

MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
OLD NO.18, NEW NO.41, COLLEGE ROAD, CHENNAI – 600 006



ANNUAL REPORT
2008-09



MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

31st August 2009

To
The Members of the Medical Research Foundation

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION THAT THE 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FOUNDATION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, THE 29TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 6.00 P.M. AT BOARD ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, NEW RESEARCH BLOCK, NEW NO 41, OLD NO 18, COLLEGE ROAD, CHENNAI 600 006. THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING IS GIVEN BELOW:

AGENDA

1. To consider and adopt the Annual report of the Foundation for the year 2008-09.
2. To consider and adopt the Audited Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended March 31, 2009 and the Balance Sheet as at that date together with the Report of the Auditors thereon.
3. To appoint Auditors and to fix their remuneration for the year ending 31st March 2010.
4. To appoint Members to the Board of Management in the vacancies caused by the retirement of the following Members, who are eligible for re-appointment.

Name	Category
Mr. B. H. Kothari	Donor Member
Ms. Nina Kothari	Donor Member
Mr. V. Vaidyanathan	Donor Member
Mr. S. Rajaratnam	Honorary Member
Mr. S. Venkitaramanan	Honorary Member
Dr. Prema Padmanabhan	Honorary Member
Dr. B. R. Barwale	Patron Member

Kindly make it convenient to attend the meeting

V. VAIDYANATHAN
HONY. SECRETARY & TREASURER

- Encl: 1. Explanatory statement for Item 4 of the Agenda
2. Audited Accounts for the year ended March 31, 2009



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Explanatory statement for Item 4 of the Agenda

Their term of appointment expires on 29th September 2009. As per 11(v) of the Bye-laws of the Foundation read with Section 15(5) of the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act 1975, they are eligible for reappointment to the Board of Members. They have offered themselves for reappointment.

As per bye laws of the Foundation 10(d) Dr. B. R. Barwale being the nominee member of the M/s Jamwadi Investment Trading Private Limited is automatically entitled to be re-elected on completion of three years.



MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SANKARA NETHRALAYA

MISSION STATEMENT

**Let the word
Sankara
of Sankara Nethralaya
ever remind me
and my associates
His Holiness' command
That there be a missionary
Spirit in the project.**

**Let the word
Nethralaya
Constantly remind me and
my colleagues
that the place of our work
is an alaya.
Work will be our worship
which we shall do
with sincerity, dedication
and utmost love.**

QUALITY OBJECTIVES

- To maintain the quality of ophthalmic services in accordance with international standards.
- Effective utilization of infrastructure facilities including manpower.
- To ensure continued patients satisfaction.
- Ongoing care and concern for maintaining high level of staff satisfaction and motivation.

QUALITY POLICY

Pledge to meet the patient's requirements by offering expert ophthalmic care with love and compassion through a committed professionally oriented team.

While delivering the patient care, we shall ensure compliance of all applicable regulatory requirements and also commit to achieve continual improvement through our Quality Management System.



MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2008 - 2009

President	: Dr. Badrinath. S. S
Vice President	: Mr C U Shah
Honorary Secretary & Treasurer	: Mr. Vaidyananthan. V

Other Members of the Board :

1. Dr Barwale. B. R	Member
2. Mr. Govind. V	Member
3. Mr. Jagadish M Chanrai	Member
4. Mr Kothari. B. H	Member
5. Dr Lingam Gopal	Member
6. Mr.Mani. S. Subramonian	Member
7. Mr. Malesra. H. D	Member
8. Mrs. Nina B.H. Kothari	Member
9. Mr. Narayana Gupta N	Member
10. Dr. Prema Padmanabhan	Member
11. Mr. Parekh R. C	Member
12. Mr. Ramachandran. G.	Member
13. Mr. Ramakrishna. C	Member
14. Dr. Ramaswamy M. A. M	Member
15. Mr. Rajaratnam. S	Member
16. Mr. Raju Barwale	Member
17. Dr. Surendran. T. S	Member
18. Dr. Saravanan. M	Member
19. Mr. Surendra M. Mehta	Member
20. Mr. Sugalchand Jain. N	Member
21. Ms. Usha Zehr Barwale	Member
22. Mr. Venkitaramanan. S	Member



MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Managing Director	: Dr. K S Vasan
Chief General Manager	: Mr. P. R. Ravindran
General Manager	: Ms. Akila Ganesan
Auditors	: M/s. S. Viswanathan Chartered Accountants, Chennai
Bankers	: HDFC Bank Ltd., State Bank of India
Registered Office	: Old No.18, New No.41, College Road, Chennai – 600 006.

Locations of Sankara Nethralaya:

Main Hospital
Old No.18, New No.41, College Road, Chennai – 600 006

Jagadguru Kanchi Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Nethra Nilayam,
21, Pycrofts Garden Road, Chennai – 600 006.

Dr. V. G. Appukutty Campus
Elite School of Optometry & C.U. Shah Sankara Nethralaya,
No.8, GST Road, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai – 600 016.

Navasuja Sankara Nethralaya
No.73, VenkataKrishna Iyer Road,
Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai–600028.

Medical Records Office of Sankara Nethralaya
138, Rama Building ,Greems Road, Chennai – 600 006.

Super specialty Clinic
Jayalakshmi Estates (I Floor)
24,Haddows Road, Chennai – 600 034

Sankara Nethralaya Bangalore
(Cauvery Medical Centre Campus)
43/2, N.H.-7, Bellary Road,
Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore - 560 092

Sankara Nethralaya Kolkata
No.147, Barakhola, Mukundapur, E M Bypass
(Near Santhoshpur Connector
Kolkata - 700 099

Sankara Nethralaya Rameshwaram
R S Falor Hospital
45 West Street, Rameswaram - 623526



MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-09

I have great pleasure in presenting the 30th Annual Report of the Medical Research Foundation.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The financial performance of the Foundation for the year 2008-09 is summarized below:

Description	Rs Lakhs	
	2008-09	2007-08
INCOME		
Hospital Collections	7400	6085
Grants and Other Income	472	487
Total	7872	6572
EXPENDITURE	6749	5639
Surplus before Depreciation	1123	933
Depreciation	703	561
Net Surplus	420	372

The Hospital Collection this year was higher by Rs. 1315 Lakhs compared to 2007-2008 with an increase of 22%. After meeting all the expenses including depreciation Net Income over expenditure was Rs. 420 lakhs compared to Rs.372 lakhs of 2007-08



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CASH FLOW

Details	2008-09	2007-08 (Rs in Lakhs)
<u>Source</u>		
Cash flow from operations	1123	933
Donations	620	542
Fixed Deposit Withdrawn	0	529
HDFC Term Loan	900	300
HDFC - LOAN (OD AGAISNT Fixed Deposit)	150	
Increase / Decrease in Current Asset	24	179
Total (A)	2817	2483
<u>Applications</u>		
Investment - Capital expenditure	2119	2377
Investment - RBI Bonds	75	106
Investment - Fixed Deposit	623	
Increase/Decrease in Current Asset		
Total (B)	2817	2483

Donations

Donations received during the year amounted to Rs.620 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 2007-08 were Rs.542 lakhs. Donation received towards corpus during the year amounted to Rs 47 lakhs and other donations during the year amounted to Rs 573 lakhs.

Fixed Assets

Additions amount to Rs.2169 lakhs which included Rs.1300 lakhs toward Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata (Mukundapur) Building cost; Rs.513 lakhs and Kamalnayan Bajaj Nethralaya Ophthalmic Research Building cost, Equipments for updating of technology and replacements accounted to Rs.237 lakhs and EDP Equipments / software Rs.119 lakhs.

Investments

Investments in RBI Bonds as at 31st March 2009 is Rs. 1378.82 lakhs compared to Rs. 1303.82 lakhs as at 31st March 2008.



OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

DESCRIPTION	NUMBERS	
	2008-09	2007-08
OUTPATIENT CONSULTATION	522730	433298
MAJOR OUTPATIENT PROCEDURE		
Yag Laser	3822	3498
Humphrey Fields	18358	15278
Argon Laser	14267	13039
FFA	8200	7650
Ultra Sound Biomicroscope	680	676
OCT	9621	7785
Ultrasound	14279	12610
Lasik Laser	1290	852
SURGICAL PROCEDURE		
Cataract	22598	19688
Pediatric - Cataract	1692	1300
Corneal	1786	1474
Glaucoma	1589	1423
Pediatric - Squint	776	762
Plastic	1688	1931
Vitreo-retinal	12466	9679
Others	2156	1892
Total	44751	38149

Treatment of Poor Patients

The number of free surgeries this year was 13040 against 11442 in 2007-08. Number of free surgeries as a percentage of total surgeries done was 29% in 2008-09 compared to 30% in 2007-08. The value foregone through free services amounts to Rs.364 Lakhs. Last year the corresponding amount was 296 lakhs.

Information Technology

IT & Systems

IT & Systems continues to provide maximum uptime of the IT infrastructure through improved systems and processes and also ensuring the best IT practices through implementation of tools and technologies in IT in line with the management objectives with Hospital Management system fully operational, the Electronic Medical Record application is also settling down reasonably well. There are already requests from some ophthalmic institutions for our implementing the HMS/EMR system for them.



