



eyelights



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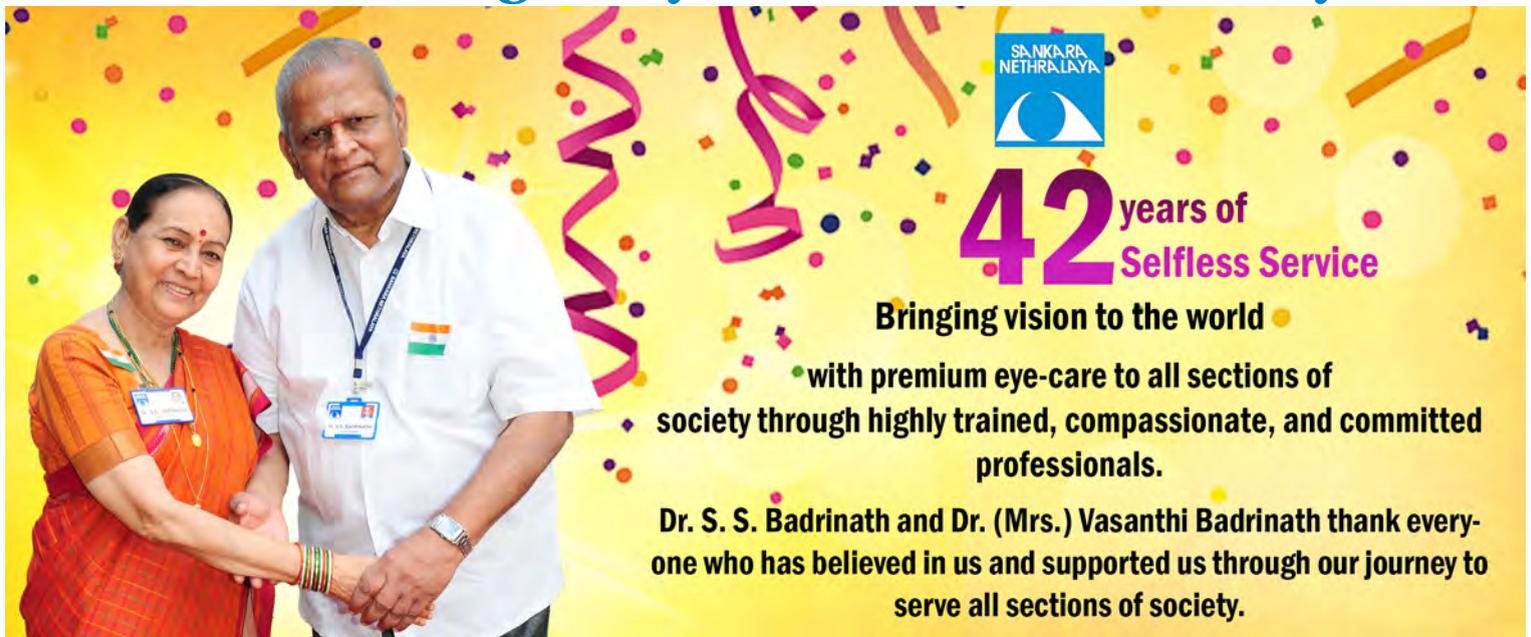
INAUGURATION of SANKARA NETHRALAYA - 1978



SN SAFETY MEASURES TAKEN DURING COVID-19



Celebrating Forty Third Foundation Day



Sankara Nethralaya family celebrated its 43rd Foundation Day in a very different way on 6th September, 2020. Dr Girish Rao opened the proceedings saying, “No two years are same at SN, no of us imagined that this year would be so very different to the preceding 42 years. I am not sure the challenges we faced today is comparable to the challenges we faced when we started the journey in 1978. While COVID-19 has kept us apart physically it has brought us together digitally.”

He thanked the front-line warriors, including the nursing staff, the OT staff, the commercial, housekeeping, transport, security departments, the cafeteria staff, and everyone who worked even during the intense lockdown and are the face of SN when patients walk into Sankara Nethralaya. He handed over the evening’s virtual program to the compere, Dr. N. Radhika. She invited the melodious Dr. S. Meenakshi to sing an invocation, who then sang one of Dr. S. S. Badrinath’s favourite songs.

Dr. T. S. Surendran guided us through SN’ step by step journey to become what it is today. From the inaugural ceremony to the original building in which Sankara Nethralaya started, Dr. T.S.S led us back to the heady days of Sankara Nethralaya’s foundation He has witnessed every major event that occurred at SN and the many achievements in the field of ophthalmology and philanthropic services to the needy.

