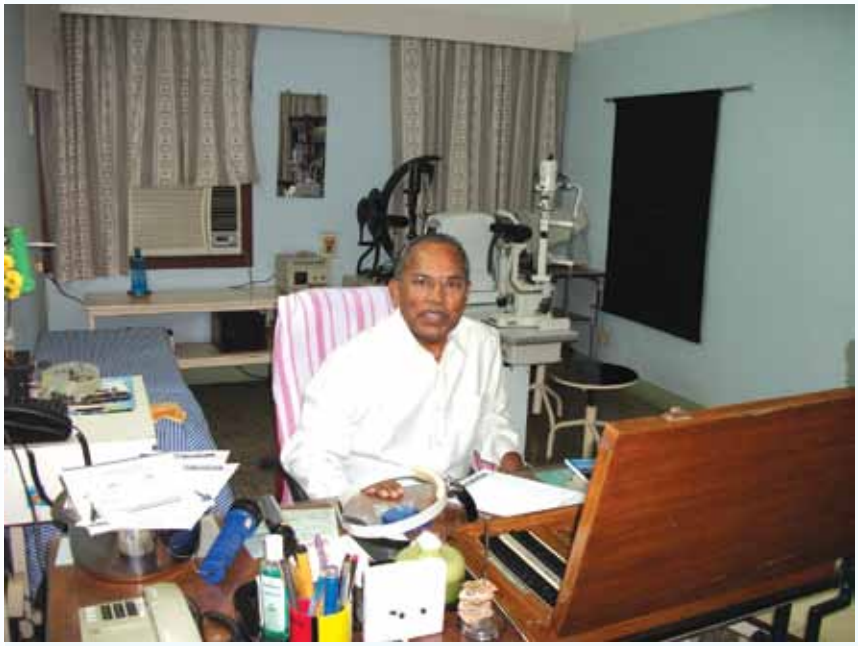
KSOS
News Letter
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Dr. GEORGE THOMAS, BEACON OF OPHTHALMOLOGY IN THE HIGH RANGES

By ***Dr. Sasikumar S***



In August 2011 I was entrusted with the task of illuminating the life of Dr George Thomas, a silent but strong face of ophthalmology in the backward district of Idukki. I could contact him only in November since he was holidaying in the USA.

The very first reaction was "Why me of all people?" He expressed his surprise in choosing a "small fry like him" who in his opinion has not done anything significant to KSOS. Why highlight an ordinary person like him who according to him "does small things in a small world".

It reminded me of the poem by Alexander Pope

"Thus let me live, unseen, unknown,
Thus unlamented let me die
Steal from the world, and not a stone Tell where I lie."

I played down his opposition. Is KSOS only for those who were in the forefront of organizational activities in Kerala? Certainly not.

On an October evening I reached his riverfront house at Thodupuzha along with my son who agreed to be the photographer. He was in his consultation room examining a keratoconus patient who finally landed up in his clinic after several months of treatment in alternate medicine and shelling out a few thousands of rupees. He also told me of his experience in treating many keratoconus patients and the gratitude they had for him after experiencing clear vision with RGP lenses.

His wife Shirley served us tea, after which he took me around his beautiful backyard. After a neat little garden a walkway led down a flight of steps to a terrace where several trees were planted. Standing there we could feel the cool breeze from the Thodupuzha river. Crystal clear water, luckily not polluted by any human intervention meandered its way down forming puddles and little whirlpools here and there. Fishes of varying sizes came close to the shore where we stood, as if to greet us and beckon us to take a plunge. Sensing the mood Dr George Thomas offered me a vacation with family where we can spend a whole day in the river bathing and fishing. It was a perfect spot to pacify and soothen your mind. No wonder Dr George Thomas is

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From the President's Office

Welcome you all to a new KSOS year. With great pride I thank all of you for having faith in my services to KSOS for the last 30 years and electing me as its president.

We had two majestic and distinctive conferences recently, one Drishti 2011 at Thrissur and another AIOC 2012 at Kochi. Both were considered as last words in excellence updated and well appreciated from all those who attended them. We, the KSOS members have reason to celebrate as it is our members who were behind the chronicle.