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Major Accomplishments

Sankara Nethralaya was adjudged and awarded the “Best IT-User” in Healthcare for the Year 2008 by Nasscom-CNBC with the best IT implementation put in place. SN got short listed after a detailed scrutiny and user interviews undertaken by Nielson. The award was received by Mr. Sampath Kumar and Mr. Manavalan of IT on 26/11/2008 in a Nasscom-CNBC function at Mumbai.

The renovation of Ramanatha Iyer Block included a new & well designed Data Centre at the 2nd Floor.

Hospital Management System-HMS

HMS usage was continuously monitored along with the End-users with constant improvements both for functionality and user friendliness. Major Functionalities like “Time Office”, “Purchase process Workflow” development were completed and kept ready for implementation. IT & systems was involved in evaluating the best Payroll Module available from the market, procuring the module and implementing along with the support of Finance.

SN-IT has taken up work flow development as a major task and the development of the Purchase workflow, HR workflow is completed and is in testing phase. They would automate the cost center concept for all the locations of SN and ease out SN from paper intense HR formalities and improving accuracy of employee personal information as well.

Electronic Medical Records: EMR

The implementation of OP Module of EMR was constantly monitored for improvements. All OP patient records are electronic. Computer based training modules required for all Optometrists and Ophthalmologists on EMR are being used for internal skill building. IP EMR development is complete and the implementation plans are currently discussed. It is expected that IP EMR will go live before 2009 end.

IT&S Infrastructure

We have completed the required infrastructure for Database & Application Servers, Network etc. We have also signed up onsite Facility management services and Annual maintenance contract for next three years with IBM-Netsol for managing our IT infrastructure (Servers, Databases, Desktops Networks and all IT equipments), which covers all our branches in India.

National Knowledge Network (NKN)

NKN is Government sponsored high speed high capacity Giga Byte network. Sankara Nethralaya is the only non-governmental institution out of 57 members connected in the 1st phase. It will be used for virtual class rooms through e-learning, teleophthalmology and also shard Electronic Medical Records across the country. Currently, the 1 GB fibre physical connectivity to Sankara Nethralaya Centre is complete and under testing.



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Cost reduction in outsourcing

The internal IT Team is fully conversant with the HMS/EMR modules and many of the change requests and enhancements are managed by this team, in addition to handling the maintenance support in totality. This has substantially improved the quality of support. So far the team has completed several hundred change requests and developed/ refined a few critical modules of HMS and EMR.

Corneal Transplant services

Total No of Donor Eyes 1053

Total No. of Corneal Transplant surgeries 634

During the year 51 free corneal transplant surgeries sponsored by the Reliance Group of companies in the memory of Late Sri Dhirubai Ambani for deserving cases through the National Association for the Blind, Mumbai.

And this year we received Rs.5,08,500 from govt. of India towards Recurring Expenditure Grant in aid for human donor eye collection on 2007-2008.

Fund Raising

This activity is under the direct direction of the Founder Dr. S. S. Badrinath. Under his guidance and his tireless efforts the team has successfully raised funds not only for the building that houses the Kamalnayan Bajaj Institute for Research in Visual Science and Ophthalmology but has also raised funds for the Sankara Nethralaya Kolkatta project.

2008-09 continued to be a very active year in Fundraising. Dr. S. S. Badrinath and Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath along with Dr. Tarun Sharma, Director Fundraising and the department of Fundraising, conducted many programs besides meeting individual donors to raise funds. The year saw the presentation of "Friends of Nethralaya" award for the people who had donated Rs. 1 lakh and above to the Foundation.

Foundation collected during the year 2008-09 Rs. 6.2 crores as against Rs 5.42 crores last year.

Academics

1. Sir Ratan Tata Trust through their letter dated May 12, 2008 has approved the application of Sankara Nethralaya for phase 3 of the Phaco training programme conducted by us at the Jaslok Community Ophthalmology Center. The trust has sanctioned Rs 1.64 crores spread over 3 years. This grant includes Rs 80 lakhs towards purchase of a virtual reality equipment to train the students in surgery.



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The following are the components of the training programme:

- Train 10 ophthalmologists every 2 months in advanced cataract surgery techniques
- Train ophthalmologists in other institutes to aid them run similar program
- To train paramedics of the trainees in the art of operation theater maintenance and sterilization.
- Introduce novel concept of virtual reality surgery

I am happy to inform you that the VR Magic Eyesi Simulation equipment to train ophthalmologists through virtual reality has been purchased and is being used at JCOC.

Alcon came forward to set up the wetlab.

Sankara Nethralaya proudly published a book titled "A Rational View on Modern Ophthalmic Operation Theatres" authored by Dr. Sanjay Srinivas, Dr. BanuLakshmi Inder Mohan, Dr S S Badrinath et al. The book was published in September 2009. A book on Radiology is currently under review and will be published shortly.

Other Programs in Academics

1. In the year 2008-09, 70 Ophthalmologists completed their fellowship program in various specialties.
2. We have four international overseas candidates selected to undergo Vitreo Retina Fellowship programmes duly registered with Medical Council of India, New Delhi. They are from Serbia & Egypt.
3. The following graduated from the Elite School of Optometry (ESO) and Vidyasagar Institute for Biomedical Technology and Science (VIBS)

B. S. Ophthalmic Assistant	6
Diplomate in National Board	10
B.S Optometry	25
M.Phil Optometry	15
MSMLT	7
Ph.D	6

Vidyasagar Institute of Biomedical Technology and Science (VIBS)

This Institute was established on 25th October 2006 to promote and foster biomedical technology and science related to basic medical sciences including fundamental research in this area. The main educational programme conducted under VIBS is the Postgraduates programme - Master of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology (MS MLT) conducted by



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Medical Research Foundation as the Collaborative programme with Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, and the Ph.D programme with BITS, Pilani.

The Educational Activities conducted till August 2009 under VIBS:

- 1. One month Hands-on training programme for postgraduate students in Biological sciences:**
This programme is conducted for Post graduates studying in Arts and Science colleges during May-June (summer holidays) every year on several biomedical technologies, specially designed and organized for candidates who do not have practical training in their own institutions during their study period. During the year 2009, **13** students have undergone this training programme.
- 2. Short term Research Projects for PG students in Biological Sciences:**
35 students have under gone this training during 2008 – 09(December 2008 to March 2009)
- 3. Specific Training programmes on specialized/advanced Techniques** such as PCR/PCR RFLP, RT- PCR, ELISA, HPLC etc.
In the year 2008- 09, **40 students** (13 in Pathology, Stem cell & Nano technology, 11in BiochemistryDepartment, 11inGenetics & Molecular biology and 5in Microbiology Department) have undergone this training programme.
- 4. The summer Practical School I (PS - I) programme for BITS, Pilani students for two months:** Training is provided every summer from third week of May to second week of July every year in the Basic Medical sciences departments.
In the year 2009, **10 BITS** Engineering students have undergone this training programme.
- 5. MSMLT Programme:** Eight students (2006 – 2009) have successfully completed the MS-MLT programme and will receive the MS degree certificates from BITS, Pilani.
- 6. Ph.D Awardees : Six candidates** have obtained Ph.D award in the year 2008-2009 4,(one each from Biochemistry, Genetics, Pathology& Glaucoma),under BITS, Pilani
2 from Microbiology department under Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai)
- 7. No. of Ph.D Scholars :** At present **16 candidates**(Genetics & Molecular biology - , Biochemistry - 5, Microbiology- 3, Pathology, Stem cell, and Nanotechnology -6) are pursuing their Ph. D degree programme.

Human Resources Development:

The Employee's strength as on 31st March 2009 was 1024(31st March 2008 – 930)

Particulars	As on 31.03.2009	As on 31.03.2008
Consultants *	117	113
Executives & Optometrists	218	143
Staff	689	674
TOTAL	1024	930



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*Includes Ophthalmologists, Physicians and Anaesthetists

The foundation continued to maintain cordial relationship with the employees and arranged for various functions including the Foundation Day, Sports Day, Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations. The wage negotiation for the period 2008-2010 was undertaken and implemented to the satisfaction of the employees in January-2008. The present agreement is for a period of three years commencing from January 2008.

Understanding the need for continuous training for all employees, the Management of the foundation has employed a full time training manager to coordinate, organize and conduct training programs. The department of Human Resources arranged for many training Programs / Seminars for employees at various levels. A Total of 33 such programs were attended by as many as 305 employees. Mr. SIVAKUMAR V and Ms. PUNITHAM R were adjudged the Outstanding Man and Women for the year 2008 respectively and special recognition award was adjudged for 21 employees.

20 employees spanning all the Administrative departments of the hospital are currently undergoing one year diploma in hospital administration at Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA). This programme is being jointly run by LIBA and Christian Medical College(CMC), Vellore. The programme content has been designed as per our specifications. The classes are held for a full day each Saturday. The employees have been given a day off officially besides the Foundation bearing the tuition fees. The 1st Batch will complete in October 2009.

15 employees consisting of Consultants, Scientists and Administrative staff have completed two levels of Leadership training conducted by Mr. M. S. Jayaraman. This programme is aimed at developing the future leadership of Sankara Nethralaya.