Our beloved Chief and Madam, Dr. S. S. Badrinath and Dr. (Mrs.) Vasanthi Badrinath joined the virtual celebrations to bless Sankara Nethralaya staff and their families. They recalled the long hard road to establish Sankara Nethralaya as the premier institute for eye care imbued with the spirit of service to society regardless of ability to pay. Chief rededicated SN to the mission of bringing vision to the poor and reminded us to be resilient in these trying times, and to take Sankara Nethralaya to new heights.

Sankara Nethralaya’s unique not-for-profit model depends on donations for all its community services and relies on paying patients for its day-to-day operations.

Following in the footsteps of our Chief, Dr. Badrinath, is indeed a tall order. The tradition of hard work and dedication was cemented by him during the early days when he used to start surgeries as early as 5 a.m. and continue work until 9 p.m, along with his administrative duties. Our Chief never visualised his life’s work as a corporate hospital, an unusual occurrence even today.

Dr. S. Bhaskaran; Dr. Ian Sundaraj; Dr. K.S. Vasan; Dr. Prema Padmanabhan; Dr. Nirmala Subramanian; Dr. J. Biswas; Dr. Pramod Bhende; Dr. S. Meenakshi shared many happy memories through her vivacious presentations of the celebrations through the years; Dr. L. Vijaya; Dr. Suchetna Mukherjee (Kolkata); Ms. Surekha Mehta; Dr. Anuradha Narayanan; Ms. Sreedevi C G; Ms. Sudha Mohan; Ms. Malathi G. G; and Ms. Yuvarani were among the senior staff members who shared many of their unforgettable memories of training & working under Dr. S. S. Badrinath, and the life-long lessons they learned under his awe-inspiring tutelage.

Over 200 Sankara Nethralaya members joined to view the live virtual celebrations. You can view Sankara Nethralaya’s Founder’s Day virtual celebrations in the following link: <https://youtu.be/tIbNICmJV9Q>

Digital Devices and the Eye

Dr. Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen

The current COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed the lifestyles of all ages across the globe. Even in the pre-COVID-19 era, there were significant concerns regarding eye health and gadget use. The predictions in late 2019 were pointing to the fact that by 2050, 50% (fifty percent) of the world's population will be affected with short-sightedness or Myopia, requiring the use of eyeglasses. There are more reasons to worry now regarding myopia with increased hours of virtual education, working from home, and restricted outdoor environment.

Impact of gadgets on the eye



Ambient natural light and proper posture

Digital eye strain refers to any kind of eye or visual issues due to excessive use of devices such as smart phones, tablets, I-pad, laptops, personal computers, etc., without taking adequate breaks in between. An average adult spends about 5-12 hours on his/her gadget per day and 50-90% of these gadget users experience some form of symptoms due to gadget use. Children on an average use devices for 6 hours/ day including television, and are prone to develop dry eye disease due to excessive use of digital devices resulting in reduced blink rate and increased dryness of the ocular surface. Limiting the hours of gadget use will reverse the symptoms in the early stages. The second major concern is the impact of increased near work and gadget use leading to onset and progression of myopia. With hand held digital devices, children are prone to take the devices closer and this would further increase the risk of myopia.

Here are the possible solutions backed by scientific evidence:

1. With virtual education, giving a compulsory no-gadget break for 15 minutes after an hour of continuous lecture is recommended. It is advised to use larger screens for education and entertainment purposes for better resolution and reduced visual fatigue.
2. Visual hygiene measures to be followed across all ages—maintaining at least an arm working distance while using the device, reading under ambient illumination, and advice frequent blinking to ensure that children do not develop dry eye disease related symptoms
3. Maintaining appropriate posture and seating while engaging in near activities to avoid musculoskeletal issues
4. Switching to reading hard copy books and listening to audio based materials as and when possible
5. The World Health Organization recommends a minimum one hour of physical activity for children aged 5-17 years to ensure overall well-being. A minimum 2 hours of outdoor activities has been shown to be protective against Myopia-based on various research studies. So even during home confinement, it is important to balance outdoor through at home innovative options for outdoor including indoor aerobics, and walking/ cycling in the terrace, balcony, or any space where body is exposed to natural light
6. Maintain good sleep hygiene by having regular bed time and waking up schedule, and cutting down gadgets at least 2 hours before sleep to avoid the effect of blue light from the device hampering with the sleep cycle.
7. Adults role-modeling the habits by following screen time discipline so that children can adapt to the changes

In summary, it is wise to realize that technology can be a boon or bane depending on the balance that we achieve with them. It is imperative to understand that technology has eased all our lives and is serving as a valuable tool across all ages to be able to continue with our routine from our homes. It is in our hands to implement these given tips such that children stay stimulated intellectually while continuing to maintain good eye health and overall well-being.