Accommodating 6000 delegates and 2000 scientific trade delegates AIOC 2012 went straight into the pages of record books. There were many unique features like Radio Frequency Registration ID cards for delegates, Breakfast Sessions, Evening Sessions, Wet lab and Webcast. All these on staged around one of the best venues in India. The banquet was one of the finest in socializing event with the famed duo colonial cousins singing in the backdrop. Let us congratulate the AIOC Local Organizing Committee (KSOS and COC) members with special mention to its Chief Organizing Secretary Dr. A. Giridhar.

With great events over, the KSOS is now beginning its regular activities. The new team has started its vocation at sincere pace. We expect active participation from all district clubs, institutions and above all from each members to make the year hectic academically and socially.

Dr. C.V. ANDREWS

President KSOS



From the General Secretary's Desk

Dear friends

With the din and bustle of AIOC over, I must concentrate more on KSOS activities. All the KSOS members can take pride in the excellent organization of this mega event.

My dreams are very simple during my first year as General Secretary. I want to make the member database foolproof. I have already started working on this. Once this is done, we will bring out a good members directory.

Revival and reactivation of some of the Local Ophthalmic Clubs is also high on my agenda. Our President has proposed a small mid term CME in such towns and we will inform you soon regard

Dr. S.J. Saikumar

Cataract and Glaucoma Services

Giridhar Eye Institute

Cochin- 682020

Mob 9847040840

General Secretary, KSOS



From the Scientific Commitee Chairperson's desk

Respected senior members, dear colleagues,

Let me take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for electing me unanimously as the Chairman, Scientific Committee of our society. It is a tough call to succeed Dr. Arup Chakrabarthi, who has done a wonderful job over the last two years. The feedback from many of the guest faculty is that the scientific content at our state conference is one of the best in India. The scientific committee has been constituted with Dr. Biju John, Dr. Rajeev Sukumaran, Dr. Meena C.K. and Dr. Suma Unnikrishnan as members. The KSOS President, Secretary and Editor KJO are also members of the committee.

In the run up to 'Drishti 2011', I had visited quite a few district Ophthalmic Clubs. The fact that only six of our district clubs are meeting regularly is a matter of concern. It would be one of the priorities of the scientific committee to ensure that the district clubs meet regularly. This would strengthen our society, as well as unearth new talents. The scientific committee would offer any assistance needed to the district clubs, in having regular academic meetings.

The new scientific committee is meeting on the 11th of March, to discuss matters regarding abstract submissions, as well as a preliminary discussion on the scientific programme of 'Drishti 2012'. Any suggestions in this regard from our members are welcome. Let us all work together to carry the flag of KSOS higher.

Jai KSOS

Sincerely,

Thomas Cherian

E mail: ksoscsc@gmail.com, tcherian@rediffmail.com

Mobile: 93886 05608



Editor's thoughts

"If we have seen further, it is by only standing on the shoulder of Giants" is what a real Giant remarked on progressive discoveries made by mankind. I feel that it is true in each and every field of life where there is a transition of responsibility. Our journal has in the last few years emerged as one of the top scientific journals in the country and it is due to no small effort from the previous editors, Dr Mahesh G and Dr Meena Chakrabarti. My task remains defined, to emulate them itself is a difficult task. To best them in scientific content is almost impossible. I want to make a humble submission to all of you to try to give atleast one article for our journal in the next two years. The trend that those who write keeps on writing and the others sleep tight has to be broken. In the first issue, I have tried to retain most of the features, the previous editors have been doing, for that is an important factor when we look to index the journal. I have added a feature, Surgical corner- a video assisted skill transfer section, where the video will be available online and the journal discusses the nuances of the surgical situation. Another regular feature which will create a spark in all our minds is the clinical research methodology section which will decipher the complicated clinical trials and make us look at cases through a research angle. Please forward all your suggestions and articles to me. Let us hope that in years to come, our Journal will reach newer heights

Jai KSOS,

Dr Gopal S Pillai

Editor KJO

gopalspillai@gmail.com, 9447391266

always in a joyous mood with that infectious laughter, which is one of his trademarks



Born as the youngest son in an agrarian family in Areeparambu, a sleepy village near Kottayam, he had none to guide him to take up medical profession. His first exposure to a busy town was when he joined for Pre-University Course in SB College, Changanacherry. He took up Physics for his BSc. After graduation, he tried a few months at the Law College Trivandrum, when he got selected for MBBS at Medical College Kottayam in 1964. After MBBS, he joined the Little Lourde's Hospital, Kidangoor where he was handling all cases including Surgery and Obstetrics with élan. Great teachers like Prof: G.K.Warrier and Prof: Mathew Parackal inspired him to take up General Medicine as his specialization. But it was the legendary Prof: Gopinatha Menon who guided him to Ophthalmology. He has sweet memories of his student days in Govt: Ophthalmic Hospital, Trivandrum. Prof: P.K.Kannan, Dr.Gopalakrishna Iyer, Dr. Narayanan Kutty were some of his illustrious contemporaries.