As agreed during the wage negotiation with the staff, Master Health Checkup was arranged at Kumaran Hospital for employees who were over 40 years of age. (9 employees underwent the check up)

The culture of Sankara Nethralaya, as laid down by the Founder, has been one of a Family. Reconfirming this feeling of bonding, the employees of the Foundation, voluntarily donated a substantial sum of money towards the medical treatment of one of the employees who underwent treatment for Cancer. This is but one example of the ethos of the foundation and the example set by the Founder.

Quality Initiatives:

The 1st Surveillance Audit of ISO 9001:2008 by BVQI for 'Comprehensive Ophthalmic Care' was successfully completed in May'09 without any Non conformance. We had applied for the upgradation to the new version 2008 and the audit was based on the same and we were certified for the new version ISO 9001:2008. During the year, 3 cycles of Internal audit was conducted and 2 Management review meetings were conducted. The Internal audit brought out (90) improvement points and observations of which (85) were implemented. The others required changes in the infrastructure / process and are under the process of implementation.



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Awards and Recognition

Our Chairman Emeritus, Dr S. S. Badrinath was honoured with the following awards:

- The Baroda Sun Life Time Achievement Award given by Bank of Baroda at Mumbai, 20th July 2008
- Dr K V Thiruvengadam Award for Health care at ITC Park Sheraton Hotel and Towers, TTK Road, Chennai – 18, on 15th October 2008
- Medical Excellence Award from Priya Vision, Chennai on 6th April 2009.
- Honoured by the Greater Siliguri Lion's Eye Hospital, Siliguri, 28th April 2009.
- Shri V Krishnamurthy Award for Excellence Ceremony at Centre for Organization Development, Madhapur, Cyberabad PO, Hyderabad, 4th July 2009.

Management and Administration

Mr. P. R. Ravindran joined the Foundation as Chief General Manager in January 2009. He brings years of experience in Finance and IT to the organization

CONCLUSION

The year under review saw most of the planned expansion of hospital capacity getting completed.

- The Hospital collections continued to grow at 18%.both physically and financially
- The amount allocated and spent on capital expenditure was almost the same as in the previous year of Rs 22 crores.(Rs 23 crores)
- Hospital capacity expansion plans initiated last year commenced yielding results at Kolkatta and it is expected that the Bangalore branch also will start regular activities very shortly
- The Advanced Research Institution for Vision Science has commenced it's activities from January 2009 in phases

Competition from more eye centers in the city and neighborhood continues to erode into our share of the market. Though this effect was not felt during the year under report, this financial year is definitely showing this trend. It is therefore very important to set up our marketing force and also consolidate our expansion and work force without large further expansion in both capacity and work force at all levels. The brand equity for our services can be counted upon to contribute to the growth in the demand in spite of the heavy competition in the anterior segment surgery.

Dr.S.S.Badrinath, Chairman Emeritus continues with his ever growing passion and involvement. His associates including his devoted wife Dr.Mrs. Vasanthi Badrinath, Dr.Lingam Gopal, Vice Chairman Dr.T.S.Surendran, Medical Directors Dr.Prema Padmanabhan, and Dr. Tarun Sharma, Dr.S.Bhaskaran, Dr.L.Vijaya, Lt. Col. Raghavan, to mention only few persons, are all totally dedicated for the growth of the institution. Vision Research Foundation under the able



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guidance of Dr. H.N. Madhavan and his intelligent Scientists are now increasingly recognized in the appropriate departments of the Government of India and international research bodies. Dr. Krishna Kumar, Head of Nanotechnology and Stem Cell Research has been instrumental in bringing foreign collaborations to Vision Research Foundation. This Research is vital for ushering in Advanced Eye care Delivery in this line of treatment. Dr. J Biswas, Director Pathology and Uvea Department has continued to keep the Uvea Department of Sankara Nethralaya as the foremost in the country. He and his team will be hosting the Annual Conference of the Uveitis Society of India this December. The next rung of senior consultants have all arrived more or less I should say with lot of relief and happiness. Professionalism in administration ushered in by Dr. Kris Vasam the MD and meticulously executed by the newly joined Chief General Manager, Mr. P.R. Ravindran, and GM Ms. Akila Ganesan is providing vital administrative support to the working of the Institution.

The year 2009-10 has brought in few changes in the Management of the Foundation. Dr. Lingam Gopal, who served the foundation as Chairman-elect from March 2006 February 2007 and as Chairman since March 2007 has stepped down as Chairman so as to dedicate his time more towards Research and Patient care. During his tenure as Chairman his contribution towards the foundation has been phenomenal. The building and infrastructure of the KBIRVO project and the Mukundapur project were personally supervised by Dr. Lingam Gopal. He has been the key person in finalizing the association with Cauvery Medical Centre (CMC), Bangalore. On behalf of the President, Dr. Badrinath I would like the board to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Lingam Gopal.

A new governance model designed with lot of care by MD Dr. K S Vasam has been initiated to take care of the Administration of Sankara Nethralaya. I have been given the mantle of Chairman of Sankara Nethralaya also. An Executive Committee consisting of 9 Ophthalmologists, 3 from Administration besides Dr. S B Vasanthi Director Laboratory Services and Dr. S. Bhaskaran Director Internal Medicine has been formed to support me in my work and to take care of the day-to-day running of the hospital.

The important link between the patients and the Consultants provided by the dedicated floor staff is an important marketing input. Systems are being stream lined to make them even more effective. Reducing patient waiting time, more courteous interaction with the patients can all spread our quality of service by word of mouth. Other middle and lower level employees, medical, para medical/engineering/information technologists, office staff, and house keeping staff are all well motivated and are doing good work. I record with appreciation the good work being done by all these people. I have to personally acknowledge the enormous contribution of the members of the Board of Management who are always ready to our call for their presence and advice on vital matters.

Our auditors M/s S.Viswanathan & Co, our internal auditors Mr. S. A Bhatt, Our bankers M/s HDFC bank and HDFC, are always ready to respond positively to our requests. We thank them for their considerate approach. SWAN our own voluntary group of dedicated ladies have completed 25 years of yeomen service to the community through our organization. I congratulate them and wish them well...

We are extremely fortunate to have the good will of the The Lions club along with their International counterparts for their continuous and growing support. Lion Governor M.V. Raghunathan, Lion Governor Mr.G.V. Raman, the ever smiling and hard working Lion Hari Narayanan are all blessed people created for us. Tulsi trust, Shirdi SaiTrust, and others a continue to support us as in the previous years. Mission for Vision Trust is expected to play a



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big role in our Kolkatta operations. I thank them for their munificence. Nationalized Banks, Government agencies are all very sympathetic to our requests. I thank them for their spontaneous and willing cooperation.

I consider very fortunate to serve this great organization led by the rare couple Dr. S. S. Badrinath and his wife Dr. Vasanthi Badrinath. His passion for the Institution coupled with his enormous personal natural influence in the society, and self discipline are the hall marks of this institution. May God give them and their family good health and all prosperity.

I take it as my privilege to conclude my report with my Bakthi Namaskarams to the ever present Divine soul of the Paramacharya of Kanchi, the hidden guiding spirit of the Institution.

V. VAIDYANATHAN
HONY. SECRETARY & TREASURER

Note

Dr. S S Badrinath, President Medical Research Foundation would like to place before the Board the acknowledgment and appreciation of the Sankara Nethralaya family of the services of Mr. V. Vaidyanathan. His devotion and the dedication to this Institution has resulted in service which ought to be appreciated by all the members of the Board. He has undertaken to act as the Chairman of Sankara Nethralaya. The external auditors following the auditing of the accounts said that the audit team had not come across any major discrepancies and that the internal control systems are in place. This is mainly due to the meticulous work that Mr. Vaidyanathan has done over the years to put in proper financial system in place. He continues to visit Sankara Nethralaya for more number of hours each day and oftener each week meeting almost all consultants and most of the employees.



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HONOURS & AWARDS

- ◆ **Sankara Nethralaya**, the first eye hospital in the world, recognized as a Superbrand by the leading global company dealing with the area of brand recognition and bench marking.
- ◆ Ms. Bharathi, Ms. Coral received the partial Travel Grant ARVO 2008, at Fort Lauderdale, USA on 30-31 April '08.
- ◆ Dr Cheriyan Shane Mathew, DNB Student of Sankara Nethralaya has been awarded DNB Gold Medal for the year 2007.
- ◆ Dr T S Surendran has been elected as one of the six founder members of the newly formed Asia Pacific Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmic Society (APSCOS) founded in the recently concluded WOC meeting in Hong Kong between 26th June to 2nd July 2008.
- ◆ Dr Sripriya Krishnamoorthy was conferred “Dr K S Sanjivi Award 2008” by Confederation of Indian Organizations for Service and Advocacy (CIOSA) and Udhavum Ullangal, Mylapore, Chennai on 6th July 2008.
- ◆ Dr S S Badrinath Received The Baroda Sun Life Time Achievement Award by Bank of Baroda Mumbai, on 20th July 2008
- ◆ Mr. Y. Samson Moses, Senior Research Fellow received the Travel Fellowship at the IERG Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, on 26th & 27th July 2008.
- ◆ Ms Vinita Kumari was granted Travel Fellowship at IERG Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, on 26th & 27th July 2008.
- ◆ Dr. Nikhil S Choudhari received Ruby Banik Award, 2008.for the Best Research in Clinical Sciences on 30th August 2008.
- ◆ Dr. J. Malathi received the “Swarnalatha Punshi” award for the best research paper from Basic Medical Sciences at a competition held on 30th August 2008.
- ◆ Dr. B. Mahalakshmi got second prize for the “Best oral presentation” entitled “Nucleic Acid amplification techniques for detection and Genotyping of *Toxoplasma gondii* in Clinical specimens from Ocular Toxoplasmosis patients in a Tertiary Eye Hospital, Chennai” during the research meet for the inauguration of KBIRVO between 3rd–5th September 2008.
- ◆ Ms. S. Barathi received Best Oral presentation Award presentation in Bajaj International Conference (KBIRVO) at Hotel Park Sheraton, Chennai on 5th Sept 2008.
- ◆ Ms. R. Bagyalakshmi, received Ph.D degree on her thesis entitled “Role of nucleic acid based amplification technique in detection, characterisation and species level identification of fungi in clinical specimens and a study of in vitro sensitivity pattern of ocular fungal isolates” under the guidance of Dr. K. Lily Therese (Guide) from BITS, Pilani.