Mobile Eye Surgical Unit: Awaiting a New Dawn with Hope and Conviction

MESU Activity:

Mobile Eye Surgical Unit (MESU) is made up of two individual buses, which are connected by a vestibule at the camp site, transforming into a self-sufficient operation theatre complex, enabling travel to remote location to perform state of art cataract surgery on board.

The twin-vehicle design of MESU provides sufficient space in the operating environment by having a patient preparatory room, changing room and scrub room, in addition to the OT and sterilization room, while ensuring that the unit can still travel through narrow roads. The MESU thus ensures accessibility to even the remotest of rural locations without compromising on the space available for surgery.

MESU camps are organized in remote rural/tribal locations following a request from a nongovernmental organization. The area is surveyed for the feasibility of conducting the camp. Permission for the camp is sought from the District Blindness Control Society for the notified period of 10 days. Awareness meetings, group discussions are held with the help of local authorities for smooth conduct of the camp ahead of the notified period.

Level grounds in schools or community halls are chosen for parking the MESU unit. The outpatient screening is set up nearby in a fixed facility like a hall or schoolroom near the site. MESU units with a team of 23 members travel to the location and stay for a period of 10 days for examining the patients and perform cataract surgeries. The team along with the MESU units return to Sankara Nethralaya after 10 days. The location is revisited for reviewing patients by an Ophthalmologist with a small team after 1 week and 1 month.

Impact of COVID 19 on Ophthalmic Practice in Sankara Nethralaya

The COVID pandemic and the subsequent lockdown initiated by the Government of India adversely affected the daily operations at all Sankara Nethralaya units across the country. Due to the halt in all forms of mass transport, patients were unable to travel for their scheduled ophthalmic check-ups. All ophthalmic hospitals have stopped elective OPD and OT work. Only emergency cases were attended to. Studies have shown that ophthalmologists, ENT specialists and Dental surgeons are at higher risk of contracting COVID due to proximity to patients during examinations. Medical personnel are now using surgical masks, N95 masks, face shields, PPEs even for OPD services for all staff (as per criteria) reporting to the hospital for work. All patients have non-contact thermal temperature checks, detailed travel and COVID history, and compulsory face masks, to reduce the risk of aerosol spread. Social distancing and hand hygiene are being strictly enforced while the patient is in the premises.

To avoid crowding, the government has banned all camp activities. MESU, cataract screening camps, paediatric screening camps for refractive errors and tele-ophthalmology camps have been stopped from the beginning of pandemic.

In the post lockdown opening up, the Sankara Nethralaya units have started work with 1/3 staffing and has now improved to 50 % of the staffing, and will be resuming to 100% staffing as per government relaxation soon.

The Way Forward:

As the MESU activities involves multiple travel to the specified remote location from the base hospital, with a large team followed by community activity for 10 days for the conduct of the camp, it increases the risk of spread of COVID-19 from one location to other. In view of this, the resumption of MESU activity will be possible only with a Government order (DBCS) once the pandemic is under control with adequate precautions.



Surgery in progress in MESU



Patient coming out of MESU after surgery

Dr. Rajesh P, Senior Consultant & In charge – Mobile Eye Surgical Unit

Sankara Nethralaya Community Services(JCOC) Tackling the Pandemic, leading the New Normal



The start of The Start

As the alert on COVID virus was spreading across the countries, one of our donors wanted to discuss measures for thermal screening and hand hygiene for patients etc., little did we know that the one little change implemented in March 2020 was the first for many to come. With the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring the coronavirus outbreak as a global pandemic not soon after, patient care in Sankara Nethralaya (SN) was thoroughly revisited in the remaining month; change to adapt soon became our only constant.

Having given time to deliberate the next move in the face of looming crisis, collective action was taken to close community services from 17th March 2020 onwards. Services were closed before the nationwide lockdown was announced, Sankara Nethralaya was quick to take precautionary action as safety of healthcare workers and patients always came first.

The SN approach towards Community Care

Before the pandemic, On a daily basis the Out Patient Department (OPD) of Jaslok Community Ophthalmic Centre (JCOC) would cater to 250 - 300 patients while simultaneously running an Operation Theatre (OT) list of 40 to 50 patients. During the financial year of April 2019 - March 2020, the JCOC department successfully handled 80,000 and 8,000 patients of OPD and OT respectively. Along with the patient inflow, senior doctors also train 40-50 DNB postgraduates and 25-30 anterior segment fellows in the same academic year.

