



## MSMF Newsletter

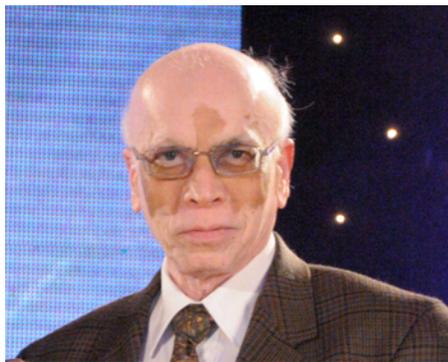
# A Ray of Light

Education \* Eye Care \* Disaster Relief

## Dr. Chandra to be awarded Honorary Doctorate by Memorial University



Sarada Vidyalayam Final Year Class with Staff



of rural children and have provided eye care services to almost two million patients, including restoring eyesight to nearly 200,000 patients through cataract surgeries.

He has been recognized with many awards for his charitable work, including the 2006 Outstanding Community Achievement Award of the India Canada Association, and was named a CNN hero by CNN international in 2008 — the first to be nominated from India.

[Source: <http://www.mun.ca/gazette/issues/vol45no3/honorary.php>]

### An Extremely Productive Visit - Dr. Mahindrakar.

“Are you Dr. Avinash?” were the first words that I heard upon getting out of the Ottawa Airport on the 24th of June, 2012. I had just come out of Immigration and Customs in Canada without any trouble, thanks to the sponsorship letters given by MSMF and the invitation from Canadian Ophthalmological Society. On turning around, I noticed a graceful lady whom I could recognize as Lakshmi Vishnubhatla. Thus began my extremely fruitful and fulfilling visit to Canada in the early summer of 2012. I stayed with the Vishnubhatlas during my visit.

I joined Srikiran institute of Ophthalmology recently as its Medical Director. My interests encompass strabismus, oculoplasty, pediatric ophthalmology and cataracts.

Over dinner, we chatted about Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology (SIO), Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (MSMF) and the Ottawa Eye Institute (EI) and their inter-relationships. I understood the philosophies of the respective institutions and Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla provided a very enthusiastic, inquisitive, analytical perspective to reinforce my understanding. MSMF and SIO are very fortunate to have him on the board and also as a friend, philosopher and guide. He stressed the need for transparency and visibility in whatever we do in our activities. He said that our first responsibility is always to our donors who made all this possible.

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Please Get Involved.

Thank You for Caring.

Memorial University has announced that it will salute Dr. Chandra with an honorary doctorate at its fall convocation ceremonies in October 2012. In an article in the Memorial University Gazette, David Sorensen wrote and said that Memorial will present degree honoris causa to philanthropist Chandrasekhar Sankurathri during convocation at the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's on Friday, Oct. 19.

Dr. Chandra Sankurathri is a Memorial graduate who responded to the tragic loss of his wife, son and daughter in the 1985 Air India bombing by dedicating his life to help alleviate the suffering of others. He will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at the 10 a.m. session of convocation on Oct. 19.

Dr. Sankurathri graduated in zoology from Andhra University, holds a M.Sc. in biology from Memorial and was awarded a PhD by the University of Alberta. He has worked as visiting scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and as a scientific evaluator with Health Canada.

He currently heads two registered charities, Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation in Canada and Sankurathri Foundation in India.

Dr. Sankurathri established the Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation as a registered charity in Canada in 1989 and the Sankurathri Foundation in India in the same year. Within the Sankurathri Foundation, Dr. Sankurathri manages an eye hospital, Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology, and the Sarada Vidyalayam high school. These charities provide free education to hundreds



**Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar**

I visited the Ottawa Eye Institute and was warmly received by Rosemary Bickerton. She took me on a guided tour of the EI as well as the Ottawa General Hospital campus. I met many specialists and residents. Mrs. Bickerton was very knowledgeable and resourceful and was always available for any help that I needed during my visit. She also gave me an insight into the human resource management strategies she followed.