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- ◆ Ms. G. Shyamala, received Ph.D degree on her thesis entitled “Nucleic Acid based Amplification methods for the detection, Quantification and Characterization of Viruses in Clinical Specimen” under the guidance of Dr. H.N Madhavan (Guide) from BITS, Pilani.
- ◆ Ms. B. Mahalakshmi, successfully defended her thesis entitled “Role of Nucleic acid based – molecular biological techniques and evaluation of serological methods in the laboratory diagnosis of ocular toxoplasmosis and genotyping of *Toxoplasma gondii* ” for Ph.D degree under the guidance of Dr. H.N Madhavan (Guide) from BITS, Pilani.
- ◆ Ms. P. Sowmya successfully defended her Ph.D thesis entitled “Nucleic acid based molecular biological methods for quantitation and characterization of Human Cytomegalovirus in the clinical specimens from immunocompromized patients” during the Public Viva Voce examination held on 09th January 2009 at Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R University Chennai., under the guidance of Dr. H.N Madhavan (Guide) and Dr. K. Lily Therese (Co- Guide)
- ◆ Ms. P. Deepa successfully defended her Ph.D thesis entitled “Role of nucleic acid based amplification tests in the detection and identification of mycobacterial infections and determination of sequence variation and rifampicin resistance among *M. tuberculosis* isolates” during the Public Viva Voce examination held on 12th December 2008 at Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R University Chennai., under the guidance of Dr. K. Lily Therese (Guide) and Dr. H.N Madhavan (Co- Guide).
- ◆ Dr. J. Biswas received "Dr. P. Siva Reddy Oration Award" from All India Ophthalmological Society for the year 2009.
- ◆ Dr J Biswas has been selected as “The Section Editor of Uvea Section” in Indian Journal of Ophthalmology.
- ◆ Dr J Biswas has been selected to serve on the writing committee for consensus report on Ocular toxoplasmosis on AJO in the focus issue on Uveitis. This distinction to Dr Biswas is due to his rich contributions to ophthalmic literature over the past two decades. Sankara Nethralaya acknowledges his contributions to science.
- ◆ Mr A P Irungovel has been selected as an editorial board member for Medical Sociology Online, a prestigious Journal.
- ◆ Dr J Biswas was given the “Thrissur Academy of Ophthalmology Oration Award” at the Thrissur Academy of Ophthalmology CME Programme TACOPSIA-2008, Thrissur on 21st September 2008.
- ◆ Dr. Sudha K Ganesh was elected as a Member of International Uveitis Study Group at the 7th International Symposium on Uveitis and International Uveitis Study Group (IUSG) Meeting, Constance, Germany, held between 8th and 12th September 2008. She presented a paper on Cataract surgery in uveitis
- ◆ Dr. H N Madhavan was conferred Genomic Pioneer Award 2008 for his outstanding contribution to the field of Genomics at the HGM 2008 held at Hyderabad during 27th to 30th Sep'08.
- ◆ Dr. S S Badrinath received Dr.K.V.Thiruvengadam Award for Health Care 2008-09 from the Former Governor of Orissa, Shri. M.M.Rajendran on 15th October 2008.



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- ◆ Dr. Lingam Gopal received the Achievement Award from the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2008.
- ◆ Dr. T S Surendran elected as the President of Strabismological Society of India, New Delhi on 18th October 2008.
- ◆ Mr.S.Ve.Ramesh received the best paper award for individual scientific paper session in ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad on 15th – 18th January 2009
- ◆ Ms. M. Sowmiya, Junior research fellow received the best oral presentation award entitled “Analysis of mutations in QRDR region of *gyrase A* gene of bacteria belonging to Enterobacteriaceae isolated from the ocular specimens by PCR based DNA sequencing” in the ASIA ARVO 2009 conference, held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009.
- ◆ Dr. B. Mahalakshmi received the Travel fellowship grant to attend “Asia Arvo 2009 Conference” held at Hyderabad from January 15th -18th 2009.
- ◆ Ms. S. Barathi, awarded the Best Scientific Poster Award and First runner up Award for overall poster session in the ASIA- ARVO 2009 conference at Hyderabad held during 14th Jan to 18th Jan 2009.
- ◆ Ms. K Coral and Ms. Barathi received the travel grant amounting to Rs. 10,000/- each in ASIA-ARVO 2009 conference at Hyderabad 14th Jan to 18th Jan 2009.
- ◆ Mr. Mallikarjuna received Best Paper Award for his paper titled "Proteomic analysis of Retinoblastoma reveals potential markers involved in Tumor progression" in ASIA ARVO 2009 conference at Hyderabad 14th Jan to 18th Jan 2009.
- ◆ Ms. Sasirekha Krishnan and Ms. Srilatha Jasty received Travel Fellowship Award in ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad between 14th Jan to 18th Jan 2009.
- ◆ Ms. R. Gayathri, Senior Research fellow received the Second best prize award for poster presentation entitled “Detection of viable *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from sputum samples targeting 85 B gene by reverse transcriptase PCR” during the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009.
- ◆ Dr. Prema Padmanabhan has been selected “For the Excellent Work Done in Ophthalmology” and will be presented Gold Medal - 2009 by The Indian Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society (IIRSI), India on July 11th & 12th at Taj Coromandel, Chennai.
- ◆ Shri. Iravadham Mahadevan, Tamil Indian Epigraphist and Founder of Vidyasagar Institute of Bio-Medical Technology and Science, Vision Research Foundation, received “PADMASHREE” Award 2009.



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PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE

Sankara Nethralaya proudly organized an Internal Neuro Ophthalmology conference in January 2009. The faculty for the conference was included the giants of Neuro Ophthalmology like Dr. Neil Miller and Dr. Peter Savino.

Dr Muna Bhende attended the Round Table Meeting on PCV at Singapore on 4th April 2008.

Dr Pramod Bhende attended the CME Meeting at Coimbatore on 5th & 6th April 2008.

Dr. J. Biswas attended Uvea meeting at Bangalore on 24th April 2008.

Ms. Salomi attended the CME Programme conducted by lister laboratories on 25th April 2008.

Dr J Biswas attended the Uveitis CME Meeting at Bangalore on 27th April 2008 and made presentations on Acute Necrotizing retinitis in a two year old child, Newer diagnostic modalities in uveitis and Viral Retinitis.

Dr G Kumaramanickavel attended the ARVO 2008 Conference, at Fort Lauderdale, USA from 30th April to 2nd May 2008 and made a presentation on Homozygosity Mapping in Consanguineous Retinal Dystrophy Families: Identification of a Novel c.955G>A Splice Site Mutation in the Lebercilin Gene in Leber Congenital Amaurosis

Dr. N Angayarkanni attended the ARVO 2008 Conference, at Fort Lauderdale, USA from 30th April to 2nd May 2008 and made a poster presentation on Existence and properties of heteromeric gap junction channels in retinal pigment epithelial cells.

Ms. K Coral attended the ARVO 2008 Conference, at Fort Lauderdale, USA from 30th April to 2nd May 2008 and made a poster presentation on Lysyl oxidase activity in proliferative diabetic retinopathy and in ARPE-19 cells exposed to glucose.

Ms. S. Bharathi attended the ARVO 2008 Conference, at Fort Lauderdale, USA from 30th April to 2nd May 2008 and made a poster presentation on Exposure of Advanced Glycation End Products to bovine retinal endothelial cells and asses their glucose uptake.

Ms Srilatha Jasty attended the ARVO 2008 Conference, at Fort Lauderdale, USA from 30th April to 2nd May 2008 and made a poster presentation on Retinal Stem/Progenitor Properties Of Ciliary Epithelial and Iris Pigment Epithelial Cells From The Adult Human Cadaveric Eye.

Dr Rama Rajagpal, Dr Rajiv Raman & Dr Nikhil Choudhary participated in the Inaugural Regional Ophthalmology Conference at Bangkok from 2nd to 4th May 2008.

Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended Task force meeting at Delhi on 5th May 2008.

Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended Stem cell investigators meeting on 9th May 2008 at IIT Chennai on Recombinant Antibody.