Rural (and urban) camps were held with aid from various NGOs; selected patients were brought to base hospitals for cataract surgeries. Several postoperative camps were also held in remote areas, and the patients were provided with schedule for glass appointments and other check-ups.

The timely and systemic aid of donors ensure that community services in SN is on par with the paying category. In fact, the institution has an integrated approach towards quality healthcare which covers all speciality services free of cost, i.e., there is no out-of-pocket expenditure from the patient from travel to food to accommodation.

Impact of COVID-19 on SN

The situation in Sankara Nethralaya (SN) is no different than other places of the world. Due to the pandemic, we had to postpone all our outreach activities that tackle cataract blindness and other screening camps in remote and urban areas. Open only for outpatient consultation of select patients who are seen on a regular basis in all other branches of SN, all elective eye surgeries stands cancelled as per government norms till date, excluding emergency cases.

Walk-in services are available for all indigent patients and we are doing free surgeries for speciality patients on select case scenarios. We are doing limited free cataract surgeries also for those in need like total cataracts.

COVID-19 has gravely affected the training of postgraduates and fellows, the cataract surgery training programme has been halted; the students are getting trained in Virtual Reality (VR) simulators for phacoemulsification surgeries (starting this July); students are otherwise encouraged to engage their theory knowledge through online classes.

Walk-in services are available for all indigent patients and we are doing free surgeries for speciality patients.

The COVID management team of SN keeps track of the health of the staff and helps in managing a good work atmosphere in these stressful times.

While the JCOC work force such as administrative, maintenance, Operation Theatre (OT) staff and doctors are stationed in different SN branches, we do look forward for the day when we shall rededicate ourselves to the community services.

NPCB & VI – Implementing the New Normal

It is not surprising that COVID-19 pandemic has affected eye hospitals and eye health foundations alike - a state of constant flux has become normative since only emergency wings were operational in most hospitals.

To combat this situation, the government has implemented the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI), providing guidelines and strategies to move forward during COVID-19 (and further); stands updated as of June 2020.

The AIOS guidelines have been developed based on COVID-19 affected zones, thus making it clear that outreach camps and mobile vans are not allowed at this stage.

At this juncture, it is essential to strengthen our primary eye care services – as in vision centres. One of the key aspects for doing so would be to strengthen training via tele-ophthalmology, while also strengthening community foothold by providing essential services.

Looking beyond, moving forward

As per MFV-AIOS Guidelines, resuming work regarding comprehensive eye camps (a major part of community outreach activities of eye hospitals) is not advisable in the foreseeable future.

Although an initial discussion aimed to bring normal functioning by July 2020, no definitive steps was or will be taken for the same until the pandemic recedes significantly; the institution will follow after State Government guidelines for further directives.

All guidelines are formulated for Community OPD care with suggested safety precautions and ready to function once the lockdown is lifted.

Amidst such dark clouds there exists a silver lining – the eye care community strives against all odds to provide surgical interventions, primary eye care service delivery and other services that are permissible under the new guidelines.

Dr. Veena Baskaran, Senior Consultant & In charge - JCOC

Philosophy of SN

“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.”

COVID WARRIOR – The rise of Tele Medicine

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an unexpected but timely opportunity to ramp up tele-ophthalmology applications in order to ensure that patients received appropriate care during the lockdown.

The pandemic posed significant challenges in dealing with Patients due to concerns on infections and associated risks. The decision for a lockdown posed quantum challenges in dealing with unknowns and lead to significant disruption in hospital services and engagement with patients more so who were operated upon and waiting for further advice from our Consultants.

The pandemic response saw the development and launch of a fully automated Tele Counselling Solutions integrated with EMR in quick time.

A cross functional team of Consultants along with IT and Patient services quickly rose to the occasion and reached out to nearly 7000 plus patients to provide tele counselling to deal with the post-operative care and dealing with associated issues leveraging leading edge technology.

The entire virtual consultation was fully documented into the EMR complying to the guidelines of the Tele Medicine guidelines issued post pandemic outbreak.

Sankara Nethralaya – TITAN Eye Plus partnership - The rise of Digital health - Tele Consultation Services

With the pandemic showing no signs of restraint and with persistent lock down and travel restrictions, we thought it fit to reach out beyond the physical boundaries of the locations where we presently operate. It is imperative for us to think beyond and fully leverage our best in class EMR along with the Tele Consultation suite to engage with our patients and public at large and expand the foot print.

