THE KSOS connect

The official Newsletter of Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons

For Private Circulation only | Vol. XXI, Issue 4 | December 2019

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The unassuming, ever smiling little master Dr Mohan Babu



It was my proud privilege to interview Dr. Mohan Babu, the senior most Ophthalmologist in Kannur District and one of the most senior Ophthalmologists in Kerala for this KSOS newsletter. He began his medical career 50 years ago in 1969 and over a cup of tea and snacks I asked him about his career path and also his life.

Dr. Mohan Babu was born in Thottada, a village near Kannur in 1945. His father Sri Govindan Nambiar was a high school teacher and his mother, Madhaviamma. After schooling in Thottada and Kannur, he did his pre university from SN College, Kannur and pre professional from Government Victoria College Palakkad.

He had not intended to become a doctor and told me of the unexpected circumstances under which he became one. When he finished his pre university it was the norm in those days to apply for either Medicine or Engineering. Dr. Mohan Babu wanted to become an Engineer like his older brother and had no particular liking for Medicine. However his father's brother suggested he apply for Medicine also (which he duly did) and was offered admission for both. In those days the Regional Engineering College used to conduct an interview at which he distinctly remembers the then Principal, Prof.Kesav Rao saying "physically disabled people are not fit to become engineers" probably because the only branches of Engineering at that time were Civil, Mechanical and Electrical. The Principal then asked if he had applied for any other professional course, and when told he had, was advised to go "join for that". And that was how he became a doctor. "Thinking back", he says, "it was a blessing in disguise" and I couldn't but agree knowing the excellent and dedicated doctor he now is.

After completing his house surgeoncy in 1969, he worked as a tutor in Anatomy and I remember him teaching me then. However he did not fancy teaching, so after a couple of years, joined the General Health Services of the Government of Kerala.

After almost ten years of Government service, he opted to do his post-graduation and joined Calicut Medical College for a Diploma in Ophthalmology. The two specialities he considered were diametrically opposite- Orthopaedics and Ophthalmology. As Orthopaedics called for a lot of physical effort, which he felt would



Dr Vanaja interviewing Dr Mohan Babu

be beyond him and as he had liked Ophthalmology from childhood, he decided to become an Ophthalmologist. He was inspired by both Dr.Oommen who was the leading and well known Ophthalmologist in Kannur, as also Modi who in his legendary camps was reputed to do cataract surgery in a minute, on thousands of patients, little realising that the latter was not really qualified.

After his post-graduation, Dr.Babu went back to working for the Government first at Kasargod and then at Thalassery. Hailing as he does from Thottada which lies between the towns of Kannur and Thalassery and having been a general practitioner in Thalassery earlier, he is happy to have spent most of his working life (despite transfers) in Thalassery. In the old days, he thinks there is no home in the Eranholi area that he had not visited on his house calls, frequently giving injections at home- all of which is unthinkable today.

Conditions in the Ophthalmology OP both at Kasargod and at Thalassery were very different from those of today as all the only equipment available was a torch and a loupe, but to offset this, the refractionists were excellent.

Intra-capsular cataract extraction using the forceps or the "cryo" were the order of the day and he proudly recalls how adept he was at this for which he is eternally grateful to Prof. K B Venugopal who mentored him at Calicut and had the confidence in Dr. Mohan Babu to let him operate even on some of his private patients! Thanks to this training he was able to operate without major complications in the twenty years at Thalassery.

I reminded him that it had been my good fortune to have worked with him and to have witnessed his many beautiful ICCEs. I learnt cataract surgery from him, as we had not much surgical experience during post-graduation in those days. I want to place on record my eternal gratitude to Dr.Mohan Babu and my happiness in being able to interview my mentor, with whom I had worked very happily for many years.



He became a member of the IMA in 1969, immediately after his house surgeoncy thanks to Prof. A. Thyagarajan and this too he enjoyed being an active member at both Kasargod and Thalassery. He served the IMA and IMA-AMS in various capacities including secretary, president, and state working committee member. He was president of IMA-AMS for four years during which time Thalassery won the Sebastian Joseph trophy for the best branch. He advises that all juniors join and are actively involved in the IMA especially with the difficult times the profession is going through.

Immediately after his post-graduation, he became a member of KSOS and has been equally active in the KSOS, missing just five or six conferences in the last forty years. He fondly remembered the early one day conferences where the number of attendees were far fewer (around 75 at the most) and how they metamorphosed into two and now three day affairs. He even remembers a conference with Dr. T.A. Joseph as President, where it was possible to take a single photograph of all delegates, something that is unimaginable today. Another big difference of course was the number of lady delegates.

He has also attended multiple All India Ophthalmological Society Conferences where apart from getting updated on the latest trends in Ophthalmology he also got to know Ophthalmologists at the All India level and was close to many of them including the unforgettable, legendary

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President speaks.....

"Thank you, we'll stay connected with all of you."

Link to the speech https://youtu.be/XXk0dqMe3So



After 12 months of hectic, running around, planning and execution of our programmes we are carrying out the last of our responsibilitiesin 2018-19 by bringing out this Newsletter.

We are happy that almost all of our promises made at the beginning of our term were fulfilled. Let me thank all our members for accepting our theme "Let's Connect" in their eye care activities. We have done 30 one day CMEs for the doctors. The Newsletters have come on time as *The KSOS Connect*. CME series on Diabetes will be released today. We have been able to help many ophthalmologists in tackling issues related to infection control in their hospitals. The PG orientation programmes went on well in all the 3 zones. For the UGs we conducted a quiz program in MC Trivandrum. Several programmes were conducted for Nurses and refractionists. And for the first time in the history of KSOS we have conducted a preconference seminar for nurses and refractionists at JMMC, Trichur one week before Drishti.

Our dream project of Vision Enhancement Clinics for Low vision patients with the direct involvement of KSOS was inaugurated at Calicut and all the three clinics in Calicut, Trichur and Kollam are functioning well.

Baladarshan was our Myopia awareness project which is creating awareness among the students and parents on the problems of excessive use of digital devices and the need to have outdoor activities to delay or prevent myopia. We have also brought out a book for the public on Diabetes.

Relief activities at Wayanad and Nilambur were coordinated by Dr Vinodkumar perfectly.

The 4 days of ophthalmic importance were observed very well by the district units and members.

To streamline our activities further we have made a schedule for the KSOS and Drishti. The KSOS manual will be aready reference for future office bearers

Our long struggle to get Form 12 AA registration giving us IT exemption is also through.

There are many brilliant takeaways for me at the end of my term as President.Every activity has been unique in its own way. After having finished our term it gives me all the more reasons to believe in Teamwork. Harry Truman said, “It is amazing what you can achieve if you don't care who gets the credit”.

I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of my term and I am sure my entire team also would have had a similar experience. I thank my entire team and each and every KSOS member for helping me in achieving what we had dreamt 1 year back. I also thank my entire family for coping with spells of selective deafness while I was handling organizational matters.

I must thank the entire Editorial team of the Newsletter for their invaluable help in editing the articles and spicing it up with appropriate comments, snippets and cartoons. I will be failing in my duty if I don't acknowledge the help given by Dr Rajiv Sukumaran in bringing out all these newsletters. He has helped us a lot in designing the layout and arranging sponsors for it.

We are confident of the performance of the entire team of KSOS 2018-19, but it is for you to judge us.

Whatever your opinion may be we are going to stay connected with all of you.

Wishing the new team all the very best and assuring them of all assistance to take KSOS to greater heights.

Thank you.

Jai Hind, Jai KSOS.

