

Fun Camp for children

The Vision Rehabilitation Centres of LVPEI, Hyderabad, organized the annual 'Fun Camp for children with vision impairment' on November 26, at a popular amusement park. The 275 participants included visually challenged children, siblings and family members.



A volunteer presents a gift to a child

Beginning with a minute's silence in memory of the 2008 Mumbai terror attack, the children sang "We shall overcome" in unison. Group and individual games were conducted for the children, who included those with no vision, low vision and multiple disabilities. Prizes were awarded to the winners and runners-up. The competitions and sports conducted included memory games, water games and theme enactment. All the children, both sighted and visually challenged, received gifts and a participation certificate. LVPEI research fellows Mr Pulla Rao and Ms Neeraja, as well as long-time volunteers Mr Sheshaiah and Mr T A N Murthy, helped the rehabilitation team coordinate the activities.



The rehabilitation team with some of the children

LVPEI invites applications for the February 2010 **Postgraduate Residency Program in Ophthalmology**, affiliated to the National Board of Examinations, leading to DNB. Eligibility: MBBS with valid CET result for the 3-year DNB program and DO or DOMS for the 2-year DNB program. For more information, please call 040-30612446 or visit www.lvpei.org.



The Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance organized a lecture on 'Cancer: A Malady of Genes' by Prof Inder M Verma from the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, USA, on December 7. Seen from right: Prof Anuradha Lohia, CEO, Wellcome Trust-DBT India Alliance, Prof Inder Verma, Prof D Balasubramanian, Director – Research, LVPEI and Dr G Chandrasekhar, Director, LVPEI, Hyderabad.

Carrying the torch forward – a patient's story

Indranil Bhattacharya was studying in Class 5, when his school certified him as having subnormal vision. At that age, it meant being allowed to sit in the front row and getting some extra time to write the examinations. But as the years went by, he realized that was not enough. It also meant that all the top professions were out of his reach. Excelling in his studies, Indranil had dreamt of becoming an airline pilot. Although his visual impairment came in the way of the fulfillment of this dream, he found the strength to fight back in life.

Indranil wholeheartedly attributes his determination to kick-start his life back on track to LVPEI. He first came to LVPEI, Hyderabad, in 1999, where he was diagnosed with Stargardt's disease, a common form of inherited juvenile macular degeneration. Usually found in young people below 20 years of age, Stargardt's disease causes a progressive loss of central vision. In the early stages, patients may have good visual acuity, but may experience difficulty in reading and seeing in dim light.

Indranil too had problems in mobility at night and in reading fine print. But his visits to the Dr PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired at LVPEI gave him the confidence to lead an independent life. "Today, I don't have to depend on too many people to do my work," says the 36 year old, who recalls being cheated by some bank employees taking advantage of his disability. He is very appreciative of LVPEI's timely and professional services, pointing out that he was issued a medical disability certificate without delay, while a government office would have taken at least three years! He has also learnt about visual aids and special software such as Magic and JAWS for enhancing the quality of life of the visually impaired.

Today, Indranil looks forward to lighting the candle of hope in the lives of others. He wishes to start an NGO focusing on vision rehabilitation in the City of Joy (Kolkata), endeavoring to put his experience and skills to effective use in the service of people with vision impairment.



Indranil reads with the help of a portable CCTV

		Outpatients			Surgeries		
		Paying	Non-Paying	Total	Paying	Non-Paying	Total
Patients seen Nov 26, 09 to Dec 25, 09	Hyderabad	11,379	4,612	15,991	1,326	1,027	2,353
	Bhubaneswar	4410	1127	5537	384	153	537
	Visakhapatnam	3576	1057	4633	239	192	431
	Total	19365	6796	26161	1949	1372	3321

Meetings/Seminars at LVPEI, Hyderabad



The 15th annual meeting of the Association of Parents of Childhood Glaucoma (APCG), held on 16th November, was attended by 70 children along with their parents and relatives. Several faculty members and volunteers made presentations in English, Hindi and Telugu on the clinical manifestation of childhood glaucoma and challenges in its management. Parents spoke of their experiences in living with the disease, while the children participated with songs and recitals. Most of them are doing well in their studies, because of the Institute's coordinated efforts in integrating medical, surgical and rehabilitative approaches to the disease. *Photo: Dr Mandal with a patient*



The **Twin Cities Pathologists Meeting** is a monthly event conducted by various Institutions. Every month the host institution circulates the case history and histopathology slides of a few interesting cases, which are discussed in detail during the meeting by the host pathologist and other pathologists, mostly junior and senior residents. This month LVPEI hosted the meeting on December 9. Despite the political unrest in the city, it was attended by almost 125 pathologists. The meeting included an Ophthalmic Pathology quiz conducted by Dr Geeta K Vemuganti (*in photo*). LVPEI's high quality of sections/slides was well appreciated.