Sankara Nethralaya has a long standing relationship with TITAN since 2008. Titan and Sankara Nethralaya have a going Relationship since 2008 through technical collaboration for training of Titan Eyeplus store staff and for knowledge sharing in the field of optical dispensing. It was time to take the partnership to the next level to serve the country better.

We thought it fit to fully and make the best use of the partnership by providing a comprehensive eye examination at designated TITAN Eye Plus stores and Sankara Nethralaya extending its specialized EMR technology and Tele Consultation services. A formal agreement of launch of the services was signed on 31st Jul 2020.

Now eye-care consultation by super specialist eye doctors from Sankara Nethralaya shall no longer be limited to their own centre in Chennai but available through a Virtual/Online platform enabled by chat/telephonic call/video call across all Titan Eyeplus stores and supported through the online platforms for virtual engagement. This shall save the heightened anxiety and effort of travel across the city or the country to access quality eyecare.

Spectacle customers in the store are sometimes re-directed to specialist doctors when the optometrists in the store detects an advanced medical condition that shall need treatment over and above the eyeglasses. Now the availability of specialized consultation for advanced eye health issues, in the store, will go a long way in improving customer/ patient experience.

The visionary step is set to leverage the collective strength of leaders of the industry and has the potential to set up the largest Tele Consultation network in India and could potentially disrupt the market place and provide innovative services leveraging technology.



For his invaluable work on this project, Mr Chandra Mouli was honored with the CIO of the Year award from Techplus Media. Sankara Nethralaya from Chennai was among 50 CIO's across India who were selected for driving innovative digital solutions in their Hospitals.

The hardwork and dedication of the IT team under the active guidance of Dr R R Sudhir, backed by all the consultants and SN team made this possible.

Cataract Webinar: "Technique, Technology and a Retake" - an Overview

The webinar entitled "Technique, Technology and a Retake" was conducted on 29th August 2020 as a part of the Cataract Update programme. It is the 16th update in the series and was organized by Dr Shikha Bassi, Deputy Director Neuro Ophthalmology Services, Sankara Nethralaya. This cataract update was conducted for the first time on a virtual reality platform and hence had a wider reach both nationally, as well as internationally. It was made possible because of the technical support given by Dr. R.R. Sudhir.

The update was streamed live on our YouTube channel and on Facebook, and enjoyed a viewership of 4500 views. The program had 4 talks by world renowned speakers Dr. Richard Kho from Philippines, Dr. Soon Phaik Chee from Singapore, Dr. Ruth Lapid from Netherlands, Dr. Niveditha Narayanan from India. A stellar expert panel formed by Dr. Prema Padmanabhan, Medical Director, SN; Dr. L. Vijaya, distinguished Senior Consultant Glaucoma, and Dr. R. R. Sudhir, Senior Consultant, SN; Dr. Arulmozhi Varman Director, Uma Eye Hospital, and Dr. Vineet Ratra, Senior Consultant, SN. The program was moderated by Dr. Shikha Bassi and Dr. Richard Kho, with fruitful discussions that resulted in many important new revelations in the management of cataracts.

The technique of phacoemulsification was discussed in the first session and in the second session new in the lens technology, especially Presbyopia Correction from Europe was presented by Dr Ruth Lapid from Netherlands. The third and the last session was on toric lenses.

The webinar was well received with 295 registrations from all parts of India, United States of America, Hongkong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Germany and Bangladesh. The cataract update program series and the cataract catalyst conference series are the academic endeavors to enhance the knowledge and skill of cataract management at Sankara Nethralaya.



SN Safety Measures Taken During COVID-19

Sankara Nethralaya was the 1st Ophthalmic institute in India to recognise the threat of COVID pandemic early on and stopped elective surgeries and walk-in appointments in mid-March, more than a week before the country went into complete lockdown.