Dr Sasikumar S

Website Report



The online KSOS membership application with online payment of the membership fee is active on the website and 100 applications have been received on line in this year. Online delegate registrations for Drishti 2019 with payment have been completed successfully and 439 delegates i.e. nearly 50% of total registrations have been online registrations in this year.

Online submission for Instruction courses started on April 1st and was open till April 30th and that of free papers, posters and videos from June 1st to June 30th

Full text submission of free papers was also done online along with a copyright consent letter for publishing in KJO.

Scientific videos of surgical movie theater and Videos of Dr Tony Fernandez awards sessions presented in Drishti have been uploaded on to the site through you tube link.

It's gratifying to note that the number of unique visitors to our website has steadily increased in the last few months.

Dr Mani V R

Editor, Website

Treasurer's report



The conference is over and the term of present office bearers ends. I was fortunate to have a great learning experience being the treasurer of a great team. KSOS has evolved into a real professional body with clearly defined work pattern and a benchmark set for each office bearer and so it ensures there is continuity. Previous treasurers had already set a path for me to follow, so the book keeping and account filing was easy. The major achievements of the team were 12AA registration and the registration of KSOS office at IMA house. This term also saw KSOS evolving and maturing from a purely professional organization to an organisation with social commitments. I thank my presidents Dr Radha Ramanan and Dr S Sasikumar and the general secretary Dr Sreeni Edakhlon and the all in the executive committee and dear members for all the help and guidance.

Regards

Dr Jain Chimmen

Secretary's Report





Thank You...

Dear seniors and friends,

Thank you for the support that you gave me for my activities as the General Secretary of Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons for the past two years.

With the support and guidance of my Presidents Dr B Radharamanan and Dr S Sasikumar KSOS could accomplish the following during the last two years.

1. More than 40 years after its inception , Kerala Society Of Ophthalmic Surgeons now has a **permanent registered office.**
2. The Income Tax department granted Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons **registration under Section 12AA** of Income Tax Act 1961 On 29/08/2019. .
3. With the help of Ophthalmic Clubs and Eye Hospitals we could conduct **38 free Eye camps on single day** on October 7th 2018 . **First time** such an activity was done in any state **in India**.
4. We could also generate and donate more than **Rs 50 lakh to CMDRF for flood relief**.
5. KSOS Low Vision Project was inaugurated by former Health Minister of Kerala PK Sreemathy teacher during Drishti 2018. The first KSOS Vision Enhancement center at Kozhikode was inaugurated on 11th July 2019 .The centers at Thrissur and Kollam are also now fully Operational. KSOS is planning to start one low vision center in each district of Kerala. This is the **first such project in India**.
6. Training programs for first year post graduate students were conducted by KSOS for the first time.
7. We also had a **full day program for paramedics** for the first time as a part of our Annual Conference
8. The **book in Malayalam for General public** on eye care in Diabetes Mellitus is ready. This is the **first** such book for the General public published in Vernacular by any Ophthalmic association in any state **in India**.
9. KSOS has also released a book for ophthalmologists – The Diabetic Eye – A Clinical Companion.
10. KSOS has also started a project for prevention, detection and treatment of Myopia – **Baaldarshan** - in partnership with IMA. We have requested the State Sports Council to be a partner in project.
11. We are also putting in all efforts to get **a law, making vision recording mandatory** for students in classes one and two, passed by the Government of Kerala. A sincere thanks to Sri AN Shamseer , MLA , Thalassery for raising the issue in Kerala Legislative Assembly on our request
12. We could conduct the **first State interzonal Chess Championship for the visually challenged** in year 2018 at Kannur
13. We could also conduct a **blind Walk** in association with Drishti 2018 with huge participation from public.
14. KSOS was one of the very few states make a full-fledged bid for hosting AIOC, the Annual Conference of All India Ophthalmological Society. We proposed Kochi as a venue with all the required facilities for conducting the conference.
15. KSOS was also one of the only two states to respond to AIOS request for sending a rate list for different Ophthalmic procedures.
16. We also could add **44 new members to AIOS** during Drishti 2019. Our efforts to strengthen AIOS will continue in the future also.
17. We also could make Drishti banquet exclusive to ophthalmologists and their family members

Thanking You

Yours Faithfully

SREENI EDAKHLON

Chairman Scientific Committee Report



There were 70 hours of instruction courses, 18 hours of free papers and 2 full days of surgical and diagnostic wet lab in this conference. The TCMC gave 6 hours of CME credit which has been a high score in recent times. We had some non-core ophthalmological courses like work life relationship, communication skills, legal tangles, What to do after PG, how to start your clinic, medical emergencies, Young ophthalmological society in which the chairmen went out of our core competence areas and tried to cover all these from an ophthalmologists perspective.

This Drishti saw a blend of classical instruction courses, case based discussions, the best by the masters, our national faculty, we had 33 of the best this time, and a variety of competitive programs. We had the teachers of tomorrow where 20 best students in the state competed for the best teacher award in 20 topics. The great debate and two quiz competitions rocked the podium.

Some interactive events like the great debate, teachers of tomorrow the mega quiz as well as programs like surgical video theatre ocular emergencies, low vision, surgical handicraft just to name a few.

Free papers were conducted on time and all the senior national faculty Mahadevan sir, Anuradha V K, Rodney, Charles sir, Vanathi madam, Ganesh Ram, PrabhuSankar, Raju K V sir, Padmaja madam, Prashant Bhavankule, Raju Sampngi, Fairooz, Krishnaprasad, Elamkumaran, Shrinivas Joshi, Ajay Aurora sir, JK Reddy and Neha Goel Partook in judging the full text of these free papers and their presentations. Many of them had already seen the full text before they presented.

Our president Meena madam and Padmaja madam rescued me on short notice when a judge didn't turn up on time. Special mention for Dr Ronnie, Dr Aby and Dr Andrew Breganza who judged 5 free paper sessions for us. They were so cooperative and I am indeed ever indebted to them. Finding good quality judges with no connections to the participants is a difficult task. Dr Rekha and Dr Sujatha stayed through the sessions and helped me in the smooth conduct the free paper award sessions.

The Drishti 2019 awardees are:

Dr K C Sankara Menon free paper award
Dr Asmitha Indurkar - How has OCT angiography changed my practice in AMD
Padmabhushan Dr P Siva Reddy free paper award
Dr Sheera K R - Incidence, risk factors and management of smouldering ROP, cradle ROP report
Padmashri Dr S Tony Fernandez Video award
Dr Prithvi Chandrakant - Anterior segment photography with intraocular lens
Prof K S Subramaniam Post-Graduates Free Paper award
Dr Rizana Mohamed - Analytical observational study of OCT in patients with retrochiasmatic lesions in a tertiary multispecialty hospital in South India
Dr Noel Moniz Anterior segment free paper award
Dr Merie Mathew - Microbial profile of lid margin flora compared with normals
COC Retnet Posterior segment free paper award
Dr Sheera K R - Significance of double leak (FFA and ICG)
Dr KGR Nair award
Dr Prithvi Chandrakanth - Trash to treasure retcam for diabetic retinopathy screening
Dr S Mohandas glaucoma free paper award
Dr Manju M - Prostaglandin induced periorbitopathy - A prospective study in Indian eyes.
TACO poster award
Dr Dhanya Dhananjayan - Ectopic inner foveal layer in epiretinal membrane - is it worth operating?
TACO PG Quiz
Dr Thanushree and Dr Reshma

Our surgical wet-lab featured 4 phaco machines for our young ophthalmologists arranged by Dr Vinodkumar N V and Dr Srikant Karat along with the full bench of Calicut ophthalmic club. Additionally we have wet-lab course on LASIK which involved a microkeratome, intravitreal injections and kinematics and mechanics of ophthalmic surgery. As an icing on the cake, Dr Arup Chakrabarti took a class for the PGs on phaco-dynamics.