After his MS, he was posted in Govt: Hospital, Chirayinkil where he set up an Eye Unit. "ICCE was done with an erisophake and we didn't need any special training to do surgeries after our PG, unlike the trend today" he remembered. While working there he even published a case report of Subconjunctival Dirofilaria in the IJO (Oct-Dec-1976), which was the first case reported from Kerala.

In 1976 he got posted in Taluk Hospital, Muvattupuzha. He set up the newly sanctioned Eye unit and managed it in the beginning without even a refractionist. In 1982 he was shifted to the backward district of Idukki and worked there till his retirement in 1999. In between he was posted in PHC, Muttom as Medical Officer in-charge and converted the India Population Project operation theatre into an ophthalmic operation theatre and conducted cataract surgeries for the first time in a Primary Health Centre.

"I had the opportunity to set up Ophthalmic Departments in two THQ hospitals and in one PHC", he remembered, "the setting up of these were almost done by myself, like painting the glass windows, for dark room, at 1 AM in the night!!"

The major part of his service in Idukki was spent in Thodupuzha Taluk Hospital. There he established himself as the last word in Ophthalmology in Idukki, by his astute clinical acumen and humane approach to patients. When a flashlight and loupe was enough to make a roaring practice, he insisted on getting a slit lamp microscope, Keratometer and autorefractor for his practice. Even now he never hurries through his clinical examination. Meticulous examination and proper documentation is his trademark which will be vouched by the consultants in the higher centers in Ernakulam and Kottayam where he refers his patients. I was surprised to learn that he maintains case diaries of interesting cases even now, with the enthusiasm of a studious post graduate. I went through some of the cases mentioned in that.

A young boy with temper tantrums and headache came to him after consulting so many doctors. Careful history taking revealed hallucinations. He was diagnosed to have a temporal lobe tumor after radiological tests. He is a strong believer in divine intervention in managing difficult cases. A case of viral keratoconjunctivitis, treated in many premier institutes finally got cured in his hands, for which he doesn't have any explanation. Similarly for one of his IOL surgeries for a high myopic patient, he couldn't implant the IOL since the haptics were broken and he didn't have a backup. To his surprise, the patient could read 6/6 without correction.

He learnt IOL surgery just before retirement and was the first to perform an IOL implant in a Taluk Hospital in Kerala. "I could start IOL surgery in a THQ hospital with the help of Dr Jayanandan, the former Deputy



Director of Health Services who provided the Microscope and Dr P K Kannan who trained me and gave me free IOLs, he reminisced. “On the last day of my IOL training Dr Kannan asked me to start IOL surgery on the very next day at THQ Hospital Thodupuzha.”.

He managed to purchase IOLs at very cheap rates from Aravind Eye Hospital for his charity work. “Free IOLs were given from donations I got with a Charity Box kept in the OP” he said, “affordable people who came to see me in the THQ hospital OP were asked to donate to the Operation Fund"

With pride he said that he had only one case of endophthalmitis in his entire career when he used to do lots of cataract, glaucoma and occasional squint surgeries. He gives full compliment to his OT staff for maintaining strict aseptic practices in his OT. He used to demonstrate the right cleaning methods to his staff. Among the mementos he received during his sent off function at Taluk Hospital, Muvattupuzha, was a jar full of preserved cataractous lens which he had removed during his tenure.

Just like any other successful practitioner in a rural setting he was accessible and available all the time. The gate of his house was always open to patients till a young patient, in his desire to make easy money, entered his consulting chamber and tried to mug him a few years back. The reflexes of an athlete (he was an athlete and cricketer during his college days) helped him to ward off the attack and chase and capture him. At his request no case was charged against the culprit, not because he was the son of one of his patients, but he believed in giving him a chance to repent and mend his ways.

His interest in Classical music took him to all concerts in nearby festivals. His hobbies include agriculture, carpentry, plumbing, biomedical engineering, fishing etc.

