 'Human genetics and the prospects of preventive medicine' Chief Editor of highly respected science journal 'Nature Genetics' Dr. Myles Axton explained that the salient feature of genetics is that it helps to understand the impact of genes in specific local groups and then compare and deduce the same at a macro level. the event turned out to be highly exciting for the participants in terms of knowledge acquisition, combined with some great cultural events.
Sankara Nethralaya hosts “Inflammatio” an electrifying International Colloquium on Uvea

‘Inflammatio’ the premier global colloquium on “Intraocular Inflammatory diseases” started off at a glittering function at the Sri V D Swami Auditorium on 18th March 2016 with a mellifluous rendition of the invocation by Dr Manideepa, Fellow at the Pediatric Ophthalmology department. Organising Secretary, Dr. Mamta Agarwal in her introduction to the conference hailed that the international colloquium would throw open discussions on challenging cases of Uveitis and promote interaction with other specialities. Eminent Ophthalmologist Dr. Narsing Rao, Professor of Ophthalmology and Pathology, Keck School of Medicine and Director of Uveitis Service, Los Angeles, USA, in his greeting message wished the program a grand success.

Delivering the guest of honour address, Prof James Rosenbaum, the Edward E Rosenbaum Professor of Inflammatory Diseases; Chair, Division of Arthritis & Rheumatic Diseases; Professor of Ophthalmology, Medicine and Cell Biology; Head, Uveitis Clinic; Director, Inflammation Research; at the Oregon Health & Science University, discussed the Pitfalls, Progress, promises and challenges in Uveitis care and how technological advances over the last 30 years made tremendous impact on management/treatment of Uveitis.

'World Optometry Day' observed by the Elite School of Optometry

As part of World Optometry Day celebration 118 students of Elite School of Optometry, academic arm of Sankara Nethralaya accompanied by 4 faculty members and an administrator visited a tribal village named Karumanthurai, in the inaccessible Kalvarayan hills in Salem district. The team spent 4 days from the 28th of February to 2nd of March 2016, engaging in various eye care related activities with the socially and economically backward population who had little access to quality Medicare.

Highlights of the event:

* 12 student teams comprising of 122 members screened a total of 3,666 students across 13 schools in a single day (29-02-2016) between 9.30 am and 4.15 pm, under the guidance of Dr. R Krishna Kumar, Principal and Ms N Anuradha, Lecturer and Vision Screening Coordinator.

* The ESO team installed a self testing, illuminated chart in the main market area of the village for creating awareness among the public about their vision status and enabling them to test their eye power with ease.

* In an initiative to create awareness about Presbyopia, a bank and the local post office were provided with three sets of reading glasses with instructions for the public to use the same whenever they visit these places to check if they had symptoms of this ailment.

As a gesture of affection, ESO donated comic books to the Saraswathy Vidya Mandir School Library. Shri Nandakumar, Joint Commissioner, Income tax inaugurated the event and gave a motivational talk to ESO students on 28th Feb 2016.

An Auspicious Prelude to the Inaugural of a State-of the Art Facility

The 'Temple of the Eye' rose gloriously to Acharya’s call by stretching its wings of service over the erstwhile Wellingdon hospital premises, paving way for the Sri A. Sivasailam Block, a State of the Art eye care facility.

At a ceremonial function, under the auspices of the Junior Pontiff of Kanchi Mutt, Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal amidst chanting of Vedas, the couple, Dr. Prema Padmanabhan, Director – Special projects and Sri Padmanabhan performed the Ganapathi, Navagraha and Vastu Homams on Thursday, 21st April 2016. Chief Donors to the Sri A. Sivasailam Block, distinguished Smt Mallika Srinivasan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, TAFE and her family took part in the ceremony with great enthusiasm.
A high level deliberation throws light on an intriguing area of eye care

Sankara Nethralaya’s neuro-ophthalmology department conducted a 'Symposium in Neuro ophthalmology: Afferents Plus Efferents' (SYNAPSE 2K16) a high level interactive platform for Neuro-opthalmologists, ophthalmologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, researchers and students to meet, explore, debate and exchange information, knowledge and real-time cases. The presence of internationally acclaimed professionals like Dr. Andrew Lee, Dr. Prem Padmanabhan, Dr. Clement Tan, Dr. Dan Milieu, Dr. Sharon Tow, Dr. G. Arjundas, Dr. Vivek Lal, Dr. Lekha Pandit, Dr. Suresh Bapu, Dr. Sidharth Ghosh, Dr. Lingam Gopal, Dr. Deepak Arjundas, and Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhalu underlined the significance of the meet.