Sankara Nethralaya, being a pioneer in eye-care, has also set standards for safety measures ensuring the well-being of everyone who seeks, and provides eye care. Beginning from the entrance to exit the what, why, and how of safety precautions are detailed through a standard operating procedure manual for all departments. Disinfection protocols, symptoms and disclaimer checklist for COVID-19, physical distancing, and the wearing of masks are made compulsory for all patients. In the outpatient department with 50% workforce, all the safety precautions and evidence-based approach to providing patient care are adopted. The OPD procedures are pruned and made triage-based on the



presenting visual complaints to reduce the time taken for consultation. Wait times are being strictly monitored and vulnerable population is triaged to ensure quick exit after their eye care needs are met. Patients have been encouraged to register for appointment online and also fill out their symptoms and upload their reports from the comfort of their home so that they spend less time in the hospital. Online payments are encouraged so as to avoid cash handling. Thermal checks of all patients and staff is carried out daily. Sanitizers are placed across the OPD and all are encouraged to maintain hand hygiene. Social distancing is maintained in the waiting area by blocking the seats. Sanitization of all touch points is undertaken on hourly basis and at the end of the day UVC sterilization of the OPD area is carried out. All staff also wear masks while face shields are mandatory for staff interacting with patients. All clinic rooms and equipment are sanitized after every examination. The OPD HVAC is modified to ensure fresh air circulation and sterility of the air is ensured with appropriate filters and UVC disinfection. The same discipline pertaining to social distancing, hand sanitization and use of masks is maintained in the cafeteria and coffee shops.

OT Guidelines

Employee education related to the COVID-19 functioning was ensured through education and awareness videos for all departments. Exhaustive, department-specific SOP has been prepared and available online for ready reference. Separate COVID examination room have been earmarked in the main campus and Mukundpur campuses. Only OPD consultation is provided to COVID +ve patients using all standard safety protocols and then these patients are referred to Govt designated COVID hospitals for COVID treatment.

Almost all surgeries have become day care with admissions restricted to absolutely essential cases. Pre-operative COVID tests are done for all cases scheduled under General Anaesthesia and for suspect cases.

Sankara Nethralaya team also contributed to establishing and circulating guidelines as part of associations including the All India Ophthalmological Society, Optometry Council of India, and Vision 2020 to name a few.





Memorial Services

SN's Tribute to

Mr. S. Rajaratnam,
IT Veteran and Well-wisher
Board Member, Sankara Nethralaya

Mr. S. Rajaratnam, distinguished advocate and tax consultant passed away after 90 odd years of gracing our World with his presence. The Sankara Nethralaya family held a brief online memorial with Dr. Girish Rao opening the meeting. A minute's silence was observed, then Ms. Lohitha, daughter of Dr. Viswanathan, head of General Optometry, rendered a heartfelt prayer song.

Dr. Girish Rao recollected Late Mr. S. Rajaratnam's prodigious accomplishments. He received several awards, including one from the Fellowship of Institute of Social Science and Research, Vellore, Seva Ratna award from the Centenary Trust Chennai, the Leadership Award from the United Writers' Association, Chennai, Doctor of Divinity Award from the Gurukul University, Chennai. He received an award for achievement from the members of the Institutes of the Valours. After a brief spell serving as a lecturer of Economics, he joined the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) where he rose to the position of Commissioner of Income Tax and finally retired as an Accountant Member of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal. While in service, he was also deputed to the Tamil Nadu Sales Tax and Agricultural Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

With his vast experience, Mr. Rajaratnam competently administered the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators Act in 1976. He was a fellow member of the Institute of the Cost Accountants of India, a Life Member of Indian Law Institute, and Indian Institute of Public Administration, an Honorary Director of the Society of Auditors, Chennai. Mr. Rajaratnam's name is synonymous with Income Tax laws.

Few men were more soft-spoken and knowledgeable than the Late Mr. S. Rajaratnam in his chosen subject. His steadfast and honest reputation was built on his deep insights on the Income Tax act. His popularity among the chartered accountants in Chennai and other cities in South India was unmatched. He will always be known as a gentleman to the last word, friend, philosopher, and guide to the upcoming practitioners, who remember him with fondness.

He made enormous contributions in different tax law journals, garnering a reputation as a prolific writer. He authored and co-authored several books including books on tax planning. In and Around Tax Track, S Rajaratnam's autobiography shares his experience in various phases of his professional life as an administrator, advocate, and adjudicator.

Since Mr. Rajaratnam joined as an honorary member on the board of the Medical Research Foundation (MRF) on 30th March 1988, he remained a pillar of support for our mentor Dr. S. S. Badrinath, and for the foundation. He brought his immense knowledge and experience to advise and guide SN and MRF with his sage advice. He was prompt to every board meeting sharp at 5 pm and attended the last in-person board meeting in March 2020.

Dr. T. S. Surendran recollected fondly that Mr. Rajaratnam remained his patient for 30 years! He said Mr. S. Rajaratnam authored a Tamil book about his other social activities, while his post-budget review in The Hindu also ran for decades.