He spends a few months every year with his son Vinu, who is Associate Professor in Manipal College of Dental Sciences, Manipal and daughter, Anju who is a Kumon trainer in the USA. I Googled to learn more about it. The Kumon method, developed by educator Toru Kumon, an educator in Japan, is a mathematics and reading educational method that is practiced in Kumon's learning centers. Students do not work together as a class, but progress through the curriculum at their own pace, guided by tutors, moving on to the next level when they have achieved mastery of the previous level.

I was surprised to find that his equipments were well maintained even after so many years. He told me that repairing and maintaining biomedical instruments was one of his passions. He used to repair BP apparatus, Ophthalmoscopes and Retinoscopes of the hospitals where he worked and that of his colleagues.

Unlike the present, during his time it was easy to establish a lucrative practice especially in small towns. The general nature of the work in the health services includes handling general OPD, general casualty, formalities associated with RTAs and post mortems

and other administrative jobs, to mention a few. He narrated the difficulties ophthalmic surgeons had to face at that time. "I had to purchase all the Surgical instruments and sutures etc myself. It was only towards my retirement time that we got at least sutures from the Dept. When I joined the Service, the main Ophthalmic Instrument set supplied was the Enucleation set!!" What a motivation that could be for an enthusiastic surgeon!! "When I once complained to Director of Health Services about the quality of 6/0 silk supplied, which was only thick black thread used for repairing umbrellas, I was fired left and right" Thereafter he bought all the new instruments by himself. "With the advent of the specialty cadre in recent years, we are witnessing some changes in this scenario", he added.

It is very easy for anyone to lose academic interest in such depressing circumstances when he started his career. Not many have succeeded in sustaining the academic spirit all through their professional career when they have to spend more time for non clinical matters. Dr George Thomas stands apart in this aspect. He never missed any State and National Conferences. His meticulous way of documentation and the amount of time he devotes for clinical examination even for the last patient on a busy day is a lesson for the beginners. He told me how he could save his skin on many occasions just because of his meticulous documentation.

He has varied interests from music, sports, farming, horticulture, plumbing and carpentry to bio-medical engineering. In the organizational front he was a member of the KSOS Executive Committee representing Idukki.

He was the Wicket keeper cum opening batsman of the Kottayam Medical College cricket team and also the District Table Tennis Champion of Kottayam. His showcase was full of trophies which he bagged in various athletic meets. His love for agriculture was seen everywhere in his compound.
"There are 8 varieties of jackfruit trees in this compound, some of them are budded from the sweetest "thenvarikka" from my ancestral house" George Thomas says.

There was a rooftop garden with more than 50 pineapple saplings besides vegetables. Where does he find time for all these? I wondered. He laughed heartily and said, "My gardening starts at 9.00 pm and goes on till 11 pm so that my neighbours call me the midnight farmer". Teams from Vellayani Agricultural College had come to study his jackfruit trees. They were impressed with the sweetness of the fruit and were planning to tissue culture them.

His love for Classical music is evident from his collection of old record player, LP records, music CDs and albums which will delight any music lover. His two children have lived up to that reputation by bagging the first in the State Youth Festival for Guitar.

He had opportunities to go abroad and make loads of money and laurels. But he was "content to breathe his native air in his own ground". I asked him if he had any unhappy moments in his professional career. He gazed up for a few moments and said "I felt very bad when the cases I had referred were presented by others in clinical meetings and conferences, not because they didn't acknowledge me, but because with better facilities I could have done the same thing." These words are echoed by many of our fellow ophthalmologists in the Health Services who work in poorly equipped hospitals and do their might to reduce the burden of blindness.

As I bid farewell, I could not but ponder over his reluctance to highlight himself in our Newsletter.

"A violet by the mossy stone
Half-hidden from the eye"

Don't we have to bring them to light?

ATTENTION HEADS OF TEACHING DEPARTMENTS!

Post Graduate Students, who wish to send abstracts for the competition sessions in 'DRISHTI -2012' have to be members of KSOS. To log in to the abstract submission site, they need the KSOS Membership numbers. Hence, you are requested to make sure that your Post Graduates are enrolled as KSOS Members sufficiently early, so as to avoid last minutes hassles in abstract submission.