Our diagnostic wet-lab was studded with innovative programs which gave an insight about diagnostic tests in ophthalmology and helped postgraduates and young ophthalmologists don their clinical skills.

Well... Wish you all had a great DRISHTI
Bye for now
Jai KSOS

Gopal S Pillai

KJO Editor's Report



I am grateful to the KSOS members for reposing their faith in me as the editor of KJO. The work of KJO went on smoothly during the last year. The important points to mention are

1. Registration of KJO under RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India). According to the new rules it is mandatory to register our journal as per the RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India) guidelines. Any journal printing and distributing copies in India requires a unique RNI registration number and should comply with any regulatory requirements as per RNI.All the paper work for RNI registration has beencompleted from our side.

2. At present KJO is indexed in the COPERNICUS and Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ). The next level of indexing is by ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index) and we are drawing closer to this next step. As we were moving on to this higher level of indexation, there was a demand to change the name of our journal. We took the opinion from the members. The response was great and we received 118 new names from the members and as per the decision of the last General body meeting at Kannur, the Executive Committee decided one name among these. So the new name our journal would be Journal of Comprehensive Ophthalmology (JCO).

3. The KJO data base is now up to date and as per the records only less than 5 % of the hard copies of last issue were returned to the editorial office. Five out of sixissues of KJO helmedby the present editorial team have already been released. The final issue willbe released in December. It is due to thededication and enthusiasm of each memberof the editorial team that we could release the journals in time and I thank each one of them, especially Dr. Sudha, the associate editor, for her support. I also thank the authors and respected teachers for their contributions and support. I wish the next editor all the best.

Dr. Bastin V A
Editor KJO

REPORT OF DRISHTI 2019

Dr Aneeta Jabbar, Chief organizing secretary, Drishti 2019



The 46th Annual conference of Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons DRISHTI 2019 was conducted at Lulu International Convention Centre Thrissur on 22nd 23rd and 24th November 2019.

ORIGINAL GOAL

The Society is now 46 years old. A sea of change has taken place in the last few decades in Ophthalmology and allied disciplines. However, the vision and mission of the society has largely remained unchanged which is to be relevant, dynamic, and contemporary.

The Annual conference of KSOS is one of the effective reflections of its scientific, academic, and social contribution. Not only does it allow us to meet, greet, and eat but it also provides a unique forum for exchange of ideas, offers, and opportunities. The abstracts submitted in the conference could be a good stand-in marker of Ophthalmology research in the State. It can be indicative of the quality, quantity of work carried out in the field.

So our goal was to infuse new enthusiasm in young, not so young, and the veterans to make Ophthalmology a pertinent, vibrant, up to date and most sought after discipline.

Thrissur, also known as the "cultural capital of Kerala" is built around a 65-acre Thekkinkadu Maidan which surrounds the Vadakkumnathan temple. It houses various iconic cultural institutions-the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, Kerala Lalithakala Akademi and Kerala Sahitya Academy. Thrissur Pooram, the most colourful and spectacular temple festival in Kerala, is now a major national and international tourist attraction.

Palakkad is the agricultural capital of Kerala and is celebrated as the Granary of Kerala has a potpourri of Tamilnadu and Kerala culture being nestled in the wide rift in the Western Ghats; Palakkad is endowed with great natural beauty. Silent Valley National Park, Parambikulam Tiger reserve, Siruvani in Nelliyampathy serve as magnets for wildlife and nature lovers and it is also a haven for bird watchers.

These two cities and their district ophthalmic clubs - TACO and PSOS jointly played host to our 46th annual conference, Drishti 2019 from Nov 22nd to 24th.

The site of the conference, Lulu International Convention centre, is one of the largest and spacious centres in Asia. It boasts of large lobbies, large conference halls and a central courtyard ideal for holding the banquet.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DRISHTI 2019

- The events of Drishti 2019 was kick started on the third Sunday (17th November 2019) with the one day CME for Optometrists and Ophthalmic nurses OPTOCON 2019 under the subject matter *" Let's Connect "* initiative of KSOS President Dr S Sasikumar . The CME was organized under the leadership of Dr Andrews the program coordinator of Drishti 2019. The local organization was done by Dr Rolland Godly and the program was attended by 300 delegates from far and near. All the scientific talks were well appreciated. I sincerely thank the organizers, faculty and the delegates who made the program a massive accomplishment.
- Women powered!!

  Drishti 2019 was jointly organized by TACO and PSOS. The core team comprised of DrRajini K C, Dr Aneeta Jabbar, Dr Shobha M E, Dr Geetha V K P, Dr Asha O A, Dr Lathika V K and Dr Sudha V

Thus the core team of LOC fell onto the strong shoulders of an all women team. This has happened in Drishti for the first time. With the supervision of our senior colleagues which was inestimable we could rise to the occasion and were able to accomplish the aforementioned goal by far with our teamwork

- Record turnout!!

  The registration for DRISHTI 2019 was 1033 the highest ever! This shows that to drive attendance to your event make the CITY a part of the event and highlight its location and personalize you invitation. I take this occasion to thank all the delegates who had come and participated and made the event a splendid success
- Take a ride on the green side!!

  We had the intend to carry out Drishti in an environment friendly way following the suggestion of our Incoming President Dr Meena Chakrabarthi and Past President Dr Radharamanan. Our Moto was"Let us take a ride on the green side". The whole conference venue and the trade stalls were "plastic free zones". Drinking water was made available in water dispensers, coolers and glass bottles avoiding plastic bottles. All the branding and the trade stalls were done stringently staying away from plastic flexes. The delegate bag was prepared of jute, the program schedule in front of halls were displayed in digital display units, tender coconuts were served, etc.
- Scientific program in parallel eight halls

  The scientific program ran in the eight halls. Hall A, B, C, D, E, diagnostic wet lab class room, surgical wet-lab class room and the booth lecture room near the surgical wet-lab. Thanks to the audio visual team and the halls and AV team by LOC we had an exquisite watertight scientific program

  I am indebted to Dr Lathika the local scientific committee chairperson and Dr Bastin for their facilitation in the hall management and the effectual time management
- Central courtyard – the relaxing zone

  Many of the delegates expressed their happiness about the central courtyard which was arranged for leisure, chit chatting and small photo sitting.
- Caricature drawing

  Three professional artists were arranged for caricature drawings of the delegates and the same were offered as return gifts by LOC Drishti 2019
- Paintings and photo exhibition

  The young talents who are very dear to our hearts were offered a space for exhibiting their artworks. Thanks to dear Priyanka (daughter of Dr Rajiv Sukumaran and Dr Jayasree) who came with her load of beautiful paintings all the way from Karunagappally, dear Aparna (Daughter of Dr Sujatha N) whose paintings added special beauty to the corridors of Lulu and attracted many art lovers. Aparna exhibited her art work called Inktober - or ink drawing Also special thanks to dear Skandapoorvaja (son of Dr Rajesh Radhakrishnan and Dr Shruthi Tara) whose wild life photographs were amazing.

- Inauguration program

  The highlight of the inauguration program of Drishti 2019 was the chief guest the distinguished Director Aeronautics Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) Dr Tessy Thomas popularly known as "The Missile Lady of India".