Dr. Tarun Sharma attended the Oman Ophthalmological Meet, Oman from 14th to 17th May 2008 and made presentations on Diabetic Retinopathy Program-Sankara Nethralaya, Diabetic Vitrectomy & Surgical Treatment for advanced ROP.



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Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended RNAi meeting, where he submitted his project proposal on 15th May 2008.

Dr Prema Padmanabhan and Dr Pramod Bhende attended the Reveal Meet in Cairo, Egypt on 16th & 17th May 2008.

Dr J Biswas attended the Uveitis CME Meeting at Trichy on 18th May 2008 and gave a lecture on Diagnostic and Therapeutic Challenges.

Dr. Tarun Sharma attended the First Trauma Meeting at Serbia between 29th May and 2nd June 2008 and made a presentation on Combined Penetrating Keratoplasty and Vitreous surgery using temporary keratoprosthesis in severely injured eyes.

Ms. K. Coral, Sr. Scientist attended the training course on "Safety aspect in Research application of ionization radiation RA-31 conducted by IARP at the Centre for training and certification in Radiological safety, Mumbai from 1st to 9th June 2008

Dr Prema Padmanabhan and Dr N Radhika participated in the Wavelight User Meet 2008, Bungary from 6th to 8th June 2008.

Dr. Tarun Sharma attended the Hyderabad Ophthalmic Association Meet at Hyderabad on 15th June 2008 and gave lectures on "An overview of Anti-VEGF Treatment in AMD" & "Diabetic Vitrectomy"

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel participated in the World Ophthalmic Congress at Hong Kong on 27th June 2008.

Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended a meeting at JNCASR, Jakkur, Bangalore on 28th June 2008 to present the update of our DBT project entitled "Proteomics profiling for retinoblastoma progression: Differential display analysis for the expression of intracellular proteins between non-invasive and invasive tumors and tumor cell line".

Dr. L. Vijaya attended the WOC 2008 conference conducted by the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 27th June 2008 to 2nd July 2008. Dr. L. Vijaya gave talks on Approach to Glaucoma in India, Aqueous Misdirection Syndrome and Management of Combined Mechanism Glaucoma.

Dr. J. Biswas attended WOC Conference in Hong Kong from 26th June to 2nd July 2008 and made presentations on Conjunctival tuberculoma in AIDS; HIV related eye disease in India; Ocular toxoplasmosis in AIDS; PCR in uveitis; The best uveitis cases for teaching; Infectious uveitis-tuberculosis; Ocular tuberculosis & Retinoblastoma.

Dr. H. N. Madhavan attended the Steering Committee meeting of the AES Septicaemia project on 30th June 2008 at Xycton Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended the World Ophthalmology Congress on 5th July 2008.

Dr. N Angayarkanni attended the IERG Annual Meeting on 26th -27th July 2008 at LAICO Auditorium, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel, Dr. S Sripriya and Ms. Vinita Kumari attended the 17th IERG conference to be held on 26th & 27th July 2008, at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai.



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Dr. Ronnie George attended the Glucons 2008 was conducted by Aravind Eye Hospital, Coimbatore from 26th to 27th July 2008. Dr. Ronnie George presented 3 topics namely AS OCT: Importance and use in Glaucoma; Landmark trails: Implications for clinical practice and Glaucoma screening in clinical practice.

Dr.L.Vijaya gave an invited keynote lecture about the “Prevalence of Glaucoma in India” in the Indian Eye Research Group Conference at Madurai on 26th & 27th July 2008.

Ms. Lokapavani presented a poster “Long term variation in central corneal thickness of normal individuals in a population based study “ in Indian Eye Research Group Conference at Madurai on 26th & 27th July 2008.

Ms. M Rajeswari gave a Guest Lecture on “Post refractive surgery contact lens fitting and orthokeratology” at a CME organized by Lotus College of Optometry, Coimbatore.

Dr. J. Malathi attended the Indian Eye Research Group (IERG) Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai from 26th – 27th July 2008 and made a paper presentation on “Genotypic and phenotypic characterization of the acyclovir resistance among ocular isolates of Herpes Simplex Virus – 1”.

Ms. R. Gayathri attended the Indian Eye Research Group (IERG) Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai from 26th – 27th July 2008 and made a poster presentation on “Antibiotic susceptibility patterns of ocular isolates of rapid growers of mycobacteria against fluoroquinolones, Macrolides, cephalosporins and Amino glycolides”.

Mr. Y. Samson Moses attended the Indian Eye Research Group (IERG) Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai from 26th – 27th July 2008 and made a poster presentation on “Genotyping of Herpes Simplex Virus – 1 detected isolated in ocular specimens”.

Dr. J. Biswas, Ms.Abhirami, Mr.Job Sudhakar, Ms.Seethalakshmi, Ms.Moutushy Mitra, Ms.Shruthi L, Mr.Mallikarjuna, Ms.Anju H, Ms.Sasirekha Krishnan, Ms.Sarmila Sarkar and Ms. Vandhana attended the IERG Meeting held at Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai on 26th & 27th July 2008.

Dr. K. Lily Therese attended and delivered a lecture on “Rubella Awareness” at the Lions Club district meeting held at Meenakshi College, Chennai on 26th July 2008, which was well received.

Dr. Nikhil S Choudhari attended the TNOA Conference at Chennai on 8th – 10th August 2008.

Dr. Angayarkanni N gave an invited talk in the Diabetic retinopathy session entitled “The Biochemical mechanisms involved in the development & progression of diabetic retinopathy” in 56th Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, (TNOA) – 3rd Oasis Conference vision 2008 on 8th Aug at Rani Meyyammai Hall, Chennai.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended the 56th Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, (TNOA) – 3rd Oasis Conference vision 2008 at Rani Meyyammai Hall, Chennai, on 9th August 2008.

Dr. J. Biswas and Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended the 56th Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, (TNOA) – 3rd Oasis Conference vision 2008 at Rani Meyyammai Hall, Chennai on 9th & 10th August 2008.

Dr. J. Biswas attended the SAO meeting at Delhi on 23rd August 2008.



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Dr. H. N. Madhavan delivered a talk on “Ex vivo cultivation of corneal Limbal epithelial cells in a Thermo-reversible polymer (Mebiol Gel) and their transplantation in Rabbits – an animal model” during the research meet for the inauguration of KBIRVO between 3rd - 5th September 2008. Research Scientists (Dr. J Malathi, Dr. B Mahalakshmi, Ms. R Gayathri, Mr. Samson Moses, Ms. Ms M Sowmiya & Ms. R Harini) from L & T Microbiology Research centre attended and presented the research papers. Dr. B. Mahalakshmi & Ms. R. Gayathri made Oral presentations & Mr. Y. Samson Moses & Ms. M. Sowmiya made Poster presentations during the research meet for the inauguration of KBIRVO between 3rd – 5th September 2008.

Dr. Angayarkanni N attended the Bajaj International Conference from 4th Sept at Hotel Park Sheraton, Chennai and made a paper presentation on Vitreous levels of Vascular endothelial growth factor and Pigment epithelium-derived factor in Eales’ disease.

Dr. VN Sumantran attended the Bajaj International Conference from 4th Sept at Hotel Park Sheraton, Chennai and made a paper presentation on The role of in vitro models in Ocular disease.

Ms. Selvi R attended the Bajaj International Conference from 4th Sept at Hotel Park Sheraton, Chennai and made a paper presentation on Glucose Uptake In CHO-K1 Cells In Presence Of Free And Mixture Of Amino Acids.

Ms. Barathi S attended the Bajaj International Conference from 4th Sept at Hotel Park Sheraton, Chennai and delivered a talk on CRVO and oxidative stress and Therapeutic opportunities in ocular angiogenesis

Dr Sudha K Ganesh elected as Member of International Uveitis Study Group at the 7th International Symposium on Uveitis and International Uveitis Study Group (IUSG) Meeting, Constance , Germany from 8th to 12th September 2008.

Dr. J. Biswas attended the 7th International Symposium on Uveitis and International Uveitis Study Group (IUSG) Meeting, Constance , Germany from 8th to 12th September 2008.

Dr J Biswas was given the “Thrissur Academy of Ophthalmology Oration Award” at the Thrissur Academy of Ophthalmology CME Programme TACOPSIA-2008, Thrissur on 21st September 2008.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended 13th Human Genome Meeting from 27th to 30th September 2009.

Dr Tarun Sharma attended the Diabetic Retinopathy Symposium at Hyderabad in October 2008 and gave a presentation on Surgical nuances in Diabetic vitrectomy.

Dr Tarun Sharma attended the Annual Conference of Sri Lanka Ophthalmologists Association, Sri Lanka during October 2008 and made presentations on Combined PK and PPV in severely injured eye & Surgical intervention in ROP.

Dr Tarun Sharma attended the Conference on “Entrepreneurship Comes of Age”, Delhi in October 2008 and gave a talk on “About Sankara Nethralaya”.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended the third anniversary of Nichi-In Centre for Regenerative Medicine held on 11th Oct '08, Chennai. He chaired one of the session.



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Dr S Meenakshi participated in the Vidharbha Ophthalmic Society Meet at Mumbai between 18th & 19th October 2008 and made presentations on Newer Modalities in the Surgical Management of Pediatric Strabismus & Tips and Tricks in preverbal child.