Application forms can be downloaded from the KSOS website, www.ksos.in

From the Web Site Editor's Portal



Being the first report of the new web site editor in the newsletter, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the previous two web site editors Dr Biju John and Dr Thomas George for their vision of the KSOS website. Their work has primarily been the foundation on which I am able to visualize a greater role for the website in affairs of the KSOS especially in this increasingly digital world. The website was handed over in a financially stable condition and its stability has been ensured by even more generous support from Allergan Retina. This has enabled us to be able to host our website with larger space of 2 GB capacity in a better host server. This has also enabled us to be able to revamp our website with newer features. The additional features include an event calender, clinical corner, clinical quiz & polls , member SOS (for urgent problems faced by any member), archived access to journals and publications of the KSOS. This year also the website will be the portal for abstract submission, thanks to the immaculate performance in last year's Drishti conference. At the time of writing this report I believe that the website in within days of being released in its new Avatar, truly KSOS at heart but definitely international in functionality. I again invite any suggestion and criticism aimed at improving the usage and usefulness of the website.

Dr Unnikrishnan Nair,

Website editor KSOS

TACO-Secretary's report

The first monthly academic meeting of 2012 was held on 20th January at hotel Casino. The session started with Dr. Zainulabdeen from Ahalia Eye Hospital speaking on Clinical Specular Microscopy which was based on various methods of cell density analysis. Dr. Mary O.V spoke on Glaucoma Progression Analysis with HFA.

On 22nd January a family trip was arranged to Ezhattumugham near Chalakudy which is a riverside farm cum resort. Over 40 families joined the trip which also included Prakriti Gramam , a popular shooting location.

Dr. Sudha.V,
Secretary TACO

Palakkad Society Of Ophthalmic Surgeons – Secretary's report

Two CME programs were conducted since the last report.

On 28/10/11 - Topics- Modern Refractive surgery -The pros & cons by Dr.Sheena.B,Vasan Eye Care (Cochin) & Challenges in the medical management of Glaucoma by Dr. Rajesh.R. Adithyakiran Eyecare Center (Palakkad) at Hotel Fort Palace, Palakkad, 7.00 PM.

And on 28/12/11 - Ocular surface disorder- a practical approach by Dr.Sri Shankar, Ahalia foundation Eye Hospital(Calicut) & Brinzolamide- a new CAI drug by Dr.Mahesh Agarwal ,Ahalia Foundation Eye Hospital (Palakkad) at Hotel Fort Palace , Palakkad at 7.00 PM

Dr. P.Jayadevan.
Secretary

Kozhikode ophthalmic society (KOS) Secretary's Report

During the last 6 months we had 3 scientific meetings & 1 family get together. The scientific sessions in the meetings were on "Anti VEGF and Management of Diabetic macular oedema" by Dr.Thomas Cherian from Angamaly on 28-08-2011, "Newer perspectives in the management of Post operative Inflammation" by Dr. Sharath Babu from Warangal on 30-10-2011 and " Red Eye" and "Practical Tips in the Management of Dry Eye" by Dr.JK Reddy from Sankara Eye Centre on 08-01-2011. On 08-01-2011

We conducted an ophthalmic quiz for the members which was well organised by Dr. LeilaMohan & team under the chairmanship of Dr.K.V Raju. Dr.Sisira Sivan & Dr.Lakshmi of Vasan Eye care won the first prize .Dr.Mihir Sha & Dr. Firoz Khan from City Eye Foundation were the runner up.

The family get together was on 18-08-2011 in connection with our Onam celebrations.

We are conducting a membership campaign among our members to join KSOS & AIOS. With the initiative of Dr. K.V. Raju 30 members have joined AIOS &17 members joined KSOS family during the last 6 months. One of our KOS member Dr. K.V. Raju won the best IMA AMS president award of Kerala stateIMA during 2011.

Suma Unnikrishnan
Secretary KOS

Report of activities of TOC (November 2011 to March 2012)

The November meeting was on the 9th at Hotel Residency Towers. The speaker was Dr. Sribhargava, Chief VR surgeon , Nethra eye hospital, Bangalore. He spoke on Approach to Posterior uveitis. This was followed by an interactive session with the audience.During the general body meeting the annual reports of the year 2010-11 were read by the secretary, treasurer and president and passed. The award winners of Drishti 2011(Dr Manoj S and Dr. Sonia Rani John were falicitated). Dr George Thomas was the returning officer for the election for the new office bearers and the following members were elected as office bearers: President – Dr. Harikrishnan, Vice president - Dr. Biju John, Secretary - Dr. Minu M Mathen and Treasurer - Dr. Sonia Rani John.