I travelled to Toronto with the Vishnubhatlas for the Canadian Ophthalmological Meeting. MSMF had a display that had good visibility to all the visitors. The three days at the conference were extremely productive with lectures on "Current Concepts" and lectures especially by the visiting faculty. The one on Nystagmus by Richard Hertle, Pediatric blindness by Sherwing Isenberg, and the Himalayan Cataract Project by Geoff Tabin deserve special mention. The session on iris dialysis repair and pupilloplasty at the end of the conference were particularly interesting. The lecture on CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) and its performance highlighted the unique Canadian approach to planning projects.

I took the liberty of shadowing Dr. Marie Louise Lapointe and she was very helpful in introducing me to the Canadian Ophthalmologists. Dr. Karim Damji was very positive with regard to the projects at Srikiran, particularly the teleophthalmology. He wanted to see it develop and extended support for it, both for the local and the international chapters. He wanted to help the institute with any further fellowship requirements. Meeting Dr. Bruce Jackson after he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement was an honour and a privilege. He is one of the most down to earth persons one can meet and his achievements seemed too many to believe. I saw Dr. Peter Kertes at a retina lecture and he was very friendly in his approach to Srikiran.

I could squeeze in a little bit of sight seeing in this beautiful country. This is my first visit to Canada. I visited the CN tower in Toronto and spent the Canada Day weekend at a cottage on Lake Eugenia with the Prasads. Dr. Prasad, Secretary of MSMF discussed about Srikiran's Management

and the professional approach needed for it. I saw the Georgian bay, hills beside Flesherton, Blue Mountains and Hog falls. The ski slopes were a pleasure to watch. Canada day was on Sunday and we spent the time at the cottage and watch the programme from Parliament Hill on TV. On my way back to Ottawa, we drove through the wonderful Algonquin Provincial Park. I was introduced to the Canadian experience at Tim Hortons and was to develop a taste for it over the next few days at the Ottawa Eye Institute.

I spent my last week at the Ottawa Eye Institute. I was amazed at their timely, professional and caring approach towards the patients. Each one knew his speciality extremely well and were up to date. Dr. David Jordan, Oculoplastic Surgeon demonstrated how he marked the lid crease before surgery for LPS aponeurosis surgery and the importance of maintaining brow to lid skin margin for adequate corneal protection.

Dr. Buhmann discussed the Ottawa Eye Institute Resident visits to Srikiran in India and said that they are interested in learning SICS technique and do a few cases under supervision. They are expected to get exposure to tropical ophthalmology.

Overall, I felt that my visit to Canada and the Ottawa Eye Institute were extremely productive and the feedback would help in bolstering the relationship between Srikiran and Ottawa. I return back with great memories and certainly lot of work that needs to be done to keep the relationships working.

**[Dr Avinash Mahindrakar is the Medical Director at Srikiran Institute of ophthalmology, India. He was in Canada for two weeks at the end of June 2012].**

#### **Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) Annual Meeting in Toronto.**

The Canadian Ophthalmological Society (COS) Meeting took place in Toronto from June 26-30, 2012 in Toronto. The purpose of MSMF attendance at the meeting was two fold. The first reason was to showcase Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology with an exhibit. The second reason was to introduce Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar, Medical Director at Srikiran to Ophthalmology Community. COS offered MSMF a very nice location in the Exhibit Space reserved for Not-for-Profits and Charities for setting up a display on the Eye Care Program and Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology. The display included an attractive banner from previous years, continuous showing of video clips and documentation such as brochures and

newsletters. Seeing the number of visitors and the interest they have shown, it was a very useful event to attend.