Dr T S Surendran chaired a session at the Meeting of Strabismological Society of India held at New Delhi from 18th to 20th October 008.

Dr Sujatha Guha attended the Meeting of Strabismological Society of India held at New Delhi from 18th to 20th October 008 and made a presentation on Adjustable sutures in Strabismus Surgery.

Dr Sumita Agarkar attended the Meeting of Strabismological Society of India held at New Delhi from 18th to 20th October 008 and made a presentation on Decision Making in Strabismus Surgery.

Dr. H.N. Madhavan, Dr. J. Malathi, Ms. R. Gayathri and Mr. Y. Samson Moses attended the National Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists (IAMM) conference held at Pune from 22nd to 25^h October MICROCON 2008.

Dr L Vijaya, Dr B Shantha, Dr Ronnie George & Dr Aditya Neog attended the 18th Annual Conference of Glaucoma Society of India at Chandigarh from 31st Oct to 2nd Nov 2008.

Dr. Sachi Devi attended the CME programme – Pan Ophthalmica – 2008, at Shankara Eye Care, Coimbatore on 2nd November 2008. She presented on “Imaging in glaucoma and Normal tension glaucoma”.

Dr Tarun Sharma attended the Diabetes Summit In India – A Summit for South East Asia in Chennai during November 2008

Dr Sachi Devi attended the CME Program at Coimbatore on 2nd November 2008 and made presentations on Imaging in Glaucoma and Normal Tension Glaucoma.

Dr Bipasha Mukherjee, Dr Sumita Agarkar, Dr Krishna Kumar, Ms A Vijayalakshmi & Ms Jameel Rizwana attended the Annual Conference of Karnataka State Ophthalmic Association, Karnataka, on 7th & 8th November 2008.

Dr R R Sudhir attended the American Academy of Ophthalmology Conference at USA between 7th and 11th November 2008 and made a presentation on Prevalence and risk factors associated with dry eye – a population based study of urban diabetics in India

Dr Rajiv Raman attended the American Academy of Ophthalmology Conference at USA between 7th and 11th November 2008 and made presentations on Dislipidemia and Diabetic Retinopathy: results from a population-based study in Urban India and Identifying Retinal Thickness Patterns on Spectral Domain OCT and Correlating With Microperimetry in Diabetic Macular Edema and Diabetic Retinopathy.

Dr Pramod Bhende attended the CME Program organized by Pune Ophthalmologists, Pune on 15th November 2008.

Dr Muna Bhende attended the CME Programme at Coimbatore on 15th November 2008.

Mr. M Naganathan, Ms. K Sanjana & Ms. Sheela Evangeline made oral presentations at the 34th All India Optometry Conference held at Amrister between 15th & 17th November 2008.



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M/s. G Muneeswar Gupta Nittala, Gella Laxmi, S Kaleemunnisha, S Divya , S Amritha, M Ashwini, R Monica, S Sheeba & Sayantan Biswas made poster presentations at the 34th All India Optometry Conference held at Amrister between 15th & 17th November 2008.

M/s. V Abinaya Priya, S Sangeetha, K Arun Kumar & S VE Ramesh made oral and poster presentations at the 34th All India Optometry Conference held at Amrister between 15th & 17th November 2008.

Dr Aditya Neogi & Dr Amala E George attended the Annual Conference of Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons, Kochi from 27th to 30th November 2008.

Dr Pramod Bhende attended the CME Program Organized by International Hospital Bahrain (IHB), Bahrain on 30th November 2008 and made a presentation on Modern Trends in Retina.

Dr. Angayarkanni and Ms. AV. Saijyothi went to IISc, Bangalore for workshop by Bruker/Lab India at the Molecular Biophysics unit on Application of Mass spectrometry from 3rd -5th Nov' 2008

Dr. J. Biswas attended a meeting at Calcutta to deliver a lecture at National Medical College Calcutta on 4th November 2008.

Dr. H. N. Madhavan attended the first Monitoring and second Steering Committee meeting of CSIR NIMITLI project entitled "Development of DNA Macro- chips for the Simultaneous Detection of Pathogens Causing Acute Encephalitic Syndrome (AES), Septicaemia and Antibiotic Resistance" and presented the progress report of the project on 5th November 2008 at Xcyton Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore.

Dr. Ronnie George attended the CME programme – Kottayam on 9th November 2008 and presented the following topic: "Visual field interpretation and recent advances sin visual field testing".

Mr. S.Ve.Ramesh attended the 34th All India Optometry Conference (AIOC) at Amritsar during 15th to 17th November 2008. He delivered an invited lecture and presented "3D Evaluation of Optic Nerve Head in Glaucoma".

Dr. Lingam Gopal attended the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and gave a talk on Lens sparing vitrectomy in ROP

Dr Dhanashree Ratra participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Comparative analysis of visual outcomes in patients treated with combined photodynamic therapy (PDT) and ranibizumab and those treated with PDT and bevacizumab for choroidal neovascularization secondary to Age Related Macular Degeneration.

Dr Pratik Ranjan Sen participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Choroidal rupture following intravitreal injection of Bevacizumab in patients with underlying connective tissue disorder.

Dr Parveen Sen participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Multifocal Electroretinogram as a diagnostic tool for evaluation of patients with suspected drug toxicity



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Dr Pukhraj Rishi participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Challenges in VR Surgery in eyes with permanent keratoprosthesis

Dr Ekta Rishi participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Endogenous Endophthalmitis in children

Dr Amit Nagpal participated at the XVII Vitreoretinal Society of India at West Bengal from 4th to 6th December 2008 and made a presentation on Eyewall resection for intraocular tumours (A series of 9 cases)

Dr. Ronnie George attended the Glaucoma update at St.Johns Medical College, Bangalore on 6th and 7th December 2008. Training on live surgery and delivered lecture on 7th December on Trabeculectomy, techniques and anti-metabolite use
Glaucoma diagnosis.

Dr Amit Nagpal attended the Uttara Eyecon Conference at Dehradun, from 9th to 12th December 2008 and made a presentation on Brachytherapy for the Management of Intraocular Tumors.

Dr. V N Sumantran attended the SBC [I] conference at IIT, Chennai, from 18th to 20th Dec' 08 and made a poster presentation on "The effects of Chlorpyrifos on viability of ARPE-19 retinal pigment epithelial cells".

Ms. S Barathi attended the SBC [I] conference at IIT, Chennai, from 18th to 20th Dec' 08 and made a poster presentation on Cytotoxic effect of Homocysteine and Homocysteine thiolactone in bovine retinal endothelial cells.

Ms. K Coral attended the SBC [I] conference at IIT, Chennai, from 18th to 20th Dec' 08 and made a poster presentation on Lysyl oxidase activity in retinal pigment epithelial cells exposed to homocysteine.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended the Joint INDO-US Workshop on "Ophthalmology: Present, Future & Beyond" on 4th Jan 2009 at Bangalore.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended and gave a lecture in the MDRF-ICMR Workshop on "Techniques in Genomics in Relation to Diabetes & Related Disorders" on 6th January 2009.

Dr. H. N. Madhavan and Dr. J. Malathi attended the CME programme on "Difficult to detect viral infections" held at Sri Ram Chandra Medical College, Porur on 12th January 2009. Dr.J.Malathi delivered a lecture on "Difficult to detect ocular viral infections".

Dr. H. N. Madhavan attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and gave talk on "Eye Research in the 21st century, what can India offer" and "Recent Developments in the Nucleic Acid Technology for the Diagnosis of Ocular Infections" as an invited speaker.

Dr T S Surendran gave a Key note Address on "An overview of Strabismus" at the Ophthalmopaedia 2009, a CME on Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology at Rajan Eye Care, Chennai on 4th January 2009



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Dr Prema Padmanabhan, Dr R R Sudhir & Dr Vinay S Pillai from Cornea Department attended the ASIA-ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad between 15th & 18th January 2009.

Dr T.S Surendran, Dr Lav Kochgaway & Dr Sujata Guha from Squint Pediatric Ophthalmology attended the ASIA-ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad between 15th & 18th January 2009.

Dr Lingam Gopal, Dr Tarun Sharma, Dr Vikas Khetan, Dr Ekta Rishi, Dr Pukhraj Rishi, Dr Chetan Rao, Dr Swakshyar Saunya Pal & Dr Rajiv Raman from Vitreo-Retinal Ophthalmology attended the ASIA-ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad between 15th & 18th January 2009.

Ms.M.Rajeswari, Ms.Rajini Rajan, Ms.R.Priya, Ms.Kaleemunnisha, Ms.Lokabhavani, Ms.Resima, Ms.Jameel Rizwana, Mr.S Ve Ramesh, Mr.Muneeswar Gupta & Ms.Gella Lakshmi, Optometrists attended the ASIA-ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad between 15th & 18th Jan'09.

Dr. K. Lily Therese attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and gave a talk on “Molecular techniques in the Diagnosis of Ocular Mycotic and Parasitic Infections” as an invited speaker.