The inaugural of the two day meet was graced by Professor Bala Balachandran, Founder of the world renowned Great Lakes University in India. Delivering the welcome address Dr. S. Ambika, Senior Consultant, Neuro-Opthalmology Department explained that the objective of the meeting was to explore and study the best practices in neuro-ophthalmology, which she likened to an Alfred Hitchcock mystery. Speaking on the occasion Dr. Smitha Praveen, Senior Consultant described Dr. Bala Balachandran as a most inspiring academician with a LSD quotient (Lakshmi-Profit, Saraswathi-Knowledge and Durga-Power). Professor Andrew Lee recalled his association with Sankara Nethralaya dating back to year 2002 and enthralled the audience with an audio-visual presentation titled 'You are the hero of your own life'.

Speaking on the topic 'Technology in Healthcare Management and Data Analysis' Dr. Bala Balachandran emphasized that in an increasingly demanding world one has to be distinct or extinct, adding that in a world of emerging disruptive technologies it is imperative for healthcare providers to adapt themselves to the latest technology, he highlighted that in a world of uberization, it is critical for healthcare institutions to adapt to corporate practices like mergers, strategic alliances, technology, cyber security and seek the expertise of intermediaries and money managers, like any other enterprise, to survive and succeed in an extremely competitive marketplace.

The high power event came to a close with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Shikha Talwar Bhassi, Senior Consultant, Sankara Nethralaya.

A company synonymous with vibrant colours chooses 'harvesting' of colourless 'fluid of life' to give back to society.

As an institution committed to the conservation and optimum usage of natural resources, Sankara Nethralaya commissioned 'Rain Water Harvesting' systems (RWH) at six locations within its main campus, to effectively capture and store rainwater for future use. The project was sponsored by ‘Asian Paints’ India’s leading manufacturer of paints for decorative and industrial purposes, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and executed by Akash Ganga Trust the well known not for profit and Citizen’s action group.

At a simple function launching the ‘Rainwater Harvesting systems’ held on 30th March 2016, Dr. Shekar Raghavan, Director, Akash Ganga - Rain Centre, expressed that their team was proud to implement the system as part of the CSR activities of Asian Paints. In his address, enumerating the activities of the ‘Rain Centre’ including sensitizing people about the critical need for Rain Water Harvesting in view of the evils of mindless urbanization and conducting surveys on the impact of RWH, Dr. Shekar highlighted that they had implemented similar projects at prestigious NGOs such as the Cancer Institute, Ramakrishna Mutt, Madras Seva Sadan and Theosophical Society to name a few.

In his brief address Mr. Cherry, Manager, Quality Assurance, Asian Paints exclaimed that they felt honoured to be associated with Sankara Nethralaya to achieve their goals of “Water neutrality”.

Thanking Mr. Cherry and Dr. Shekar Raghavan, Col. Raghavan, Advisor-Projects, Sankara Nethralaya observed that the effective recycling of water already being implemented at Sankara Nethralaya and the launch of a new initiative in this direction, in the form of Rain Water Harvesting, would greatly reduce the quantum of water purchased for the hospital's consumption, leading to long term, recurring savings for the institution.
While vision impairments causing partial or total blindness are easily perceptible, minor vision anomalies often go unnoticed and undiagnosed leading to serious issues in the course of time. A typical case of such an anomaly is poor 'Binocular Vision' which impedes the capacity of the left and right eyes to co-ordinate in perceiving images and sending co-ordinated messages to the brain. As an institution committed to a holistic approach to healthy vision and eye care Sankara Nethralaya's latest endeavour in this direction is providing its vast domain expertise to Digital Works a software company in the development of TRYe (Train Your eyes) a user friendly, versatile vision therapy software that addresses vision anomalies effectively. The software was formally launched at a simple function held at the Vision Therapy Clinic at the Sankara Nethralaya Main by Dr.SS.Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus and Dr.Vasanthi Badrinath, Director - Clinical Services, Sri Nathella Sampathu Clinical Laboratory, Sankara Nethralaya. Ms. Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, Incharge – Binocular Vision Clinic and Lecturer at the Elite School of Optometry, extended a warm welcome to the gathering assembled and demonstrated the software.