Dr. Mahindrakar had already met Rosemary Bickerton, Vice-president of MSMF, and Dr. Marie Louise Lapointe. They both introduced him to their colleagues at the COS, and later at the Eye Institute in Ottawa. Among those who visited us at the display many have been known to us already and have come to say hello and lend support. I would like to thank Lakshmi Vishnubhatla, Shashi and Eswar Prasad, Rosemary Bickerton and Dr. Avinash Mahindrakar. Whenever we go out of town, there is always Andre Trepanier, one of the Directors on the Board of MSMF, to hold fort for MSMF in Ottawa and I would like to thank him & Michelle for their efforts.

**[Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla is the Executive Director of MSMF and he lives in Ottawa.]**

#### **MSMF India Food Festival 2012, Ottawa.**

The MSMF India Food Festival took place in Ottawa, Ontario on Saturday, 23 June 2012. Nearly 700 people attended the festival, the largest in the history of MSMF. The credit and sincere thanks go to Balabrahmanandam Madaparathi, who organized the details very meticulously. He was supported by a large team of volunteers. The weather was great and there was good food and lively entertainment.

#### **Annual ceremony at the Memorial for victims of Air India Bombing**

The annual ceremony at the memorial for victims of Air India bombing took place On the same day as the food festival. The attendees included families of Air India Victims, Hon. Shashishekhar M. Gavai, High Commissioner for India and Hon. Ray Bassett, Ambassador for Ireland. Mr. Royal Galipeau, MP (representing Prime Minister Harper), spoke on the occasion.

**[From reports by Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla, Rosemary Bickerton and Balabrahmanandam Madaparthii.]**



**A volunteer at the Food Festival**

## Report from Sankurathri Foundation

### Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology.

Srikiran launched a telemedicine setup at its Tuni and Mandapeta vision centres. These vision centres are now connected to base hospital telemedicine setup to enable the technician to contact the consultant at base hospital for advice of treatment to patients.

Srikiran's outreach department organized a camp at Chintoor (160 Kms from Kakinada) Although the local tribes do not speak local dialect (Telugu), communication was facilitated through interpreters. 420 out patients were screened at this camp and 75 patients were admitted for surgery.

Another outreach assignment saw SIO screened 47 students from a high school for the physically challenged. six students were provided prescription glasses and another five were referred to a Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Strabismus (squint) specialist for further assessment.

Dr. Thulasi was honoured on her completion of 10 years of service at Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology working with several specialties of Ophthalmology. Recognizing this achievement, several senior staff members spoke on the occasion and outlined their views for continuing at Srikiran.

- Good working atmosphere and guidance from Dr.Chandra have enabled to shape their growth.

- Sense of belonging to the institute and being treated as an extended family of Dr.Chandra.

Dr.Chandra chaired a session, titled "How do we prepare for the future in eye care" at the Vision 2020 International Meeting. Vision 2020 is a global initiative to eliminate avoidable blindness jointly done by World Health Organization (WHO), International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) along with other NGOs, Associations, Eye Institutes and Corporations. Another presentation he made was, " Designing Primary Eye Care



**MSMF Eye Camp at Penuballi Village**

Services" and focussed on the Challenges in vision centre operations and strategic approaches for effective management. Srikiran implemented a new street lighting systems that is powered by solar panels and used LED lights. Dr. Chandra said that this effort is aimed at reducing global warming, amount of electricity and associated costs. The project was supported by the Christopher Blinden Mission (CBM).

Srikiran also set up a gymnasium for its employees. Several employees have been using this facility during after hours.

Srikiran also initiated a "5S" (Japanese ) management system. The 5S system allows for the efficient utilization of resources while maintaining quality treatment and safety to the patients and staff. The 5Ss are sort, straighten, shine, standardize and sustain/self-discipline. Mr. T.M. Venkatesan of Focus 5 Group has been facilitating the sessions and training for this.

### Sarada Vidyalayam.

As has become the norm for its excellence, all students have passed their 10th grade examinations in first class. Among them 33% of students obtained average of 92 to 100% marks, another 33% passed with 82 to 91% marks. This performance is outstanding when compared to the provincial average of 0.5% in the top ranks.