- The inauguration meeting of DRISHTI 2019 on Day 1 started at 6.00 pm in Hall A. The welcome speech was by Dr Rajini K C the organizing chairperson and was presided over by Dr S Sasikumar President KSOS and in his presidential address he portrayed the various vibrant activities of KSOS during his tenure. The new President Dr Meena Chakrabarthi took over and gave a motivational speech. Dr Sreeni Edakhlon Hon General secretary KSOS presented the report. The lighting of the ceremonial lamp and inauguration of Drishti was done by DrTessy Thomas. She was introduced to the audience by Dr Asha O A the organizing secretary Drishti.
- The prestigious Dr C E Oommen oration award was bestowed upon Dr Prof K Mahadevan and the citation and the medal were given by the chief guest Dr Tessy Thomas.



Dr Prof K Mahadevan receiving the C E Oommen oration award

- The Life Time Achievement awards were presented to Dr Rajagopalan Nair Palakkadu and Dr P V Thomas Irinjalakuda.



Dr Rajagopalan Nair receiving the life time achievement award



Dr P V Thomas receiving the life time achievement award

- Dr Gopal S Pillai the scientific committee chairman announced the scientific committee awards and was presented by our chief guest. The 2018-2019 KSOS office bearers were also felicitated on the occasion. Dr Rajiv Sukumaran offered mementoes to the outgoing President Dr S Sasikumar and to Dr Vinodkumar for their outstanding activities for KSOS. Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Aneeta Jabbar Chief Organizing secretary of Drishti 2019. The meeting was concluded with national anthem.
- The Best District Ophthalmic award Metro was awarded to TACO The Trichur Academic Club of Ophthalmology and the award was received by the TACO President Dr Merine Paul and Secretary Dr Lathika V K from Dr S Sasikumar and the Best District Club Award Non Metro was awarded to the Kollam Ophthalmic Association and the award was received by the President Dr P Ramesan and Secreatry Dr R Rekha from Dr S Sasikumar.



TACO receiving the best club award – metro



Kollam Ophthalmic Association receiving the best award – non-metro

- First day entertainment program

  The colorful entertainment program was performed by our members and every item was extravagant and was organized by the district ophthalmic clubs. Congratulations and earnest thanks to all the performers who had participated.
- Bird watching

  The bird watching program on second day morning organized by LOC and well conducted by Dr Rajesh Radhakrishnan and Dr Rajesh (Dr Lathika's husband) was well enjoyed. They were efficient field guides and they made the birding a memorable one to all the participants who thoroughly enjoyed the "wilderness" in the urban environment. Kudos and thanks to the "birding" duo
- Banquet

  The banquet was enjoyable to all .The reasons could be the perfect blend of mock tail, cocktail, the delectable dishes, the music elated everyone's mood and the exclusion of trade from the gala dinner lifted the spirits of everyone especially the ladies.
- Packed lunch

  The curtains of Drishti 2019 came down on 24th November at 1.00 pm everyone bid farewell cherishing the warmhearted recollections .Those who left early carried with them the packed mutton biriyani thanks to the thoughtfulness of the organizers.

Speech by incoming president

-Dr Meena Chakrabarti

Link to the speech https://youtu.be/RmjiVr4G3kQ



Please permit me at the very outset to express my sincerest gratitude to all of you for electing me to this exalted office of the President, Kerala Society of Ophthalmic Surgeons for the year 2019-2020. I am fully conscious that this honour in the past has been bestowed upon Doyens of our field and I have, therefore greater reason to be thankful to you all as I am fully aware of my limitations. But as a devout foot soldier and a humble worker in our organisation. I promise you that I shall try my very best to prove worthy of the confidence you have reposed in me.

I must confess that making a speech is not by forte. If given the choice I would rather prefer to stay back in my OT, than mount the dias and deliver a speech before a distinguished gathering like this. But it cannot be helped as I am expected to do so. You will, I pray, bear with me and hear out my rather unconventional address.

I touch the feet of my parents (my own and my in laws especially Baba my father- in-law who in his own way has touched my heart several times by several acts of kindness & love especially during difficult times when I struggled with the responsibilities of a demanding carrier and the upbringing of 2 young children.

Pronam to my teachers specially two individuals who assumed the role of father figures during my residency at RIO, TVM – Dr P K Kannan & Dr George Thomas and has been mentors to me ever since.

Pronam to my mentors Dr P Namperumalsamy and Dr G Natchiar who were largely instrumental in guiding my career, who gave me the necessary support and the confidence to pursue my fellowship in a subspeciality that fascinated me .....a rather unconventional choice for a young woman.....a speciality which at that time had few woman - takers.

As I go through my talk, I would like to share with you a few of my pertinent thoughts on

1. The route map of my vision to KSOS for 2019-2020
2. Gender & leadership
3. Ethical Conduct

We have essentially a non-beaurocratic style of functioning in KSOS..... where new ideas are welcome.....be it electoral reforms, CME, or ethical issues. Our outgoing president Dr Sasikumar has raised the bar for the post of Presidentship of this 45year old August body ..... brought in several new initiatives to the organisational structure of KSOS.

- Low Vision Programme & Vision Enhancement Clinic
- Myopia Awareness Programme (Baladarshan).
- Post Graduate Students Training Programme
- School Screening
- DR
- PARA MEDICAL Training Programme (for Refractionist & Nurses)
- Flood Relief activities at Wayanad & Nilambur
- Relief fund for environmental disaster victims.

However before an idea takes shape and the fledgling idea sprouts wings to fly to success..... the president becomes an expresident. I take this opportunity to assure our esteemed outgoing President that no efforts will be spared to continue work on his vision for KSOS .

To roll out a large – scale advocacy and awareness initiative on diabetes and other NCDs through differentiated media engagement and capacity building of journalists, stakeholders and opinion leaders.

Roll- out of a wide range of media activities by these national NCD-media alliances including through;

1. Expert appearances and interview on TV and radio, when possible and in a timely manner to be aligned with notable policy changes or other critical NCD related events like WDD, World Sight Day.
2. Newspaper editorials and columns
3. Deeper thematic and participatory TV and radio programmes and debates
4. Focused patient stories in TV, radio and newspaper, in connection with WDD, with patients (i.e. 'advocates') carefully selected from within patient oraganisations of the national NCD alliances.
5. Promote such patient advocated and other NCD material and media content through social media channels.

<u>Expected Results</u>

- Atleast three leading media stake holders ('media houses') in each country mobilised and assigned to new NCD-media working groups through MOU's; workshops and monthly meetings held.
- Atleast 50 journalists trained within NCDs, and atleast 25 NCD experts trained within media and communication.
- Atleast 60 TV / radio appearances conducted; atleast 50 newspaper editorials should be published; atleast 720 social media posts should be published
- Atleast two million people reached through the various media campaigns,
- A 30% increase in media content on NCDs among media stakeholders involved

Enhanced media attention and derived public awareness and demand support the achievement of a 15% government health budget allocation towards diabetes and other NCDs.

I am taking up this esteemed post as the 45th President of KSOS and its 3rd women President. Although there were remarkable women ophthalmologists at all times in the history of KSOS only in the last 10 years have women participated in organisational activities of KSOS other than the presidential post. I have had the opportunity to serve the organisation for a tenure of 4years as Editor KJO and a term as Scientific Committee chairman. Between the last women President a me there has been a long barren period of 28 years.

Overall about 34% of physicians practicing Medicine in India are women. At graduate level women joining medical schools have become equal to or greater than men entering our profession. Women medical professionals are said to prefer 'soft specialisation', except the many daring women like us, who choose surgical specialities. Still higher position & leadership in academics & administration are mostly equipped by men. Gender stereotyping is fast fading but a full integration of women in medical profession is yet to complete. Work still needs to be done in some areas to fully neutralize the impact of gender on holding positions at organisational levels.