Dr. Ananth Badrinath consoled the family and said, "He was a distinguished scholar and gentleman, having authored books over 20+ books, which are used as standard textbooks by professionals across India."

Lion. G. V. Raman, of the Sriram Group said, "With fifty years of mutual respect, the friendship will stay forever in my heart."

Mr. Deepan, grandson, representing Mr. Rajaratnam's family, thanked everyone for the opportunity to honor his grandfather.



Memorial Services

SN's Tribute to

Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan

A Rare Soul of Integrity and Strength

Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan was a rare soul who graced this world like a Shooting Star- her noble fight against cancer is known to all her colleagues, friends and well-wishers. She passed away on 15th July 2020 leaving behind her devastated family - husband Mr. Ganesh, daughter - Ms. Ashwini, and her aging parents.

Late Dr . Rajeswari Mahadevan's qualifications are Ph.D., M.Phil opt, FIACLE, FSLs, FBCLA, BAMS. Everyone who worked with her or was associated with her remembers that she was kind, thoughtful, ever eager to learn even while handling her duties and responsibilities as the Head of the Optometry department at Sankara Nethralaya, as well the duties of wife and mother. Dr. Raji, as she was fondly known to her colleagues and friends graduated from the prestigious Elite School of Optometry (ESO) in 1994, and continued to pursue her M.Phil and Ph.D. in contact lenses, while serving at SN. She held a number of first of its kind accolades including a Ph.D. in the field of specialty contact lenses, the PROSE clinical fellowship from the Boston Foundation for Sight, USA, and became the Asia Pacific Regional President of the Executive Board of the "International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE)". She became a Fellow of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (FIACLE) in 2000, obtained FSLs a fellowship from the Scleral Lens Education Society in 2014, awarded the First Initiated, Educator of the Year Award in the field of contact lens in Asia Pacific region for the year 2014, received the Fellowship from the British Contact Lens Association (FBCLA) in the year 2014, Fellowship from the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO) in 2016, and served as the Asia-Pacific President for IACLE.

Dr. Raji's online memorial was a tribute to her rich life and the people she touched with her shining personality that never overshadowed anyone but included them in her aura. It is difficult to encapsulate the love and grief that poured for Dr. Raji's in a small article.

Visit Dr. Raji's online memorial on YouTube, which was attended by the entire Sankara Nethralaya staff, and her contemporaries from abroad.

In loving memory of Dr Rajeswari Mahadevan, Sankara Nethrayala's Medical Research Foundation is launching "Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan Memorial Scientific Sessions", the first one to be held on her birthday. Come join us this Wednesday, 9th September 2020, on Youtube Live from 4.30pm - 7.30pm.

Click on the following link for more information:

<http://www.eso.sankaranethralaya.org/drrmmss/index.html>

Elite School of Optometry (ESO) turns 35!

Elite School of Optometry (ESO) inaugurated during the Ganesh Chaturthi in 1985 is witnessing its 35th year. Fondly recognized as Chief, Dr S. S. Badrinath's visionary and close-to-heart project, the institution has remained the best in providing world class optometric education in India. This is the dream destination for aspiring optometrists, vision scientists clinicians and Community experts. The dream came into existence because of the seed money donated by Elite Optical through Dr Vasanthi Badrinath. A strong foundation was laid by Prof. S. R. Govindarajan, Drs T. S. Surendran, K. Ravishnkar, P. P. Santanam, Prof. Vasudevan Lakshmi Narayanan and Late Dr. E. Vaithilingam. Over the years ESO has witnessed many changes too.

Of the many changes that has happened In this COVID era, online education has taken a giant stride. Keeping up with this, ESO has adopted innovative models in online teaching and evaluations for both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. It is also noteworthy to mention that the expectations of the National Education Policy 2020 on Higher Education Institutions towards holistic education, higher order learning of creativity and innovation, creating self dependent professionals and eminent researchers has always been the vision of ESO. ESO had soon embraced changes in the education system soon after the lockdown was announced and completed the semester successfully. The resilience of the team supported ably by the management of the Medical Research Foundation led to the smooth conduct and completion of the entire process. Admission process for the current academic year was also completed virtually by the competent and energetic team.

“Online education has opened up new avenues in education, especially in ensuring the highest standard of optometric education uniformly across the country. ESO is in plan to increase the uptake of students and also venture into introducing online courses to Optometry students across the country” said Dr. N. Anuradha, Principal of Elite School of Optometry. Dr. Anuradha has taken over as the first woman Principal of ESO since May 2020. She carries with her a rich experience of teaching for the past two decades. She is instrumental in ensuring the institution and its Alma Mater's Social accountability through community outreach initiatives.