The District Education Officer (DEO) of East Godavari District made a special visit to school and congratulated the students and teachers for achieving such excellent results. He has suggested to them to choose a good path for better education as they already have a strong foundation for their future. He has also complimented Dr.Chandra and Sankurathri Foundation for providing such high quality education free of cost to the poor rural children of this area.

The Balavikas (youth development) team of Sarada Vidyalayam (15 students ) along with their mentor Dr. D. Shyamala and Mrs. Sitaratnam, Ms. S.Hema went to Puttaparthi to participate in various activities. Many other Balavikas teams from all over India and world have participated in this event.

One of the goals of Sankurathri Foundation is to empower the rural youth to join the main stream of population. Towards this goal, campus interviews for +2 science students who had to drop out of college due to poverty were identified for free vocational training as Ophthalmic Assistants so that they can get employment in Eye hospitals after successful completion of two years course.



**Screening at Schools**

Nine (9) new trainees were recruited and induction took place on 7th May 2012. These trainees are rotated in different departments to assess their interest of work and later they will be absorbed in the areas of their interest after performance reviews.

### Visitors to Sankurathri Foundation

Srikanth, a student from Montreal, Canada pursuing an honours degree in Cell and Molecular Biology at Concordia University and visited Sankurathri Foundation as a volunteer to teach English to primary school students and to observe the activities at SIO.

Kalyan Dhulipalla with 15 years of experience as a software professional from Honeywell Corporation had volunteered to study our existing software and EDP department. At present developing software to trace virtual patient flow in the institute.

*[This report has been compiled from monthly progress reports sent by Ms. Sneha Rednam, Hospital Administrator at Sankurathri Foundation].*

### Updates - MSMF completes compliance with the new NFP legislation.

Our Federal Government introduced a new legislation related to Not-for-profit Corporations on October 17, 2011. Organizations such as MSMF were given about 3 years to become compliant with the new legislation. MSMF legal counsel has confirmed that Manjari Sankurathri Memorial Foundation (MSMF) was continued under the Canada Not-for-profit corporations Act by the issuance of a Certificate of Continuance on July 25, 2012, well ahead of the deadline. Under the new act several changes to operating powers and capacity are required and Dr. Sarma Vishnubhatla, Executive director is pleased to report that MSMF board has moved quickly to implement these so that a seamless transition occurs in our operations. The objectives of the corporation are outlined as follows under the Schedule 1 of the new corporations act.

## The Statistics Speak for Themselves

The statistics below provide a glimpse of what we have been able to achieve with the support of our funding partners and volunteers. Donors and volunteers are very important partners in what we do. It is essentially people empowering people.

Facts	Cumulative 1990-2012	2012 Jan - 2012 Aug	Statement of Expenses of MSMF (2011)	
			Expenses (To be audited)	2011 Jan-Dec
Out Patients Treated	1,805,641	76,129	Projects	202,328
Surgeries Performed	178,805	6,210	Credit Card Fees	1,543
Vision Centers	5	0	Fundraising	10,569
Eye Screening Camps for Adults	1,813	72	Professional Fees	6,650
Eye screening Camps for Children	951	10	General	3,392
Medical Personnel Trained	341	16	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224,482</b>
Support Staff Trained	107	8	<b>Support Provided in 2011.</b>	
CME Workshops Conducted	55	0	Sarada Vidyalyayam	Approx. \$ 57,000
Children Educated	1,930	152	Srikiran Institute of Ophthalmology	Approx. \$145,000
Scholarships Provided	336	52	For detailed information on 2011 expenses, please follow the link: <a href="http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/t3010form22QuickView-eng.action?b=890024995RR0001&amp;e=2011-12-31&amp;n=MANJARI+SANKURATHRI+MEMORIAL+FOUNDATION&amp;r=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cra-arc.gc.ca%3A80%2Febci%2Fhaip%2Fsrch%2Fbasicsearchresult-eng.action%3F%3Dregistered%26k%3DManjari%2BSankurathri%2BMemorial">http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/ebci/haip/srch/t3010form22QuickView-eng.action?b=890024995RR0001&amp;e=2011-12-31&amp;n=MANJARI+SANKURATHRI+MEMORIAL+FOUNDATION&amp;r=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cra-arc.gc.ca%3A80%2Febci%2Fhaip%2Fsrch%2Fbasicsearchresult-eng.action%3F%3Dregistered%26k%3DManjari%2BSankurathri%2BMemorial</a>	
School Children Screened	303,835	2,437		