The meeting in December was held at hotel residency towers, on the 15th of January 2011. Scientific session saw Dr. Rishi Swarup from Hyderabad present on Infectious keratitis and keratoconus- current perspectives. It was followed by general body meeting which elected the following members as executive committee members- Dr. Sara Kuruvilla, Dr. Jayalekshmi, Dr. Simon John and Dr. Devin Prabhakar. The updated byelaws were passed. Dr. Biju John was elected as the new treasurer for the Organising committee of Drishti 2012. Dr. Abraham Kurian, organizing secretary of Drishti2012 briefed on the progress in the activities of the drishti orgnising committee.

The annual family gettogether of TOC members was conducted on January 15, 2012 at the poolside lawn of Mascot hotel. It was very well attended and there were lot of games and entertainment programmes especially for the kids. The evening was musical with the troop led by Mr Faizal performing skits & mimics along with the ganamela. A short general body meeting too was conducted on that day which decided to name the annual CME of TOC as "REFLECTIONS by TOC" and decided the first meeting date as April 8, 2012. An oration award was also instituted (Ananthapuri Oration) and Dr. Tony Fernandez was named as its first recipient.

The AIOS annual meeting at Kochi in February saw spectacular performances by the TOC members with three members winning best paper awards- Dr. Manoj S (Retina free paper award) , Dr Sonia Rani John(Cataract free paper award) and Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair(Best paper award in ocular inflammation section).

Dr. Minu Mathen
Secretary, TOC

Report of activities of Cochin Ophthalmic Club

The new office bearers of COC took office in November 2011.

President	**- Dr R.R.Varma**
Vice President	**- Dr Davis Akkara**
Secretary	**- Dr Sasikumar S**
Treasurer	**- Dr G. Mahesh**
Jt: Secretary	**- Dr Abhilash Nair**
Scientific Committee chairman	**- Dr Ashok Natraj**

The monthly meeting for November of the COC was held at IMA House.The meeting was chaired by the outgoing President Dr Giridhar. He welcomed the incoming team. Dr RR Varma took charge as the President of COC. Dr RR Varma, Dr Thomas Cherian, the outgoing Secretary and the incoming Secretary Dr Sasikumar spoke. The members acknowledged the efforts of the outgoing team especially Dr Thomas Cherian for making COC the best Ophthalmic Club for the past 2 years. The meeting was followed by scientific presentations by Dr Prashanth Rafael, Chaithanya Eye Hospital on An Approach to Ptosis and Dr Marian Pauly on the use of Botox in oculoplasty. The session was chaired by Dr Ani Sreedhar. 41 members attented the meeting.

The monthly meeting of COC for December was held on the 16th at IMA House. The meeting was chaired by Dr RR Varma. cases were presented by Dr Rameez Hussain, Giridhar Eye Institute, Dr Surya, AIMS, and Dr. Remya Mareen Poulose, LF Hospital. The session was moderated by Dr Thomas Cherian and Dr Freddie Simon. 44 members attended the meeting

The monthly meeting of January was held on 13th January at IMA House, Kaloor. Mr. Nikhil Masurkar, UK spoke on Tear film osmolarity and Dr Anil Radhakrishnan spoke on the Recent trends in management of OSD. The session was chaired by Dr Anil Nambiar. 37 members attended the meeting.

In February each and every member of COC was fully involved in organizing the AIOC 2012. The event was well attended was one of the best annual conferences of AIOS so far. Many of the members of COC participated in the Scientific Programme. Dr Mahesh won the first prize in the Quiz and Dr Anna Elias won the best paper award in the Medical Retina session. Dr Kiran Balagopal received the FAICO (cornea) during the inaugural ceremony of AIOC 2012

The monthly meeting of COC was held on 24th February at Hotel Gokulam Park. In the Scientific Session chaired by Dr Giridhar, Dr R.R.Varma spoke on a Commonsense approach to patient related litigations and Dr Sanjiv Singh, the Medical Superintendent of AIMS spoke on the Management of patient waiting. 30 members attended.

COC in AIOC 2012-02-28

Dr NSD Raju took charge as the President of AIOS

Dr S. Tony Fernandez was honoured by the AIOS-LOC during the inaugural function.
He was co-chairman in the session on Newer Innovations in Ophthalmology

Dr Anna Elias presented a free paper in Medical Retina which was adjudged the best in that.

