

10TH RURAL SATELLITE EYE CARE CENTRE

Senior ophthalmologist Dr Gogineni Hariprasada Rao laid the foundation stone for Dr Kommareddy Raja Ram Mohan Rao Eye Centre, LVPEI's 10th secondary-level Service Centre at Gudavalli village in Cherukupalli mandal of Guntur district on June 7, 2010. The Service Centre will provide excellent, efficient and equitable



eye care services to the community of this underserved coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. It is supported by a local family foundation, Nayudamma Foundation for Education and Rural Development, managed by Dr Kodali Varaprasad and his brothers. The centre is expected to be operational in early 2011.

From right: Dr G Hariprasada Rao, Dr Kodali Varaprasad, Dr G Chandra Sekhar, Director, LVPEI, Hyderabad, and Dr P Srinivasulu, management consultant, LVPEI, with local dignitaries

Governor Pledges Eyes at LVPEI

On July 2, 2010, Governor of Andhra Pradesh Mr ESL Narasimhan and his wife Mrs Vimala Narasimhan signed eye donation pledges at the Institute. Mr Narasimhan said it was a pity that most educated people even did not know much about the eye donation procedure. If they knew that it is a simple procedure with no disfigurement, they would willingly pledge their eyes to give sight to a visually impaired person.



The Ramayamma International Eye Bank at LVPEI is now a recognized "Global Centre of Excellence", in collaboration with SightLife, one of the world's leading eye banks based in Seattle, USA. During the last year (April 2009 - March 2010), the Eye Bank completed yet another record by collecting over 3300 corneas, enabling 1558 successful corneal transplant surgeries across the LVPEI network - Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam. Furthermore, almost 400 corneas were made available to corneal surgeons outside the network for transplant and the balance were used for research.

Patients seen: June 26 to July 25, 2010

	Outpatients			Surgeries		
	Paying	Non-paying	Total	Paying	Non-paying	Total
Hyderabad	12,795	5433	18,228	1327	1104	2431
Bhubaneswar	4554	1310	5864	306	200	506
Visakhapatnam	3903	1184	5087	367	218	585
Total	21,252	7927	29,179	2000	1522	3522

LVPEI clients in UK's Cricket Series for the Blind

Pushparaj and Mahender Vaishnav, two long time clients of LVPEI's Dr PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of Blind & Visually Impaired will represent India in the Cricket Series for the Blind in England, beginning August 7, 2010. Mahender is a postgraduate from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and is currently working for GE Money. Pushparaj is an English teacher at Pattikonda Government High School in Kurnool district.

Delegation from Tianjin visits LVPEI

A delegation from Tianjin Public Health Bureau, China visited LVPEI on June 28, 2010. The team included Ms Tian Huiguang, Vice Chairman, Tianjin



Municipal Committee of The Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Deputy Director of Tianjin Public Health Bureau; Mr Tang Xin, President, Tianjin Eye Hospital; Mr Chen Zizhen, Director, Traditional Chinese Medicine Division, Tianjin Public Health Bureau; Mr Guo Qiang, President, Tianjin Chest Hospital; and Mr Yang Xuegang, President, Tianjin Haihe Hospital.

New VisuMax femtosecond laser

LVPEI now offers refractive laser surgery using a procedure that is quicker, more accurate and even more painless than before. With a laser pulse rate of 500 kHz, the VisuMax femtosecond system from Carl Zeiss Meditec sets new standards of efficiency in corneal surgery, which means shorter procedures, enhanced workflow and higher patient satisfaction. The VisuMax is the latest in a series of femtosecond lasers and offers new possibilities and surgical options for LASIK surgeries like FLEX and SMILE.

Award for Sisir Sahana



Mr Sisir Sahana, artist-in-residence at LVPEI, received the Artistic Spirit Award 2010 for his film Maati-O-Manush (The Soil and the People) at the New Hope Film Festival, USA. Picture: Mr Sisir Sahana with Danny Sailor (Director, Submissions) and Thom Michael Mulligan (Executive Director, Submissions)

4TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



GMR Varalakshmi Campus: LVPEI's GMR Varalakshmi campus, Visakhapatnam celebrated its 4th anniversary on July 7, 2010, with an action-packed day! The highlights included the inauguration of a wet lab for trainees, a diagnostics center, a new OPD area, a telecounselling department and an audiovisual department. During the Childhood Blindness Fortnight, observed from June 21 - July 3, 349 children below the age of 12 were screened for eye problems, free of charge. A School Screening Program was also launched under the Nimmagadda Prasad - LVPEI Children's Eye Health Initiative, under which 675 schoolchildren were screened. Free spectacles were distributed to poor children from various schools in the city.