- to aid in the relief of poverty by establishing a medical centre to provide medical care, specifically, but not limited to, eye and vision care, to the poor and disadvantaged.
- to establish and maintain vocational schools for youth and adults and to provide scholarships for those unable to afford this training.
- to establish and maintain scholarships for the disadvantaged, deserving youth to allow them to receive higher education.
- to establish and maintain primary and secondary school(s) for children and provide shelter and food for poor children attending the school(s).
- to occasionally aid in disaster relief efforts.

### Planned events for the forthcoming visit of Dr. Chandra.

Dr. Chandra will be in Canada and US from 11 October 2012 to 25 November 2012. His schedule is packed with events, fundraisers, lectures, a convocation and information sessions. A few of them are listed below but is not exhaustive. As we go to press with this letter, others are being confirmed. If you would like information, please contact Sarma Vishnubhatla at (613) 523-5413; E-mail: [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca) or Eswar Prasad at (705)888-1440; E-mail: [eswarasad@bell.net](mailto:eswarasad@bell.net).

**St. John's, Newfoundland, 17-19 October 2012.** Contact: Dr. Veeresh Gadag, (709) 777-6221.

### Ottawa, Ontario.

NIPO dinner, 15 October 2012.  
St. Isidore school, 19 November 2012.

Contact: Sarma Vishnubhatla, (613) 523-5413.

### Toronto, Ontario, 3 November 2012.

MSMF Information Session 2PM to 4PM  
Vedanta Society (upstairs), 120 Emmett Ave, Toronto, Ontario M6M 2E6. Contacts: Mrs. Seshu Apparao, Tel: (905)884-9896. Mrs. Ajanta Daggupaty, Tel: (905)738-1521.

### Calgary, Alberta - 20 October 2012, 9AM to 5PM.

SHINE Canada Foundation Small Business Expo and Annual Fundraising Event  
Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association  
1320 - 5 Avenue West, Calgary AB.  
Contact: Srinivas Pabbaraju Tel:(403) 975-9031. For more information, please follow the link: <http://shinecanada.org/pdf/SHINE%20Canada%20Small%20Business%20Expo%202012.pdf>.

"A Ray of Light" is the Newsletter of MSMF and is published in Spring and Fall of each year. The newsletter is edited (from contributions) by Dr. S. Eswar Prasad.<[sewarasad@bell.net](mailto:sewarasad@bell.net)>. He lives in Collingwood, Ontario.



**Disaster Relief work in January.**

### Thank you for Caring

We are very grateful to you for supporting MSMF and its relief programs in eye care, education and disaster relief. We would not have achieved this level of success in eye care and education programs without your generous support. In these difficult economic times, your continued support is more than ever needed and appreciated. MSMF remains dedicated to provide the most outstanding service and care possible.

You can donate to MSMF in three ways: with a cheque or credit card information sent directly in mail to MSMF, online through ([www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)), and through the United Way campaign. Some organizations and employers match donations of their employees.

A Ray of Light, is published by MSMF twice a year from contributions and reports sent by its volunteers. Please send your comments or suggestions to [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca) or call us.

If you need more information, please call us at 613 523 5413, or visit our website, [www.msmf.ca](http://www.msmf.ca). Our mailing address is: MSMF, 23 Mary Dr., Gloucester, ON, K1V 1G9, Canada. Email address: [info@msmf.ca](mailto:info@msmf.ca).