Dr. J. Malathi, attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and made an oral presentation on Nucleic acid based molecular diagnostics in ocular viral infections and poster presentation on “Phylogenetic analysis of ocular clinical herpes simplex virus - 1 isolates for genotyping and analysis of thymidine kinase gene to detect resistance to acyclovir”.

Mr. Y. Samson Moses attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and made a poster presentation on Comparison of pp65 antigenemia assay with Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction for the detection of HCMV infections in renal Transplant patients and an oral presentation on Reverse Transcriptase (RT-PCR) based DNA- sequencing for genotyping of Rubella virus isolates from lens aspirates.

Ms. R. Gayathri attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and gave an oral presentation on Comparison of Quantiferon TB gold IT test and PCR targeting MPB64 and IS6110 region for the detection of M. tuberculosis genome and made a poster presentation on “Evaluation of molecular method for species level identification of ocular Nocardia isolates and in vitro antibiotic susceptibility pattern”.

Dr. B. Mahalakshmi attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and made a poster presentation on “Direct detection and genotyping of Toxoplasma gondii in Clinical specimens from HIV positive Toxoplasma retinochoroiditis patients - In a tertiary eye hospital in India”.

Ms. M Sowmiya attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 Conference held at Hyderabad from January 15th – 18th 2009 and made an oral presentation on “Analysis of mutations in QRDR region of gyrase A gene of bacteria belonging to Enterobacteriaceae isolated from the ocular specimens by PCR based DNA sequencing” and won the Best Oral Presentation Award.

Ms. M Rajeswari attended the Asia Arvo Conference at Hyderabad. She was the Invited Speaker at Asia Arvo 2009 and delivered a talk on Evolution of ortho keratology.

Dr. N. Angayarkanni attended the ASIA- ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad 14th to 18th Jan 09 and gave a talk as invited speaker on Homocysteine levels and Lysyl oxidase Activity in patients with



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pseudoexfoliation Syndrome and also made a poster presentation on Effects of Amino acids mixture on CHO-K1 cells exposed to high glucose.

Ms.K. Coral attended the ASIA- ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad 14th to 18th Jan 09 and made a poster presentation on LOX activity in cultured bovine RPE cells exposed to oxidative stress.

Ms. Saijyothi attended the ASIA- ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad 14th to 18th Jan 09 and made an oral presentation on Tear 2D protein profile in Dry Eye Syndrome.

Ms. Bharathi attended the ASIA- ARVO 2009 Conference at Hyderabad 14th to 18th Jan 09 and made a poster presentation on Arylesterase and Homocysteine Thiolactonase Activity of PON1 in the vitreous of patients with Proliferative Diabetic Retinopathy”.

Dr. J. Biswas, Dr. S. Krishnakumar, Ms. Abhirami, Ms. Moutushy Mitra, Ms. Sasirekha Krishnan, Ms. Seethalakshmi, Ms. Shruthi L, Ms. Vandhana, Ms. Srilatha Jasty, Mr. Mallikarjuna and Ms. Anju H attended Asia ARVO 2009 held from 15th to 18th January 2009. Dr. J. Biswas and Dr. S. Krishnakumar attended the Pathology Meet on 20th January 2009.

Dr. L. Vijaya attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and delivered guest lectures on Role of cataract surgery in primary angle-closure glaucoma, Glaucoma burden in the community and Prevalence and types of secondary glaucoma in the Chennai glaucoma study.

Dr.Ronnie George attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and delivered guest lectures on Technological innovations in glaucoma, Types of studies and Estimated number of persons with glaucoma in India.

Dr. Nikhil Choudhari attended the Asia ARVO Conference at Hyderabad between 15th and 18th January 2009.

Mr. S Ve Ramesh attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented the paper on: “Chennai Glaucoma Optic Nerve Head Imaging Study: Population Based Longitudinal Assessment of Optic Nerve Head Progression in Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, and Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma”. He got the best paper award.

Dr.Nikhil S.Choudari attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented the paper on: “Intraocular pressure Asymmetry can indicate undiagnosed primary Glaucoma”

Mr. Muneeswar Gupta attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented a poster on ““Retinal Sensitivity over Hard Exudates Using Fundus Microperimeter” and received Best Poster Award.

Ms. Rajni Rajan attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented a poster on ““Macular Pigment Optical Density and Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography in South Indians” and received the Travel Fellowship Award.

Ms. V. Lokapavani attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented a poster on “Association of Indoor or Outdoor Work with the Prevalence of Lens Opacities in a Rural South Indian Population”



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Ms. A.Rashima attended the ASIA ARVO 2009 at Hyderabad from 15th to 18th January 2009 and presented the poster on "Prevalence of Pterygium and Pinguecula in a South Indian Population"

Dr Sudharshan, Dr Mamta Agarwal and Dr Suchitra Pradeep attended the meeting of Uveitis Society of India at Hyderabad on 18th & 19th January 2009.

Neuro-Update Conference was held at Chennai on 25th & 26th Jan 09 Chennai and SN Faculties-Drs. Aditya Neog, S Ambika, Lingam Gopal, Nikhil Choudhari, Parveen Sen, Ravindra Mohan, Rashmin Gandhi, Shantha, Shikha Bassi, Sumita Agarkar, T S Surendran, J Vijay Ananth, Veena Noronha & Kavitha Kalaivani N attended the conference.

Dr T S Surendran attended the Blind Inauguration Function by National Association for the Blind, Chennai on 30th January 2009 and gave a talk on Community Ophthalmology.

Dr. J. Malathi attended the "Hands on Training Programme" on DNA sequencer conducted by Applied Biosystems from 2nd to 4th February 2009 held at Gurgaon, New Delhi.

Dr. Aditi Johri and Dr. Vinay Sukumar from Cornea attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. T S Surendran, Dr. S Meenakshi and Dr. Sumit Agarkar from Squint Pediatric Ophthalmology attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. Lingam Gopal, Dr. Promod Bhende and Dr. Muna Bhende from Vitreoretinal Services attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. E. Ravindra Mohan, Dr. Priti Uday Khentan, Dr. Bipasha Mukherjee and Dr. Nirmala Subramaniam from Oculoplasty attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. J Biswas, Dr. S Sudharshan, Dr. Mamta Agarwal and Dr. Sudha K Ganesh from Uvea attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. Rashmin Gandhi, Dr. Ambika from Neuro-ophthalmology and Dr. Olma Veena Noronha from Radiology attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr. Krishnendu Nandi, Dr. Chinmaya Amulyanath, Dr. Swatgata Sarkar, Dr. Moupia Goswami, Dr. Jay Kumar Chhablan, Dr. Renu R Antinikar, Dr. Shrutika A Junagade, Dr. Vardhaman, Dr. Ranjini Priya, Dr. Sunitha A and Dr. Rekha S attended the AIOS 2009 at Jaipur from 5th to 8th February 2009.

Dr.L.Vijaya attended the AIOS Conference from 5th February 2009 to 8th February 2009. and participated in the Symposium titled Advances in the comprehensive management of Glaucoma and presented on "Importance of adherence in Management of Glaucoma." Dr. L. Vijaya gave a talk on Epidemiology and Definitions of PACG and Malignant Glaucoma, Diagnosis, Prevention and Management. Dr.L.Vijaya conducted a symposium titled "Glaucoma Progression" and spoke on "Natural History of Primary glaucoma". Dr ANG also participated and spoken on "Risk factors/Markers for predicting progression". Dr. L.Vijaya participated in a symposium on 7th titled "Current Advances in Management of Glaucoma" and spoke an "Asymmetry in IOP In glaucoma patients". She also conducted an instruction course titled "Glaucoma Drainage Devices - success after failures" & I spoke on "Video presentation of surgical techniques." The - co instructors were Drs ANG SD and GTS.



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Dr. HNM attended the TN & Py IAMM local chapter meeting on 18th February 2009 held at Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai.

Dr Amala E George attended the 6th International Workshop on VKH Sarcoidosis, Sympathetic Ophthalmia, Singapore from 26th Feb to 1st March 2009.

Dr Kavitha Kalaivani attended the CME on Pediatric Ophthalmology at Nigeria and gave a talk on Evaluating Strabismus.

Ms. R. Gayathri, attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made a poster presentation on “Detection of viable Mycobacterium tuberculosis from sputum samples targeting 85 B gene by reverse transcriptase PCR” and won Second Best Poster Award.

Mr. Y. Samson Moses attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made a poster presentation on “Genotypic and phenotypic characterization of the acyclovir resistance among Herpes simplex virus 1 isolates.

Ms. M. Sowmiya from Microbiology department attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made a poster presentation on “Application of PCR based RFLP technique targeting the 16S rRNA and DNA sequencing for the identification of anaerobic clinical isolates of Prevotella and Actinomyces spp.”

Dr.Ronnie George attended the Colombo Ophthalmic Society Meeting, Colombo on 8th March 2009 and spoke on “Newer technology in glaucoma diagnosis.”

Dr.Sachi Devi attended the Regional ophthalmology conference held at Kuala Lumpur between 5th to 7th March 2009 and displayed a poster which showed in brief, the journey of Chennai Glaucoma study

Ms. Saijyothi AV, attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 6th & 7th March 2009 and made a poster presentation on Tear fluid 2D gel electrophoresis – development of sample preparation method.