We have a 1900 strong membership in KSOS out of which only very few women give their valuable time and expertise to serve in KSOS Committees. How many of us hold position of president in stable societies or major sub speciality societies?. Is it because we are incapable of taking up such a responsibility? Are we not aggressive enough or competent enough to compete with our male counterpart as an equal footing?

My sincere request to the many remarkable and capable women here is that should they aspire for a position of professional leadership, they should come forward willingly. Work still needs to be done in some areas to fully neutralize the inappropriate impact of gender on recognition and acceptance into organisational machineries of professional bodies.

However I expect & hope that my successors will be able to announce proudly that 50% of the women ophthalmologists will constitute 50% of the leadership positions. And from that point onwards gender representation in ophthalmology will become a non-issue.

In the meantime I truly believe that young women entering the portals of our wonderful profession has every reason to expect that should they aspire to a position of professional leadership, the profession will welcome them and will hopefully use their talents & perspectives wisely & will recognise and reward them for their contribution.

The challenge of balancing professional goals and personal life is often daunting. The demand of utmost commitment to their work interferes with the obligations of personal & family life.

The work family conflict may be bidirectional in which the requirements of work & family may hinder with the fulfilment of each other. In our social structure women take their role in the family as their priority in majority of cases. Child bearing, Child rearing are demanding but very important issues which should not be ignored a relegated a back burner status. These important duties may prevent or delay a woman from completing her education or fellowship. However taking a break, keeping yourself up updated academically during this period and rejoining at a convenient time with full confidence is probably the right attitude. There are certain duties which are yours..... and yours only. Enjoy your responsibilities .....you are investing in the future by giving time & care to your children. At the sametime keep yourself updated on what is happening in your speciality. Nothing on earth should stop you from achieving your dreams.

I would like to reserve the last portion of my presidential address to the many young & bright ophthalmologists standing on the portals of a wonderful career. I would like to share with you a few basic caveats in a doctor patient relationship that I learnt from my teachers & have been practicing for the last 30 years....These are fool proof techniques which will ensure a healthy doctor patient relationship and will let you go through a litigation free career.

- First & most important is to improve your interpersonal relationships and communication skills. Talk to your patients be compassionate and show empathy to your patients.
- Document all your findings in your case record.
- Take and store patient images whenever possible.
- Avoid passing comments on your colleagues' treatment strategy.

In conclusion I would like to thank all of you

I look forwards to your whole hearted support your constructive criticism to further raise the bar to excellence in the organisational activities of our society.

Jai KSOS... Jai Hind

The Joint secretary says...



It gives me immense pleasure to release the 4th issue of our KSOS CONNECT newsletter. I extend my sincere thanks to all the persons who contributed the club reports and articles. I would like to thank Dr Sasi kumar President, Dr Rajiv Sukumaran and the editorial members for their everlasting support.

Dr Anish Madhavan

The KSOS activities were planned under this logo to connect with all the stake holders in eye care delivery. Thank you all for implementing all your activities under this theme.


46th
Annual Conference
of Kerala Society of
Ophthalmic Surgeons
22, 23, 24 November 2019






