



Dear All,

Congratulations to the Aravind Pondy team for having carried out an excellent Phacoexcel meeting. It was a successful meeting both in terms of academic deliberations and the venue arrangements. Have listed out some of the points below as some of you who were not at the meeting will get an update.

- Scientific Sessions
 - Talks: There were around 25 faculty I think, many were external this time. Interestingly I can't think of a single talk which was not up to the mark. The topics were different and each did adequate and more justice to the talks. Some of younger MOs (Niraj, Vivek, Fredrick & Sherin) did a very good job too.
 - Live surgery: 6 surgeries were done in 2 hours and it worked like clockwork one after another, interesting mix of sutureless SFIOL, Assia retractors, FLACS, hard cataract phaco, newer IOLs etc. The AV and IT teams did a great job of pulling this through.
 - Videoconference session with Dr. David Chang: This was Sunday morning and came through very well without a hitch in the audio, ppt or video.
 - Interesting sessions
 - Innovators session- Of 30 entries 10 were accepted to present in 3 minutes each and 3 got prizes worth 15, 10 and 5 K. It was heartening to see many young doctors being creative and come up with unique ideas. I think this is something we should do annually within Aravind.
 - Secondary IOL workshop
 - This was one day prior for 25 of our IOL MOS from 9 of our centers. The whole day included lecture, live surgery demo and wetlab hands on for each of the 4 techniques with good interaction between the faculty (& some bonding)
 - Participants
 - I think it was around 280 including our Aravind doctors (MOs and fellows) which means the 300 seater hall was full.
 - Housekeeping
 - Creative and thematic rangolis were outstanding. At the guest house, at the hall, on the lawn- they were a treat esp the idea of the large pots with phacoexcel on them was very unique.
 - Catering
 - Food was sumptuous and new items were served- neatly and politely
 - Special dinners
 - One on Dr. Venkatesh and Veena's farm, another on a boat and a third on the beach, each with different entertainment programs and food. Making it difficult for future venues to host 😊 (that says it all)
 - Bag, badge and logistics
 - Details were looked into. The bag with the 'I love Pondy' was a great idea & so was the ASCRS like badge. Well-coordinated transport and comfortable stay for faculty
- All of the above would not be possible if not for the people behind the meeting under Dr. Venkatesh's personal involvement and leadership. Appreciate each one's involvement- Dr. Veena, Dr. Manas, Dr. Prashanth, Ms. Sumathy and the whole team.
- Congratulations on a successful Phacoexcel 2016!

Best wishes,
Haripriya