Mr.S.Ve.Ramesh attended the “National Conference on Emerging Trends in Life Sciences, BITS, Pilani during 3rd to 5th March 2009 and presented the paper titled “The Chennai Longitudinal Imaging Study – Progression of optic Nerve Head in subject with primary glaucoma in South Indian Population”.

Ms. K Coral attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made an oral presentation on Lysyl oxidase activity in RPE cells exposed to Homocysteine

Ms. R Selvi attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made an oral presentation on Effects of Amino acids Mixture on the Glucose transporter by GLUT4 in CHO-K1 cells exposed to high glucose.



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Ms. Barathi attended the “National conference on Emerging trends in life sciences research” held at BITS Pilani from 3rd – 5th March 2009 and made an oral presentation on “The effect of amino acids as antiangiogenic agent in Bovine retinal endothelial cells”.

Ms Vinita Kumari attended the “National conference on emerging trends in life sciences research” to held on 6th and 7th March at Birla Institute of Technology Science, Pilani Rajasthan.

Ms. M Rajeswari attended the National Conference of "Emerging trends in Life sciences research" on 6-7 March 2009 at BITS, Pilani and made a poster presentation on “Contact lens fitting Keratoconus – a retrospective study”

Ms. R. Aiswaryah, Ms. V. Abinaya Priya and Ms. S. Sangeetha attended the National Conference on Emerging Trends in Life Sciences, BITS Pilani, between 3rd and 5th March 2009.

Dr. G Kumaramanickavel attended the 34th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Human Genetics (ISHG) at New Delhi, held between 17-20 March, 2009 and gave a talk on ‘Mendelian and Complex Disorders: Gene Mapping in SNP Genotyping Era’.

Dr. K. Lily Therese attended Brain storming session on Development of diagnostics for Bioterrorism agents conducted by DRDO and organized by Dr. Shankaran, Anna University on 21st March 2009. There were a total of 8 participants from various disciplines of Science.

Ms. Rajeshwari Mahadevan attended the Eighth Dr. E. Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Session on 29th March, 2009 and gave a talk on Intolerant Contact Lens Wear in Keratoconus - Is Scleral Lens An Option?

Ms. Brindha Kumaresan attended the Eighth Dr. E. Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Session on 29th March, 2009 and gave a talk on Contact Lens Fitting: Pre and Post Corneal Collagen Cross Linking in Keratoconus.

Ms. Valarmathi attended the Eighth Dr. E. Vaithilingam Memorial Scientific Session on 29th March, 2009 and Contact Lens Fitting in Megalocornea – A Case Report.



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DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

- ◆ Graham Avery – Director Sales from David Thomas contact lens introduced Rose K contact lenses for irregular corneas.
- ◆ A delegation from Brunie with Dr N Ravindranathan and the Director of Health Services visited on 10th April 2008.
- ◆ Prof Narayana Rao, Research Director and Dr. Kasmir Raja, Dean of Research SRM University, visited our research facility on 18 Jun 08.
- ◆ Dr. Abhay Chowdhary, Secretary of IAMM visited the Basic Medical Science Departments of Sankara Nethralaya, VRF Referral Laboratory, Haddows Road on 17th July 2008.
- ◆ Dr. J. Fielding Hejtmancik of NIH, USA visited Genetics Lab on 28th July 2008 and gave a guest lecture.
- ◆ Mr. Lyonpo, Health Minister of Bhutan and his team visited the Basic Medical Science Departments on 12th September 2008.
- ◆ Dr. David Friedman from Johns Hopkins and Dr. Janey L Wiggs from Harvard Medical School visited the Glaucoma project and Affymetrix Lab on 29th and 30th Sep 2008.
- ◆ Ms Ane Keen, Health Minister of Britain, UK and her team visited Sankara Nethralaya on 8th October 2008.
“Most amazing visit. Your work for humankind is overwhelming. I would love to work with you.”
- ◆ Delegation from United Kingdom visited Sankara Nethralaya on 9th October 2008.
- ◆ Dr. Prakash P Kumar, National University of Singapore, Singapore, visited Sankara Nethralaya on 18th November 2008. His comments were,
“The facility looks excellent and there may be several basic science research areas we can consider for collaboration in future.”
- ◆ Dr. Rod Bremner, Scientist at University of Toronto, visited Genetics Lab and also gave a guest lecture on retinoblastoma on 13th January 2009.
- ◆ Dr. Eric Pearlman, Ph.D, Professor and Director of Research, Department of Ophthalmology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland visited Microbiology Department on 19th January 2009.
- ◆ Dr. John H. Kempen, Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania, USA, visited Sankara Nethralaya on 23rd January 2009. He delivered a lecture titled "Mortality risk associated with the use of immunosuppressive drugs for ocular inflammatory diseases". His comments are,
“This is a beautiful Research Environment and I am sure your work will continue to flourish even more”
- ◆ Dr. Arun Kumar, Associate Professor from Molecular Reproduction, Genetics Division, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore visited Genetics Lab and gave a lecture titled “Primary Microphaly: Identification of new genes” on 31st March 2009.



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- ◆ Dr. Krishnan Nandabalan (Ayugen) and Dr. Uday Matrubutham, Managing Director, Invitrogen, India visited Genetics Lab on 7th Feb, 2009.
- ◆ Mr. Manish Pungliya, Ayugen biosciences, visited Genetics Lab and discussed regarding the BRCA gene testing, with Dr. N Soumitra on 7th Feb 2009.
- ◆ Board members of Cognizant Foundation visited the Microbiology Department on 16th February 2009. The faculty and Research Scientists attended the meeting conducted to honour the Cognizant Foundation for donating 8 instruments to the Basic Medical Sciences Departments.
- ◆ Dr. S. Swami Nathan, Director, Center for Nanotechnology and Advanced Biomaterials from SASTRA University visited Microbiology Department on 9th March 2009.
- ◆ Dr. J. R. Rao, MVSc, PhD, NFAVS, Head, Division of Parasitology, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar visited Microbiology Department on 9th March 2009 and appreciated the quality of the research being conducted at Microbiology Laboratory and he wanted to collaborate with testing a recombinant antigen for detection of antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* in our laboratory.
- ◆ Professor Bala Gurunadhan, HOD of Microbiology Department, Periyar University, Salem visited Microbiology Department on 27th March 2009.
- ◆ Dr. Arun Kumar, Associate professor from Molecular Reproduction, Genetics Division, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore visited Microbiology Department on 31st March 2009.
- ◆ *Professor Andrew Parratt, Director, Institute for Technology Research and Innovation, Deakin University, Deakin, Australia, visited Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai on 16th March 2009.*
- ◆ Dr. Minu Bajpai, Professor of Paediatric Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi, visited on 28th March 2009. *“This facility is unique in today’s times of commercialization of Health Care System. One cannot, but admire the visionary – Prof. Badrinath. Excellent clinical and research environment. Scientist like Prof. Kumaramanickavel are rare.”*
- ◆ Dr. Amit Banerjee, Director-Professor & Head of Cardiothoracic Surgery, GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi, visited on 28th March 2009. *“I agree with all the words of praise showered before me by Dr. Minu Bajpai and shall agree with all that will be said afterwards for this superlative institution and those who seen it.”*
- ◆ Dr. Satyajit Rath, National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, visited on 28th March 2009. *“The commitment of Sankara Nethralaya to research in vision sciences and the facilities and policies designed for that, are both unusual and impressive.”*
- ◆ Dr. Arun Balakrishnan, PLSL, Mumbai, visited on 28th March 2009. *“The facility has contributed to the welfare of vision care in society. The thrust of R&D is a good direction to help keep faculty updated.”*
- ◆ Dr. C Adithan, JIMPER, Pondicherry, visited Sankara Nethralaya on 28th March 2009. *“This is an excellent hospital and research culture is very good. This will grow further and serve India for several years, etc.”*



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- ◆ Dr. B S Ramakrishna, CMC Hospital, Vellore, visited on 28th March 2009.
“The institution and facilities are impressive. We thank Prof. Kumaramanickavel for his hospitality and wish the department and institute all success in the future.”
- ◆ Dr. Jayasree Sen Gupta, Dept. of Physiology, AIIMS, New Delhi, visited Sankara Nethralaya on 28th March 2009.
“I enjoyed the meeting. The laboratories are excellent with very motivated researchers.”
- ◆ Dr. V I Mathan, National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, visited on 28th March 2009.
“Thank you for your hospitality. It was good to be in a scientific and caring environment.”
- ◆ Prof Chris Dodds, Deputy Chairman, Royal College of Anaesthetists, visited Sankara Nethralaya.
“Just a short note to thank you for all your great organization”
- ◆ Prof Chandrakumar, President, British Ophthalmic Anaesthesia Society visited Sankara Nethralaya.
“I must say, your hospitality was very much appreciated. I enjoyed the tour of your hospital and there is nothing but I have praises. You all work under difficult circumstances and do your job with very good results. I did have a brief idea of Shankar Netralaya but now I have more to say about your institution.

I was made feel at home. I enjoyed meeting your colleagues such as Sujatha (3 of them), Jai chandra, Jagdish and others. Please convey my regards to them. Bala was very kind too. Meeting Drs Lingham Gopal and then SS Badrinath was a bonus. Both of them are so humble”