HE NEW VIS
SPECIAL















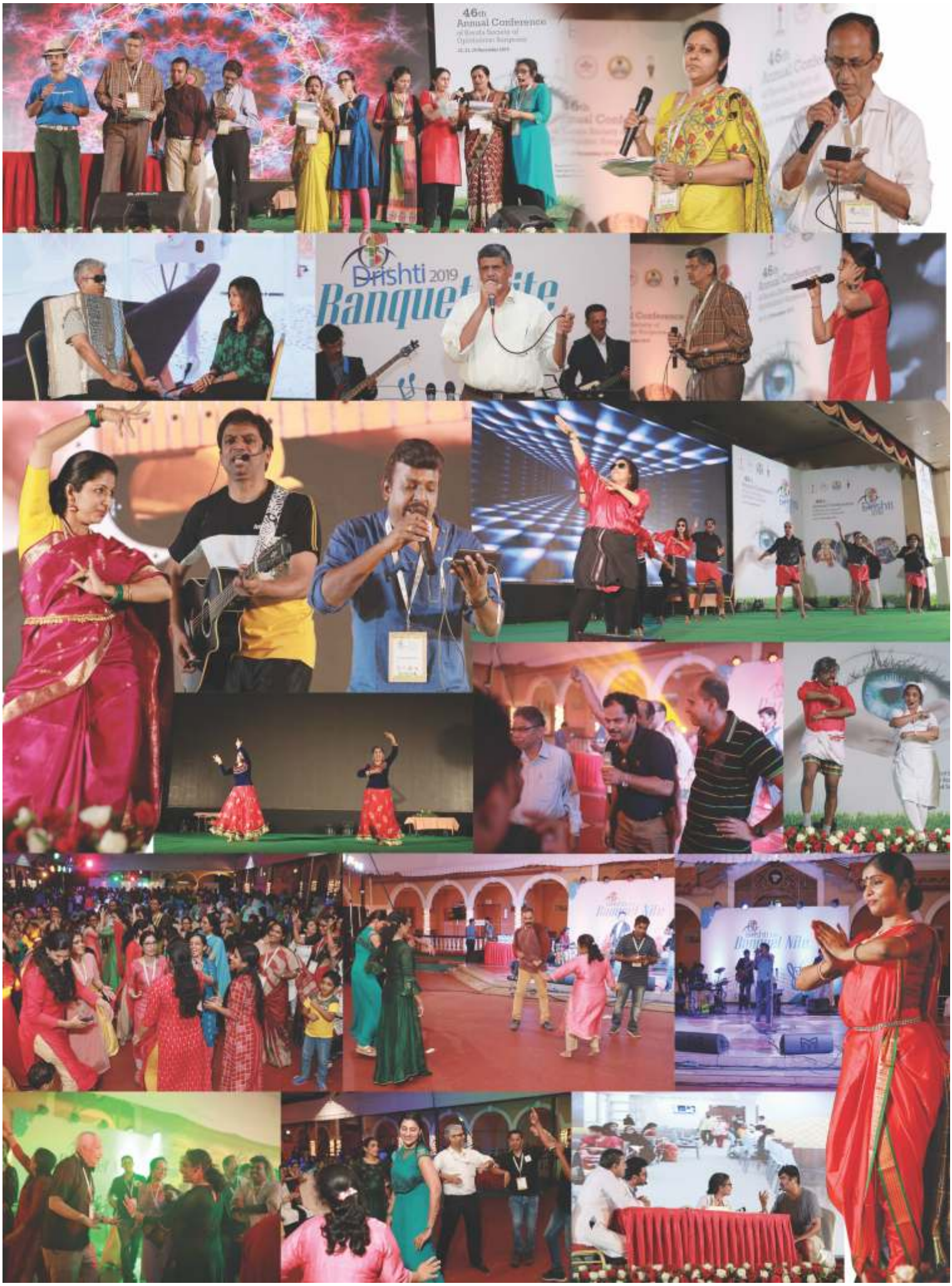












46th
Annual Conference
Drishti 2019

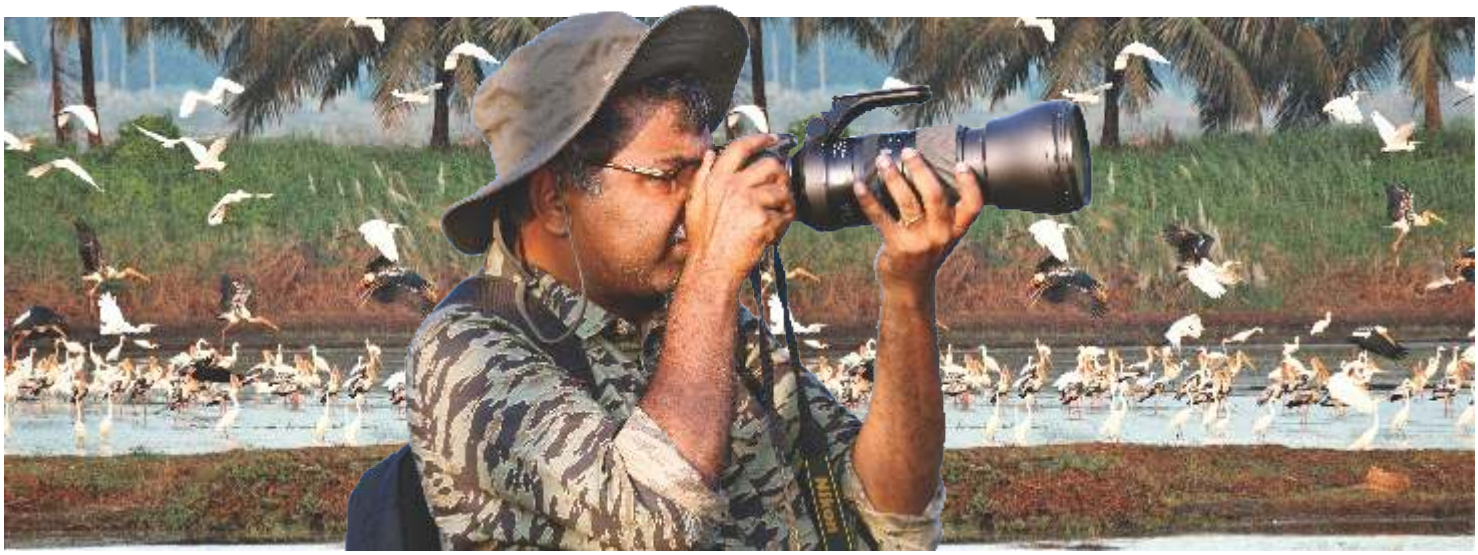

Juspaxar
Thank You
Arigato
Grazie
Mochchakkaram
Tingki
Gracias
Grazas
Gratias Tibi
2019
46th Annual Conference


Ophthalmic Surgeons




HOTEL

The Drishti 19 Kaleidoscope



WHEN BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER FLOCKED TOGETHER..

Team Drishti had organised a birding trip for delegates and family, the first of its kind in KSOS history. On 23.11.19, at dawn break, a team of early birders got together at the venue. The team was lead by Rajesh & Rajesh (Dr Rajesh Radhakrishnan from Palakkad and Dr Rajesh M G, Dr Lathika's husband), the latter also serving as the local guide .The enthusiastic team armed with binoculars and DSLRs went to the Adat kolelands. The scenic place was literally a birder's paradise. King fishers and bee eaters were perched on the electric lines waiting for a catch, while Brahminy kites and black kites were soaring in the sky. Across the bund there were literally thousands of water birds including various egrets, grey and purple herons, open bill storks and painted storks. It was literally a visual feast and the pictures taken evoked an avalanche of response from even the uninitiated. Birding seems to have found its nest in many ophtha hearts and perhaps in future Drishti conferences as well.





DOCTORS DAZZLE ON STAGE

The KSOS DRISHTI 2019 saw the showcasing of in house talents of our fraternity in astounding quantity and quality. For the cultural night (on Friday 22.11.19), the stage was set by the host team Thrissur's magnum opus....Raja Ravi Varma's paintings came to life on stage with incredible authenticity and grace. Cochin team put up a great show with a futuristic skit and racy dance numbers. The surprise dark horses were the Calicut team with a very down to earth skit which entertained us with the histrionic skills especially of our seniors. The melodious renderings of many of our KSOS colleagues was also much appreciated.



'PEARLS' OF DRISHTI 2019

Apart from the practice pearls from within the halls, Drishti delegates could take home pearls too from the ornaments and jewellery stall too. There were pearl chains of different types - single string, double and even triple stringed, multi coloured studs & hanging earrings and bangles with precious stones embedded. The pearls were of various colours grey pearl, white pearl, pink coloured & peach coloured were the pick of many delegates. Prices ranged from Rs 500 to Rs 3000. They made precious gifts and even the male delegates were seen shopping for their spouses /children at this stall.

FOR THE FASHIONISTAS

D's boutique from West fort, Trichur was the most visited stall mostly by our lady delegates –Unfortunately it was only functional on Friday. Sarees were in plenty and the star attraction was the new linen sarees with embroidery and bead work in lovely pastel shades costing Rs 2000-3000. Tussar silk and other printed silk sarees were also exhibited .Kurtas and churidar tops were the choice of our youth and throughout the day there were delegates glancing through and purchasing.

CARICATURE CORNER

This novel idea by our organising committee turned out to be a grand success. The stall was manned by three expert caricature artists. Those who found the patience to sit still for about half an hour were rewarded with a unique portrayal of their identity. It was so popular that by Saturday & Sunday there was a queue of delegates on the wait to get their caricatures done.

THE CORRIDORS OF CREATIVITY

The artistic talents of KSOS family members transformed the corridors of the venue into magical spaces where light and colour played hide and seek. The walls near the main hall A displayed exquisite oil paintings by Priyanka (D/o Dr Rajiv Sukumaran) and a series of paintings in indian ink titled "INKTOBER 19" by Aparna(D/o Dr Sujatha N). A collection of photographs titled "play of light" by Skandapoorvaja Rajesh (S/o Dr Rajesh Radhakrishnan) also adorned the walls.







ELANEER COOL!

In tune with the green theme, elaneer was the energy drink of Drishti 19. Refreshing tender coconut water was available throughout the entire conference. Around 1500 coconut drinks were supplied to keep us all pepped up and hydrated through the heat of the day.

Compiled by - Dr Lathika.V.K

Contributors - Dr Merine Paul, Dr Shobha.M .E, Dr Sujatha .N, Dr Rajesh.M.G

Cochin Ophthalmic Club



31 Aug 2019 & 1 Sep 2019:
Chaithanya Eye Institute conducted a CME "Phakology". National and State faculty covered topics ranging from SICS to Femto assisted Cataract surgery. The nuances of Toric and Multifocal IOLs were also covered.



29 Sep 2019:
Giridhar Eye Institute conducted a mega symposium on Retina "Medical Retina Revisited". International and National faculty discussed and debated topics including CSCR, Diabetic Retinopathy, ARMD. The SSM Oration was given by Prof Mangat Dodra, former professor of PGI Chandigarh.

There are some unfinished projects that we have initiated last year

1. We have communicated to health ministry regarding the need for compulsory vision screening for children in classes 1 and 2. On our request MLA Sri AN Shamseer raised the issue in the assembly
2. We wished to have an association of eye hospital owners and managers under KSOS. This will help in policy matters.
3. We had initiated a program for instrument maintenance. We were planning two programs in Kerala. We have had discussions with LAICO for the same.

Wishing the new team of KSOS office bearers lead by Dr Meena Chakrabarti madam and Dr Mahesh G all the very best. I promise that I would continue to work hard for KSOS

- Dr Sreeni

Eye Donation Fortnight:
Amrita Institute conducted a special seminar "Nayanamritham" on 4th Sept to mark this which was inaugurated by Cine Actor Sreenivasan.