Bhubaneswar Campus: L V Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar celebrated its 4th anniversary on July 3, 2010, by conducting a Continuous Medical Education (CME) program on "Neonatal ophthalmology". Prof Lingam Gopal from Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai was the resource faculty for the CME, in which 28 delegates from Orissa participated. LVPEI faculty from Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam and Bhubaneswar campus also delivered lectures. The event was videoconferenced live to the two campuses, which sparked a lively interaction among participants. Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, LVPEI network congratulated the staff on the progress made during the past four years and presented the course completion certificates and awards.



Donors for the month

Hyderabad

Preethi Gajibarg
Srinath Rao Gandharikar
Gowthami
R K Jain
Omkarnath Jandial
Kanika
Devanshi Khetawat
B Mohan
K Madan Mohan
N Gopalakrishna Murthy
M Niranjani
Leela Patel
JV S Raghu
Ranjini Raipet
Vimala Rajappa
Mala Rao

TV Rama Rao & T Kanaka Durga
Radhika
Vaddi Rekha Ranjani
Suresh Mohan Reddy
S Rama Swamy Reddy
Sheetal Siddamsettiwar
Sharad Shah
S Srinivas

Kadapa
T Venkat Praveen

Kolkata
Shiwal Chandrakala
Devi Sarada
Charitable Trust

Visakhapatnam
P V K S Varma

USA
Mythili Srinivas

Online
Praneet Sagar

Ahmedabad
Shah Tejas Bhupendra

Bengaluru
Romesh Mohan
Sujatha Varadarajan

Bhubaneswar
Dhirendranath Dwivedi

"You guys are ahead of us"

With a warm smile on his face, Muchai Muriithi Gachago from Kenya is a lively person. Gachago completed his MBChB (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) from the University of Nairobi in November 2005. Looking back on his internship days, he remembers an interesting phase when he was posted at a maternity hospital in Thika district, Kenya for almost 2 years! Although it had nothing to do with ophthalmology, the specialization he eventually chose, Gachago feels he had a very good surgical exposure. "Sometimes I did 4 to 6 C-sections a day," he recalls.

Gachago received a scholarship jointly from the Government of Kenya and Christoffel Blindenmission, Germany for a 3-year Master of Medicine in Ophthalmology. He did his first elective term from Sabatia Eye Hospital in Kenya and has just completed part of his second elective term, a one-month clinical rotation at L V Prasad Eye Institute.

"I got to see a lot of new cases here, which are very rare in Nairobi. For example, corneal transplants are not very common there. I had never heard of DSEK and Stargardt's and had never before diagnosed this syndrome called Vogt Koyanagi Harada. Sutureless PPV (pars plana vitrectomy) is also something I saw for the first time. The clinics back home are not as busy as here. In technology such as OCT and corneal topography, you guys are ahead of us. I have enjoyed working with the consultants here," says an animated Gachago.



One of his lecturers, who had done a fellowship at LVEPI, had warned him about the long working hours this demanding program requires. Other friends advised him to keep aside some money for food as he would find it tough to put up with the Indian vegetarian platter. But Gachago says he had no problems and enjoyed it all!

Gachago loves traveling and swimming and had won the "Swimmer of the year Nairobi" title in 1993. He was a member of the National Swimming Team in 1998. Excelling equally in academics, he received a gold medal for topping his institute in Networking.

A VOTE OF THANKS

"It has been a privilege to be a fellow in this world-renowned eye hospital and I am really thankful to all the staff. The contribution you are making in the fight against blindness is incredible and it is a pleasure to see you serving so many blind people. The knowledge I have gained here will help me to serve the needy people in my country, Nepal. I think this is the best place to learn ophthalmology as the hospital has the latest technologies."



Dr Eliya Shrestha

(Short-term fellow, ophthalmic plastic surgery, orbit & ocular oncology)
Himalaya Eye Hospital, Pokhara, Nepal

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