Dr G.Mahesh won the Maruti Swift car topping the AIOC 2012 Quiz competition

DRISHTI
2012
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Welcome to Ananthapuri

39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE KERALA SOCIETY OF OPHTHALMIC SURGEONS
22nd to 24th November 2012, Thiruvananthapuram

DELEGATE STATUS	UPTO SEP. 30TH
Reception Committee	' 3,000/-
KSOS Member	' 1,850/-
KSOS Non-Member	' 2,200/-
PGs/Fellows	' 1,400/-
Spouse/Associate Delegate	' 1,400/-

For Further Details
CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT
Dr. Abraham Kurian, Organizing Secretary
CHAITHANYA EYE HOSPTITAL & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Kesavadasapuram, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004
Mob: +91 98470 94478, E-mail: abrahamkurian55@yahoo.in

DRISHTI 2012

A report on progress.

The preparations for Drishti 2012 to be held at Trivandrum on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of November are well under way. The venue selected is the majestic Mascot Hotel in the heart of the city with its aesthetic blend of traditional and modern decor.

The Trivandrum Ophthalmic Club which has been entrusted with the conference by the KSOS has formed committees to look after various aspects of the conference.
Areas for trade and food have been identified at the venue and an Event Manager and an AudioVisual Team Contractor have been selected.

With the constant interaction with and steady encouragement from the Organizing Secretaries of the two previous Drishti Conferences, as well as the Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the KSOS, the organizers are upbeat and no effort is being spared to make the Conference a memorable one.

Welcome to all of you to Ananthapuri.

Dr Abraham Kurian
Organizing Secretary
Drishti 2012

Don't let glaucoma darken your life

The world glaucoma week went past us in the month of March (12-18th). Here I list the activities reported to us as done by the various ophthalmic clubs.

Thiruvanathapuram: We had a walk conducted from the gates of the palace at Kowdiar to the Vellayambalam Junction under the aegis of GSI, KSOS and TOC. It was well attended with atleast 250 participants and was flagged off by the Hon. Minister V.S. Sivakumar. We were addressed by our Mayor Mrs.J.Chandrika. This had very good visual and print media coverage. Additionally all hospitals did their part arranging health education, camps to cause glaucoma awareness and a CME in the monthly IMA meet.

Kollam: We conducted a glaucoma awareness and screening camp on 17th at nair's hospital campus.. almost 174 attendance and 13 newly detected glaucoma patients.

Pallakkad: In connection with World Glaucoma week PSOS conducted " Public awareness and interaction" program on 18/03/12 Sunday at Lions school auditorium Palakkad.The function started at 10.00 am ,presided over by Dr.Jayadevan, president of PSOS. Dr.Rohan welcomed the gathering & was inaugurated by Dr.P.Rajagopalan Nair, Past President of KSOS. Dr.Jayadevan introduced the subject Glaucoma & Dr.Rajesh Radhakrishnan educated the gathering in simple ,attractive manner with power point presentation.This was followed by active interaction by the audience.Free medicines were distributed to all patients who participated. Dr.Vinod Kumar secretary PSOS proposed vote of thanks.about 100 people participated in the function.

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ASIA PHACO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PHACO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Phaco Essentials™

This program is designed to provide surgeons currently performing ECCE/SICS, as well as those surgeons that possess minimal Phaco experience, with the skills necessary to adopt Phacoemulsification as their primary surgical option.

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The Alcon® Phaco Development Department is staffed with committed **Clinical Applications Specialist** team which has completed rigorous training in the entire Phaco procedure and the cataract patient care process. Moreover, we have a faculty of accomplished Phaco Surgeons that instruct and consult with our trainees throughout the program.

Program Components

- 2 weeks training: hands on training, wet lab practice, intensive didactic lessons and presentations, surgical video discussion with the trainer
- Extensive post-course mentorship at trainee's hospital by the dedicated Alcon® Clinical Application Specialist team

Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this program the trainee should be able to:

- Demonstrate a practical understanding of proper pre-operative preparation and patient selection of Phaco surgery
- Demonstrate competence in the surgical steps and techniques of the Phaco procedure
- Avoid, recognize, manage and reduce surgical complications
- Demonstrate the ability to operate and basically troubleshoot the Phacoemulsification System with thorough understanding of Phaco dynamics & Fluidics
- Maximize IOL, OVD and Blade technologies to provide the best patient results

This program is intended not only to provide the trainee with a comprehensive understanding of the surgical process but also to help in their Practice Development through Career Advancement Solutions

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