COC Monthly Meeting:
Held on Sept 27th. Dr Saikumar gave a talk on "Newer Advances and Pearls in Biometry". This was followed by an active discussion. Dr Ani Sreedhar gave a talk "Nematode ocular infestations in Kerala" which won the Subramaniam best free paper award at Oculoplasty Association of India Conference at Kolkata. The elections for the new office bearers for 2019 -2021 were held after this.

Community activities:

Hospital	Camps	Patients screened	Free operations
Giridhar EI	14	1706	119
Little Flower	16	2377	371
Dr Tony's EH	8	1200	10
Amrita IMS	1	116	23

Abhayam – COC Clinic & Camp

Clinic	No. of Patients	Spectacles	Free operations
2	686	-	55

18 Oct 2019: The talk was by Dr Kavitha Lakshmi from Chennai on "Advances in Trifocal IOL Technology". She spoke on the advantages of the new trifocal IOL from Alcon – PANOPTICS. She shared her experience with this lens. This was followed by active discussion. Dr Sony George moderated the scientific session. There was a surprise session on "Planning the perfect holiday trip" by Mr Jofin K Thomas of FCM Travel solutions.

Community activities:

Hospital	Camps	Patients screened	Free operations
Giridhar EI	13	1431	138
Little Flower	10	1704	257
Dr Tony's EH	3	450	9
Amrita IMS	6	364	36

Abhayam – COC Clinic & Camp

Clinic	No. of Patients	Spectacles	Free operations
1	14	2	3

Kollam Ophthalmic Association

20 Oct 2019:
The annual CME of our association, AshtamudiOphthalmica, was held at Hotel Raviz Kollam. The topic was "Complications and management (CAM)". Eminent speakers from our and neighbouring states participated in the programme. Dr S Sasikumar, President KSOs inaugurated the CME. 154 delegates attended the CME. Dr Biju John's presentation was judged the best and received the Rs 10000 cash award. LVA classes were held for Optometrists in the afternoon.

Dr R D Ravindran, Chairman Aravind Eye Care System was honoured with Dr S Mohandas Oration award, which was instituted for the first time. Dr Mary Kuriakose received the life time achievement award.











22 Nov 2019: Kollam Ophthalmic Association received the best club award, among the non-metro clubs for the second time, during the inaugural function of Drishti 2019 held at Thrissur.

10 Dec 2019: Diabetic screening camp was conducted at Priyanka Eye Hospital under the aegis of Kollam Ophthalmic Association and KSOS. CBG was checked for 62 patients and 11 new diabetics were detected. All of them underwent eye screening also.

Kozhikode Ophthalmic Association

Kozhikode ophthalmic society conducted ascientific meeting on 3rd Nov 2019 combined with a family get together.The speakers were DrChandrakanth(Topic: My experience with Alcon Panoptix), Dr Muhammed Swadique(Topic: My experience with Alcon Toric IOL), Dr. Bindu (Topic: My experience with Alcon Centurion vision system), and we also had a Guest Speaker Dr Biju Raju from Dr.NSD Raju Eye Hospital,Kochi who spoke on "My experience with combined cataract and vitrectomy".

The scientific session was followed by installation of new office bearers, for the period from November 2019 to October 2021, by the Chief Guest Dr AneenKutty, President IMA Kozhikode branch. The new elected office bearers of KOS are:

President : Dr. Vijayalakshmi
Vice President : Dr NirupamaBalaji
Secretary : Dr V SujithNayanar
Treasurer : Dr Mihir Shah

The meeting was followed by cultural events by members and their family. We had the privilege of listening to Dr Biju Raju on the vocals, guitar and mouth organ, enthusiastically accompanied by his Son, Eshan. KOS members and their family gave a memorable performance on stage which was well appreciated by all. The meeting ended with dinner.

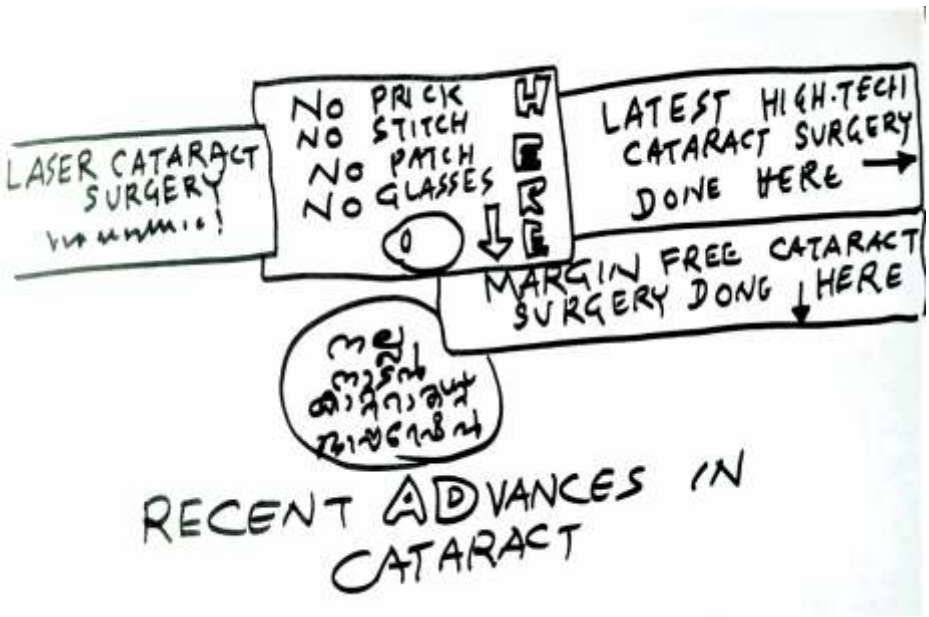






EYETOON

Dr R R Varma



Trichur Academic Club of Ophthalmology (TACO)

22 Sep 2019: Our annual flagship CME 'TACOPSIA-19' titled 'OCULAR EMERGENCIES 360 degree' was conducted at Casino hotels, Thrissur. The programme was a huge success running to a packed hall with around 112 delegates.

The prestigious TACO oration award was conferred upon Dr Kalpana Narendran, renowned paediatric ophthalmologist from Aravind eye Institute, Coimbatore. Life time achievement award was given to our senior member Dr P.J.Joseph. TACO gold medals were awarded to the undergraduate and postgraduate toppers from Thrissur in ophthalmology examinations conducted by KUHS. A state of the art hands on suturing skill lab was organised along with the CME.





21 Sep 2019: TACO DREAM clinic - our monthly diabetic screening clinic was conducted by Dr Celine Mary Skariah

18 Sep 2019: TACO monthly Eye clinic at Sri Sai Public health centre, Shoranur - by Dr Kalyanikutty.

PUBLIC AWARENESS TALKS

Eye donation fortnight was observed widely by the ophthalmic fraternity in Thrissur. Our president Dr Merine paul, programme coordinator Dr Andrews C V and leading corneal surgeon Dr Aneeta Jabbar led the activities from the front.

29 Sep 2019: Interactive sessions for public on diabetic retinopathy were conducted by Dr Babu Krishnakumar & Dr Lathika.V.K at TACO DREAM clinic on 21.09.19.and Dr Kalyanikutty- at Karur.

20 Oct 2019: TACO organised its third PG update of the year at Dr Rani Menon's eye clinic. The update focused on phacoemulsificatuin was formally inaugurated by Dr Babu Krishnakumar, Vice-president, KSOS. Dr Merine Paul, Dr Anup Chirayath, Dr Rani Menon, Dr Lathika.V.K and Mr Nandakumar contributed to the scientific programme.