Dr. Anuradha Narayanan B. Opt., Ph.D.

Principal, Elite School of Optometry

TSNA Moves With Caution

The SN Academy has moved to our own premises sponsored by HDFC, at Dr. V. G. Appukutty Campus, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai. The new premises with additions in Optical Labs, Medical Labs & Computer lab, have the advantage of a multi-transport network connected to various parts of Chennai as well as its suburbs. Despite the corona pandemic, we manage our functions of lectures, exams and admissions through on-line mode. We offer the courses B. Sc. (ODVS), B. Sc. (Medical Laboratory Technology), B. B. A. (Hospital & Healthcare Management), D. O. T., M. Optom., M.Sc. (MLT), M. H. A. (AHS) and M. B. A. (HHCM) besides various short term courses.

The SN Academy is adhering to all prescribed precautions for the pandemic. Due to the prevailing pandemic, moving forward, we are conducting the classes on-line for all subjects, enabling the students to continue to learn even while at home. Even year-end exams and admissions for the year are being organized online, without need for the students to come in person. As the pandemic is here to stay, we are exploring innovative ways of imparting knowledge to the students while mitigating the virus threat at the same time.

Prof. S. Ramani

Principal, TNSA

Dear Friend,

Greetings from Sankara Nethralaya.

I hope you and your family are doing well and staying safe. On behalf of Dr. S. S. Badrinath Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya, I would like to thank you for your continued support to Sankara Nethralaya over the last years.

I write and appeal to you at the time of our greatest need.

The whole world has been facing the greatest difficulty due to the COVID 19 pandemic for the last 5 months. Our lives have been thrown totally off gear. This pandemic has affected every industry across the globe. It has affected every aspect of life – Education, Healthcare, Arts, and Economy to name a few. It is even more difficult for a charitable institution like Sankara Nethralaya.

Even though Rural and Urban camps, including the Mobile Eye Surgery Camps have been temporarily suspended as per the Instructions of the Health Department, Indigent patients are walking into Sankara Nethralaya for treatment. In spite of the greatly reduced income to the hospital due to the reduced patient flow and the increase in expenses because of the usage of Protective gear like PPE, masks, hand sanitizers etc., we continue to treat the poor patients totally free of cost as Caring for those who cannot afford and providing them World class eye care is our Philosophy.

This is the reason we are reaching out to all our known donors, friends and well-wishers to support us through donations. Your donation will help us continue our service to Community. We seek your kind support for Sankara Nethralaya. As I said earlier, this is the time of our greatest need. Any support from you would be greatly and sincerely appreciated. I take the opportunity to thank you once again.

With warm regards and best wishes

Dr. Girish S. Rao

President



Donate Online

<https://www.supportsankaranethralaya.org/ssndonation/Donate-Now.aspx>

Reach us at

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Ph: 044-2827 1616, 4227 1500

Jagadguru Kanchi Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Nethra Nilayam

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Ph: 044-2234 9269 (ESO) / Ph: 044-4908 6000 (TSNA)

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Sri City Sankara Nethralaya

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Sri Srinivasa Sankara Nethralaya (Tirupathi)

TTD Central Hospital, K.T.Road (Near TTD Administration Bldg.)
Tirupathi - 517 501. Ph : 0877-2264703

Suraj Sankara Nethralaya

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

Join our Mission for Vision



DONATION SCHEME	AMOUNT IN INR
1. One time on a designated date	
Single Cataract Surgery	Rs. 5,000
Single Major Surgery such as Retina, Glaucoma	Rs. 17,500
2. Single day free service	
Approximately 40 Surgeries per day	Rs.2,00,000
3. Year after year on a designated date for 12 years	
Single Free Cataract Surgery	Rs.50,000
Single major Surgery (Retina, Glaucoma)	Rs.1,50,000
4. Tele-ophthalmology	
Sponsoring the Tele-ophthalmology camp for one day	Rs.20,000
5. Corpus Fund	
For Community outreach program	Any amount
6. Naming a room	
	Rs 10,00,000
7. Any other purpose	
	Any amount

Kindly draw your cheques in favour of "Medical Research Foundation"

Donations are exempt under Section 80G

For more details, contact

Ms. Kavitha B,

Deputy Manager, Resource Mobilization

Sankara Nethralaya

e-mail: donation@snmail.org

Ph: 044-28202448, 044-28271616 (extn - 1438)

Websites : www.sankaranethralaya.org,

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