

When all roads led nowhere...

Shiladitya's parents found their way to LVPEI

Two and a half years ago, 11-year-old Shiladitya woke up one morning to find some black spots in front of his right eye. His vision had also dropped noticeably. Being a pediatrician, Shiladitya's father, Dr Subhash Chandra Mandal, understood the importance of timely medical intervention and rushed him to a retinal surgeon. Shiladitya had a retinal detachment, complicated by uveitis, an inflammation in the eye. The "horrible" images of the B-scan ultrasonography gave his parents sleepless nights. Their hopes touched a new low each day as they could not see any solution in sight.

At a time when most doctors in Kolkata were unwilling to take up such a complicated case, Shiladitya was brought to LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, on June 13, 2007. "The combination of uveitis and retinal detachment in a child of this age is something that most surgeons do not want to handle. Not many surgeons would be willing to take up such a case, as the chances of successful intervention are very slim. We too were not sure of the outcome," says Dr Raja Narayanan, Consultant, Smt Kanuri Santhamma RetinaVitreous Centre, LVPEI.

When Shiladitya first came to LVPEI the vision in his right eye was extremely poor. He underwent a vitrectomy with silicon oil injection for retinal detachment. This surgery restored 60% of his vision which, Dr Narayanan said was a "dramatic improvement". However, later, Shiladitya developed cataract in the same eye. He underwent another surgery for the removal of the cataract in February 2008 and another in September 2009 to implant a lens. Finally, 75% of his vision was restored!

Shiladitya's mother Supriya recalls her son's excitement after he regained his vision: "All these days I had to see Goddess Durga with one eye. Now I will be able to see her with two eyes!" His father says, "I thank this Institute from the core of my heart. It is doing an excellent service to the poor and also to the different classes of society. We are now recommending the Institute to a lot of people, people who have lost hope."



Shiladitya with his father

Creating awareness about low vision

The Vision Rehabilitation Centres conducted the 23rd Low vision Awareness Program (LAP) from April 16-18, 2010. LVPEI's very popular orientation program offers a broad overview of low vision care and rehabilitation of the visually impaired. Participants learn how to take care of patients with low vision and provide them simple and easy-to-use low vision devices at their hospitals and clinics. The 45 participants included optometrists in training/students of optometry, practitioners (ophthalmologists and optometrists) and a few of LVPEI's optometry students and ophthalmology residents.



Patients seen March 26 to April 25, 2010						
	Outpatients			Surgeries		
	Paying	Non-Paying	Total	Paying	Non-Paying	Total
Hyderabad	12,501	5146	17,647	1290	981	2271
Bhubaneswar	4503	1480	5983	350	222	572
Visakhapatnam	3585	1136	4721	299	196	495
Total	20,589	7762	28,351	1939	1399	3338

Global Leaders Lecture Series



Prof William H Swanson, Professor of Optometry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA spoke on "Perimetry for the 21st century: how we got here and where we are headed." April 1, 2010



Beauty inside and out

April is a month when some of Hyderabad's trees burst into bloom—Amaltas, Gulmohur, Copperpods, Mimosa. At LVPEI, we celebrate the sense of sight, so while visitors to our campuses can feast their eyes on the flowering trees outside, those who walk in can view an array of art. Seen here is a sample of Sculptor-in-Residence Sisir Sahana's latest collection of work in glass, titled "The Long Climb".

Awards and honours

Awards for LVPEI films

LVPEI films won two awards at the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery film festival, Boston, MA, USA (April 9-14, 2010). Dr Madhushmita Das and Dr Virender S Sangwan won the best film award in the quality teaching category for 'Peripheral ulcerative keratitis: an enigma for clinicians.' Dr Savari Desai won the runner-up prize in the special interest category for 'OSSN: tips and tricks'. Congratulations to the Central Audio Visual Department – Gangadhar, M Shoba and Raj Kumar!

Honor for Dr Gopinathan

Dr Usha Gopinathan will be President of the Eye Bank Association of India (EBAI) for a period of three years, effective April 1, 2010. This is subsequent to her being President Elect for 3 years in recognition of her 12 years of service and stellar contribution to eye banking in India.

Enhancing eye bank management

April 20th-22nd, Ramayamma International Eye Bank (RIEB) hosted the first of an ongoing series of workshops for eye care managers supported by SightLife. The eight participants (see photo below) at the workshop represented eye bank organizations which partner with SightLife with a commitment to rapidly grow operations over the next three to five years, ultimately each providing 1000-2000 corneas per year for transplantation.

The workshop series aims to disseminate worldwide best practices in eye bank management and eye donation, as well as to interactively



determine barriers and solutions to enable rapid growth. One participant stated, "I found this workshop extremely useful--I really enjoyed learning about what motivates eye donation counselors, and how to track and manage their performance." Each Manager created a personal action plan for program management based on concepts learned from the workshop.

Upcoming programs

'Neonatal ophthalmology'

@LVPEI, Bhubaneswar, July 3, 2010

The CME will focus on problems inhibiting normal ocular development in the first year of a child's life.

Guest faculty: Dr Lingam Gopal, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai

Donors for the month

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