25 Oct 2019: TACO monthly meet was conducted at Casino hotels. Our guest speaker, Dr Sahithya Bhaskaran, paediatric ophthalmologist from Aravind Eye Care System, Madurai gave two inspiring eye opener talks on Low Vision Aids In comprehensive ophthalmic practice & Right to sight for the visually challenged. The programme was organised with the support of the KSOS Low Vision initiative. It was a highly interactive, unique and much appreciated academic meet.

20-22 Oct 2019: Hands on training -'TACO goes PHACO '- A marathon 3 day programme was organised by TACO supported by Dr Rani Menon's Eye Clinic. The training was personally supervised by senior surgeons and Alcon tech personnel. 28 delegates were benefitted.





TACO - HELPMESEE tie up programme: Three TACO members underwent free simulated cataract microsurgery training in Mumbai at the HELPMESEE centre.

12 Oct 2019: TACO DREAM clinic - our monthly diabetic screening clinic was conducted by Dr Celine Mary Skariah

World Sight day (Oct 12) was observed by organising numerous public awareness interactions on public eye health under TACO DEEPAM community initiative. The following doctors and institutions contributed significantly.

Dr Deleep Kumar and Dr Sudha (Govt Medical College, Thrissur)

Dr Rani Menon, Dr Gopal .S .Pillai (Rani

Menon's eye clinic)
Dr Anup Chirayath (I vision Thrissur)
Dr Jainy Sojan at TACO DREAM clinic

Drishti 2019 - TACO poured in all its energies to the final lap of organising this mammoth academic extravaganza, which has set a bench mark in excellence. OPTOCON-2019 - A Pre-Drishti CME for optometrists and ophthalmic nurses was also organised on 17 Nov 2019 at Jubilee Mission medical college

WORLD DIABETIC DAY PROGRAMMES

1. 14 Nov 2019: TACO DIAWALKATHON at Swaraj ground Thrissur in association with IMA.
2. 16 Nov 2019: Walkathon at Irinjalakuda led by Dr Bastin supported by IMA Irinjalakuda.
3. Diabetic retinopathy screening camps including jyoth se jyoth mega camp
4. 12 Nov 2019: Major programmes focusing on diabetic retinopathy were conducted at TACO DREAM clinic
5. 15 Nov 2019: At Govt Medical college Trissur
6. 12 Nov 2019: At Dr Rani Menon's eye care and Aswini hospital Thrissur



12 Nov 2019: TACO DREAM clinic -our monthly diabetic screening clinic was conducted by Dr Celine Mary Skariah and Dr Vaishna

	Sept	Oct	Nov
Catarct Camps	16	31	27
School camps	6	6	10
DR Screening			2

കുഞ്ഞുഹന്ന

Dr SURABHA
GH Ernakulam



ഫോണുരിയാടി
കണ്ണെടുക്കണം
നാലുവയസ്സുള്ളോ-
രരുമപ്പൈതലിന്റെ

കണ്ടു, ഞാനവിടെ
ഇമകൾപൂട്ടി
ഞെട്ടറ്റ പനിനീർപൂവുപോൽ
ഒരു കുഞ്ഞുമാലാഖയായവൾ

നെറ്റിയിൽ ചുംബിക്കുന്നോ-
രമ്മതൻ നെഞ്ചിലെരിയുന്ന
ചുടുകനൽ ഞാനറിയുന്നു
കേവലം ഞാനുമൊരമ്മയല്ലേ...

മടിച്ചിരുന്നീടല്ലേ
എന്നിലെ ഡോക്ടറുണർന്നു...
ഞാനാപളുങ്കുമണികളെൻ
കൈയ്യിലെടുത്തു...
തിരിഞ്ഞുനടക്കവേ
ഒരുമാത്ര ഞാനൊന്നുനിന്നു
പുള്ളിയുടുപ്പും നേർത്തകാലുകളും
ചുണ്ടിലൊരുപാൽപ്പുഞ്ചിരിയും..

കുഞ്ഞുഹന്നാ
മറക്കില്ല
മറക്കില്ല നിന്നെയൊരിക്കലും
നിന്നമ്മയേയും...

സങ്കടക്കടലുള്ളിലുരമ്പുമ്പോഴും
നേത്രദാനത്തെയോർത്തവൾ
ഞാനെന്തുപേരിട്ടുവിളിക്കേണ്ടു...
ആ ദിവ്യമാതൃത്വത്തെ...

This poem was written after enucleation of the eyes of a young girl Hanna

Link to Drishti photos

Day 1 https://photos.app.goo.gl/27sF2qWBHRnqBRDU6 Day 2 https://photos.app.goo.gl/JYHHYYEjFv6Un5rSA Day 3 https://photos.app.goo.gl/fmUxDxzqVMHY3m998



Dr.BabuRajendran. It was customary for him to travel to these meetings with Drs Jayanth, BV Bhat and Damodaran

When asked about the present generation of Ophthalmologists he was happy to note that most of them are ladies and join by choice which was not so in his time. However few of them choose to practise as general ophthalmologists preferring to do fellowships instead. He thinks it would be better if everyone did a two to three year stint in general ophthalmology. He cannot but appreciate the commitment, knowledge and efficiency of the Ophthalmologists of today and takes pride and pleasure in listening to and learning from them at meetings.



Among the many memories of his working life is the one where, while he was working in the dispensary, a patient collapsed after a test dose of Streptopenicillin. He did all that was possible and though she was pulseless he nevertheless managed to save her. He had forgotten all this, when years later after returning to Thalassery from Kasargode a lady walked into his consultation room and asked if he remembered her. She said she was alive today only because of him, something so different from today when a similar situation is likely to trigger recrimination and violence, even if the patient's life is saved.

Another memory is of a patient with bilateral mature cataracts (it was usual then to operate only after cataracts matured) who after surgery was delighted to see the face of her son that she had not seen for many many years.

One of his first cases in Kasargod, just as he was finishing his evening OP was a one year child brought for red eye with a yellow reflex. He knew it was a retinoblastoma and advised the child come for a detailed evaluation the next day. The father kept insisting on being given eye drops instead so Dr. Mohan Babu was obliged to hint at the gravity of the situation, including the possibility of enucleation. They did not come, but a month later, the father returned to say he had taken the child to Mangalore where he was told there was no major problem and all would be well with treatment. This intrigued Dr Mohan Babu who had been fairly certain of the diagnosis. Three months later when visiting KMC Manipal to see a friend, who was admitted there, he met the same father who sadly remarked he should have listened to Dr Babu in the first place. With tears in his eyes the father said his daughter's eye had been enucleated and he had been told that the other eye was also affected. "I listened to this with mixed feelings- a measure of happiness at being vindicated, yet deep sorrow at the thought of the child and her father" Dr Babu said.

Dr Babu is now attached to Vasan Eye Care in Thalassery. He says with pride that never mind the hour he never sends back any patient who comes to his door if he can help it.

His wife Shyamala is a homemaker and they have two children-a son and a daughter. Their daughter and son-in-law (who is an engineer) are in Muscat. Their son is a structural engineer married to another engineer, both working in Kannur. Their two grandsons are in Classes 12 and 8.

He told me he was very happy to have been an Ophthalmologist. I know well that he is like a God to his many grateful yet when pressed all he wanted was to be known as a good doctor and a good human being.

We ended our conversation with very pleasant memories-I remembering him as my teacher and mentor, and he remembering me as a reliable colleague during the many years we worked together.

- Interviewed by Dr Vanaja & compiled by Dr Padmaja Krishnan



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