

THE BOY FROM BASRA

Yasin Ahmed is a little over five years. He loves playing video games and watching horror films. Nothing can tie down this animated child, neither a stern glare nor a round of scolding from his father. Stop him from jumping over the centre table and he goes on to snatch the handbag from his father. His bright and clear eyes give no clue of the injury or the surgery that this boy from Iraq has undergone.

Yasin was injured in the left eye by a plastic bullet from a toy pistol while playing with his brother. His eye became red and watery and, after about four hours, he complained of diminished vision. Yasin was taken to a hospital in his home town Basra, where a doctor prescribed some eye drops. On their next visit to the doctor, Yasin's parents learnt that he had developed traumatic cataract, which would require surgery. A close friend advised Yasin's father Ahmed Taleb to go to India and get the surgery done at LVPEI. Taleb packed his bags without delay as he did not want to take any chances.

"Unattended cataract at this age has amblyogenic potential; fortunately, the child had partial cataract and did not develop a lazy eye," says Dr R Muralidhar, Consultant, Cornea & Anterior Segment. The child underwent cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation in April 2010.

Taleb is very pleased with his experience at the Institute. "The doctors are good and the operation went on well," he said. The only thing he found difficult to contend with was the spicy food! "It is too hot for my taste," Taleb said with a smile.



Yasin Ahmed

Medicos attend Program Management and Evaluation course



A certificate course in eye care Program Management and Evaluation was conducted at the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE) from May 10 to 14, 2010 for District Program Managers (DPM) working with the Government of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 19 participants attended the course offered for the first time in India. The course is approved by the National Prevention and Control of

Blindness (NPCB) program and supported by the State Blindness Control Society (SBCS). Among the guest faculty were Dr A S Rathore, Additional Director General of Health, New Delhi and Dr Navratan Dhanuka, Chief Medical Officer, JPM Rotary Eye Hospital and Research Institute, Orissa. Ms S Sheeladevi, Associate Public Health Specialist, ICARE was the course convenor.

Dr Honavar invited to join ICO Advisory Committee

Dr Santosh G Honavar, Head, Ophthalmic and Facial Plastic Surgery, Orbit and Ocular Oncology, LVPEI has been invited to join the Advisory Committee of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO), to represent ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery. A major goal of the ICO for the coming years is to advance subspecialty education worldwide, particularly in developing countries.

Patients seen, April 26 to May 25, 2010

| | Outpatients | | | Surgeries | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Paying | Non-Paying | Total | Paying | Non-Paying | Total |
| Hyderabad | 12,025 | 5409 | 17,434 | 1303 | 1113 | 2416 |
| Bhubaneswar | 4747 | 1306 | 6053 | 334 | 230 | 564 |
| Visakhapatnam | 3412 | 1080 | 4492 | 366 | 213 | 579 |
| Total | 20,184 | 7795 | 27,979 | 2003 | 1556 | 3559 |

ARVO 2010: The ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) annual meeting 2010 was held at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA from May 2 to 6, 2010. Eighteen faculty members and research fellows from LVPEI got an opportunity to attend the conference. Ms Vidya Latha Parsam and Mr Balla Murali Mohan Sagar were awarded ARVO Travel Grants.

A tribute to the art of nursing



International Nurses Day is celebrated the world over on Florence Nightingale's birthday (May 12) and, like every year, LVPEI paid tribute to the art of nursing – the smile and the touch that promises care and compassion.

Workshop for LVPEI faculty

A workshop for the teaching faculty of LVPEI was organized on May 7, 2010 to enhance their teaching skills. The session facilitated by Prof Geetha Durairajan from English and Foreign Languages (EFL) University was highly interactive and the participants thoroughly enjoyed it. Dr Imtiaz Ahmed briefed the participants on "The Importance of the Teaching Components" followed by Ms Sunitha's presentation on "Teaching Strategies and Classroom Management." The workshop ended with Dr Usha Raman's informative and interesting talk on "Communication in the Classroom."

From one of our short-term retina fellows



With very great pleasure I like to confirm my safe return to South Germany... Full of thanks for big help you all have given me during my stay, especially in Vizag. I confirm the success of the relevant trainings.

I remember very well the many, many sessions with Dr Avinash Pathengay, Dr Gaurav Yogesh Shah and the close supervision by Dr Merle Fernandes. You all have enabled me to perfect my medical skills. I like to end my letter with the hope to meet you very soon and to work with

you again in the same way of mutual understanding in our valuable medical profession.

Dr Patricia V Schwacha, Ulm, Germany

Australian Trade Minister's visit

Australian Trade Minister Mr Simon Crean visited the Institute on May 7, 2010. The delegation was in India to pursue the Australia-India Strategic Partnership, formally agreed upon by the Prime Ministers of both the countries in November 2009.

The LVP team made presentations on the collaborative effort between the Institute and the Vision Cooperative Research Centre of Australia in developing new technologies for tackling presbyopia and myopia.



The LVPEI-Bangladesh partnership

India and Bangladesh share much more than a border. Both countries face the challenge of providing universal access to health care and addressing issues of equity in health care service delivery. L V Prasad Eye Institute already has collaborative linkages with two premier institutions in Bangladesh: the Islamia Eye Hospital, Dhaka and the Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Institute, Chittagong. To explore how to take this partnership further, the Bangladesh High Commissioner to India and Minister of State of Bangladesh Mr Tariq A Karim visited LVPEI and met with Dr Gullapalli N Rao and others. Impressed by his tour of the institute, Mr Karim said he would strengthen the partnership and facilitate Bangladeshi patients' visits to LVPEI for eye treatment.

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