The 43rd **Indian Contact Lens Education Program** (Basic and Advanced Course), held from December 10-14, 2009, was a success with 98 delegates attending the Basic Course and 77 participating in the Advanced Course. ICLEP continues to be one of LVPEI's most popular CMEs. *Photo: ICLEP faculty*



The **Cornea Meeting** (December 19-20, 2009) was well appreciated by all the 170 participants. *Photo: Dr Gullapalli N Rao delivers the Keynote Address*

News from Kismatpur campus

- The first **Certificate Course in Program Management and Evaluation** was conducted December 7-19, 2009, at the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care, Kismatpur campus. This is the first time that the shorter version of the six-week course was conducted. Of the six candidates, three were sponsored by Operation Eyesight Universal, and one each by Venu Eye Institute (New Delhi), Emmanuel Hospitals Association (New Delhi) and Bawri Nethralaya (Shillong).



The Program Management and Evaluation candidates with the course faculty and ICARE staff

- ICARE celebrated its **11th anniversary** on December 17, 2009.
- Bhosle Gopal Rao Patel Eye Centre, Mudhole, an LVPEI satellite centre celebrated its **13th anniversary** on December 20, 2009.
- Indonesian team visit:** A team of 8 from Cicendo Eye Hospital, Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia, visited ICARE on December 21, 2009.

Upcoming programs

@LVPEI, Visakhapatnam
Pediatric Ophthalmology
February 20-21, 2010

@LVPEI, Hyderabad
Keratoprosthesis workshop
January 18-22, 2010

Mentors: Prof Falcinelli, Italy; Dr Anthony Aldave, USA; Prof James Aquavella, USA; and Dr Gullapalli N Rao, India

Objective: Wet-lab based skill transfer, didactic lectures, clinical decision making in complex ocular surface disorders and live surgical demonstration

Awards and honors



- LVPEI fellows **Surbhi Joshi** won Best Scientific Paper Award and **Mohd Javed Ali** won Best Scientific Poster Award at the 31st annual conference of the Association of Radiation Oncologists of India, Hyderabad, Nov 26 - 29.

- The Institute bagged two Gold Medals at the International Symposium on Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health, held during the 3rd annual convention of the Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Dec 19-21. Research fellow **Naresh Polisetti** received the Young Scientist Gold medal for Best Oral Paper presentation by students and **Dr Geeta K Vemuganti** received the Senior Scientist Gold Medal for Best Oral Presentation by faculty.

Donors for the month

Hyderabad S Thirumalai M Mahalakshmi V Noel Johnson Sharad Gupta P Radha Krishna Madhavi Pathania Kapa V Prasad Ankita Jain JV Raghu TV Rama Rao & T Kanka Durga Seethal Usha Raman	T S R Anjaneyulu Gowri Arur T Padmanabhan ST Traders Ganga Pharma Distributors Om Tao Scientific Apparatus Hema Chennupaty Pradeep Technical Consulting Services Pvt Ltd Amrutha Sales Corporation Youdan Marketing Hina Pen and Stationery Indus Scientifics	Sai Sri Printers Bhubaneswar Syama Kumari Mishra Ranjan Prasad Singh Kshitish Chandra Mohanty Kolkata Dr Monimoy Ghosh Mumbai Simran Purohit Daisy Purohit Ritesh Kewalramani	Mayank Jhaveri Visakhapatnam V Subba Rao Vishakha Industries Private Limited Portugal Sairaj Badrudin United Arab Emirates Salma Khan-Shakil Khan
---	---	--	---



Kallam Anji Reddy Campus
Hyderabad
Tel: 91 40 30612345
Fax: 91 40 23548271
email: info.hyd@lvpei.org

LV Prasad Eye Institute

G M R Varalakshmi Campus
Visakhapatnam
Tel: 91 0891 39892020
Fax: 91 0891 3984444
Email: info.vizag@lvpei.org

Patia
Bhubaneswar (Orissa)
Tel: 91 0674 39892020
Fax: 91 0674 3987130
e-mail: info.bbsr@lvpei.org