

Endowment Oration Award presented

Special Correspondent



RECOGNITION: G. Srinivasan, president, GOVEL Trust, giving away the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Oration Award to Marilyn T Miller, Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Illinois, at Aravind Eye Care Hospital in Madurai on Saturday. — Photo: S. James.

: The Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Oration Award was presented to Marilyn T. Miller, Professor of Ophthalmology, Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, University of Illinois, by G. Srinivasan, president, Govel Trust, which runs the Aravind Eye Care System, here on Saturday.

The award, instituted in memory of G. Venkataswamy, founder of Aravind Eye Care System, is presented annually to professionals in ophthalmology and vision sciences, “who have taken humanity a step forward towards the goal of eradication of blindness in the community or have, by their ground breaking work, enhanced our knowledge or understanding of vision and vision-related diseases.

Delivering the Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment oration, Dr. Marilyn recalled her long association with the Aravind Eye Hospital, especially in the area of paediatric ophthalmology. She hailed Dr. Venkataswamy, who was a “hero to many of us,” as a mentor and teacher par excellence.

R. D. Ravindran, chairman, Aravind Eye Care System, said that Dr. Marilyn was the third person to get the award. Recalling the contribution of Dr. Venkataswamy to elimination of preventable blindness, Dr. Ravindran said that one of the most important lessons in his life was how to transform obstacles into opportunities. The Aravind Eye Care System was an example of how a mission driven by compassion for the community could succeed.