**Nethra Vidya series gets off to a great start**

The first session of the Continuing Optometry Education (COE) Nethra Vidya Series 3 for the year 2016 was conducted on 31st January, 2016 at Sri V.D.Swami Auditorium, K.N.BIRVO Block.

The program started with an invocation to Goddess Saraswathi. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Anuja R Singh, organising Secretary of the COE said TSNA is avowed to conduct courses that are relevant and clinically useful to the practising Optometrist and students of Optometry. The session started with an interesting presentation on Basic Binocular Vision assessment framework, followed by role of optometrists in Strabismus – a case based approach by Ms. Rizwana. This was followed by other informative sessions throughout the day on Amblyopia assessment and management by Ms. Archayeeta and BV assessment in traumatic brain injury by Ms. Revathy. Case studies and practical demonstrations formed part of the COE which was well-received by the 51 participants. A quiz on BV and Paediatric Optometry was conducted by Ms. Kalpa and prizes distributed to the best performing teams.

**Sankara Nethralaya pays homage to Saint Sathya Sai Baba**

Aradhana of the highly revered and globally adored spiritual leader and humanist par excellence Sathya Sai Baba whose life and message continue to inspire millions of people to lead more purposeful lives through his timeless and universal teachings, was observed at Sankara Nethralaya with fervour and spirit of service by employees, volunteers and devotees of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, amidst chanting of Bhajans and Keerthans on 25th April 2016.

Sri Sathya Sai Baba’s contribution to the society through his innumerable teachings and welfare measures such as establishing higher educational institutions and universities, health care projects including super specialty hospitals at Puttaparthi, White Field amongst many other places, Pure drinking water projects to over 700 villages in and around Puttaparthi, stand remarkably apart showing the undaunted spirit of the noblest souls that humanity has ever seen.
Critical reviews mark prestigious endowment lecture

The 13th edition of the annual Dr. Nagamani Dharmapuri Endowment Lecture held recently at the Sri V.D.Swami Auditorium assumed great significance on account of 3 factors, the August presence of Dr. Vidyasagar Dharmapuri the founder of the endowment and his wife Dr. Nagamani Beligere Dharmapuri, in whose honour it was created, an interesting curtain raiser on the topic of the evening, titled 'Nystagmus Decoded' by Dr. Sumitha Agarkar, Deputy Director, Paediatric Ophthalmology and her team and a thought provoking lecture by Professor Richard W. Hertle, Chief, Paediatric Ophthalmology, Director, Children's Vision Centre, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron, Ohio, known for his radically different views and revolutionary approach to the subject.

Recalling her visit to Dr. Professor Richard W. Hertle’s clinic at Ohio several years ago, Dr. Sumitha Agarkar, described the speaker of the day as a slightly controversial but highly acclaimed doctor and researcher who has done groundbreaking work in the field of Nystagmus. Delivering the endowment lecture on the title 'How and what we learned from studying Nystagmus in infancy and early childhood' Dr. Richard W. Hertle expressed that he was humbled by the compassion that he saw all around him. What followed was an interesting exposition of his radically different views, tracing the history of Nystagmus he expressed his surprise on how even 'Science' a rational subject found it difficult to break old beliefs. The most engaging and informative event came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. Akila Ramkumar.

The Art and Science of Vision and Visual systems take a giant step

Elite School of Optometry Sankara Nethralaya’s exclusive academic arm which has over the years carved a place of pride for itself in terms of being a globally acknowledged institution in its field took a giant step forward with the 'Bhumi Puja' for its 'Institute of Occupational Optometry and Visual Sciences' at the Sri City Special Economic Zone in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. The auspicious beginning was made with great religious fervour under the auspices of Professor PP. Santanam, hailed as the 'Father of Occupational Optometry' in India and Srimathi Santanam.

