

Aravind 2013 Epilog



November 2, 2013



Welcome Home!

After what seemed like two days without a sunset (or was it sunrise?) I found myself back in Tucson being greeted by Sarah, full of energy and full of questions.



We gathered the bags (somehow or other I ended up with about 25 lbs of stainless steel cookware that I just couldn't leave India without) and found our way home.



I got home around 10 PM on Thursday night, the next day was "All Hands" in clinic- the rollout of our system wide Electronic Health Record – and the culmination of over two years of planning in our department. I was glad to be there and see how well our team helped each other.

LIONS MID YEAR FORUM

At the end of the clinic Friday, Lion Sandy Shiff came by the house and picked me up for our trip to Prescott Arizona for the Mid Year Leadership Forum. All the Arizona clubs had members in attendance, and I was the luncheon speaker. The title "What this Country Needs is a Good \$500 Cataract Surgery".

There was a great deal of enthusiasm for what I proposed: to partner with the Lions Clubs to identify people in need of affordable cataract surgery, and to make that surgery available through the creation of a Manual Small Incision Program.

I went into considerable detail as to the differences between the current level of care that is provided by Phacoemulsification, and how MSICS differs.

The Lions can only be described as being **ALL IN-** as in, what are we waiting for!

Our plan is to start small and get some experience; and to do it in conjunction with a research program to follow carefully the effects of the surgery on preexisting refractive error, and corneal health.

Manual small incision cataract surgery would be expected to have a negative effect on the corneal endothelial cells; but how much of an effect I have not seen reported (yet). It would also be useful to see how high resolution corneal topography might document if higher order aberrations such as coma are increased by the larger incision of MSICS.

I believe that this will be a good program for the people of Arizona and now is the time to act!



Above you see what I brought back from the trip – 5 sets of instruments. We are ready to go! Want to help us get started – please drop me an email and I will let you know of the various ways you can help us make cataract surgery affordable for so many who find the current cost is out of reach for them.

Thanks for all the encouragement I have received- if you would be interested in helping, please drop me an email.

Regards, Joe
jmiller@eyes.arizona.edu