Addressing the gathering Shri S. Krishna Kumar, Principal, Elite School of Optometry underlined that the proposed facility would provide the much needed occupational optometry support to the workers from diverse industries located in the zone. He introduced Dr. PP. Santanam the first Principal of the Elite School of Optometry and a great well wisher of the institution gracing the occasion. Speaking on the occasion Dr SS. Badrinath thanked Shri Ravi Sanna Reddy wholeheartedly and also had a word of thanks for Shri Chandrasekhar a great friend of SN, formerly with L&T.

A publisher of repute, a prestigious builder and a group of spirited runners rise to the occasion most gloriously

At Sankara Nethralaya we are only too aware that our commitment towards eradicating blindness and bringing the light of vision and smile back on the face of the visually impaired, especially the indigent would remain unfulfilled without help from generous and like-minded individuals and institutions.

In a shining example of giving back to society the 'Prestige Group' known for their landmark building projects, made a huge contribution for cost free eye care initiatives. The donation was made at the request of Shri Irfan Razack the MD of the organization by Shri Suhail Ahmed, Senior Manager Accounts. The Scientific Publishing Company among the foremost in educational publishing in the country exhibited its concern for the same cause by donating two buses to facilitate the cost free transport of patients, the keys to the brand new vehicles were handed over by Shri Sharad Wasani, CEO of Scientific Publishing and Shri Selvaganesh, Manager-Accounts. The Marina Runnerz a group of young runners gave running a new meaning by organizing a charity marathon of their members and the general public for social causes. The proceeds of the run were handed over to Dr SS. Badrinath by Shri Prasanna Kumar Nathella, Shri Soni and Ms Rashmi Gupta the organizers of the charity marathon, towards supporting cost free eye care to poor patients.
**Sankara Nethralaya**

Sankara Nethralaya Ophthalmic Mission Trust, Inc., USA

**Join our Mission for Vision**

Celebrate the Birth Centenary of Their beloved MS Amma, with great love and gratitude!

**Date and time** | **Address** | **Contact person**
--- | --- | ---
September 3rd, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | Hindu Temple of Atlanta 585, GA Highway 85, Riverdale, GA 30274 | Sresh Sarma - 404 664 0808
September 5th, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | Cabrillo High Auditorium, 2001, Santa Fe Avenue, Long Beach CA 90810 | Partha Chakravarthy – 510 299 5555
September 10th, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | Sama Rathi Auditorium, Hindu Temple of Greater Chicago, Lemont, Chicago | Dr Raj Rajaram – 630 915 6176
September 11th, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | Unity Church of Dallas 6525, Forest Lane, Dallas, Texas 75230 | Suresh Dalapathy – 817 821 0280
September 12th, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | Asia Society Texas Centre 1370, Southmore Blvd, Houston, Texas 77004 | Dr. Raj Suresh – 713 529 7377
September 18th, 2016 - 6 to 9 pm | City – Washington Venue – Will be confirmed soon | K.G. Venkatraman – 301 646 1232

**Donation Scheme**

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<tr>
<th><strong>Donation Scheme</strong></th>
<th><strong>Amount in INR</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>1. One time on a designated date</td>
<td>Single Cataract Surgery Rs. 3,750</td>
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<td>2. Single day free service</td>
<td>40 Surgeries per day Rs. 1,50,000</td>
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<td>3. Year after year on a designated date</td>
<td>Single Free Cataract Surgery Rs. 40,000</td>
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<td>Single major Surgery (Retina, Glaucoma) Rs. 1,50,000</td>
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<td>4. Tele-ophthalmology</td>
<td>A single day screening of 200 rural poor for vision care Rs. 15,000</td>
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<td>5. Corpus Fund</td>
<td>For Community outreach program Any amount</td>
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**For more details, contact**

Mr. S Alagiri, Deputy General Manager, Resource Mobilization
Sankara Nethralaya
e-mail: donation@snmail.org
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