



## **November at LVPEI**

The most exciting event this month was the inauguration of a “Special” Vision Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup>. It is special because of a number of diverse features – 100 percent community ownership, having been funded entirely by local philanthropists, of being an example of giving back to one’s own native village, and of a facility specifically designed and constructed for this purpose for the first time in our nearly ten year journey with vision centre concept for primary eye care. A chartered accountant and a former Professor of Surgery from Hyderabad together contributed to this phenomenon in the Kapileswarapuram village of East Godavari District of our state. The village itself is out of the ordinary - idyllic surroundings on the bank of the Godavari river and very progressive, as the village enjoyed the patronage of a very benevolent aristocratic family that contributed to every facet of its development over generations. Indeed, the donors have already expressed their aspiration of seeing this centre evolve into a full-fledged secondary centre (a rural eye hospital) in future. The celebration was very much like an Indian wedding with about 400 people attending. Much to our delight, it has already become one of the top performers among our Vision Centres. We are greatly indebted to Mr. G. A. Choudhary and Dr. Rama Mohan Rao for this munificence and to our team lead by Rajasekhar for making it a reality. Funding from Sightsavers International helped us start this journey in primary eye care about a decade ago, which then progressed exponentially, thanks to the great support from Lavelle Fund of New York and LDS Charities of Salt Lake City leading up to this great tradition of local philanthropy for creating new Vision Centres – all signs of progress in a desirable direction.

Also on the Vision Centre front was yet another milestone, when one of the centres located in the tribal district of Khammam was linked with our Electronic Medical Record System (EMR), heralding the technology integration in our network upto the primary level of care. Thanks to the entire IT and EMR teams for completing this stupendous task so successfully. This enables complete flow of patient information across the network.

The PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired achieved yet another milestone with a major grant from one of India’s IT giants, Mahindra Satyam. A programme for “Early Intervention in Children” and another for “IT Training Centre for Visually Impaired” were inaugurated on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Mr. Vinod Khanna, a trustee of Mahindra Satyam Foundation (MSF). Much appreciation is due to MSF for this generous gesture and congratulations to Beula Christy and her team for securing this grant. The centre also organised the 14<sup>th</sup> Fun Camp for its pediatric clients on the 12<sup>th</sup> with over 150 active participants.



When Syed Hussain, a 20-year old Pakistani taxi driver from near the Pakistan-Afghan border, came to our Kallam Anji Reddy campus in Hyderabad, for sight restoration surgery after sustaining an injury from a suicide bomber episode in the Northwest Frontier region, we were glad to be of assistance to him by providing the necessary care. Multiple procedures including prosthesis in his cornea (keratoprosthesis), treatment problems of retina and glaucoma restored his sight and now enable him to lead an independent life. These acts of medical care may contribute towards better harmony between our two countries and indeed adds justification to the existence of major institutions like ours.

Prof. Sai Prakash, a renowned Chemical Scientist and Principal of our Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, was honoured by the Indian Chemical Society on the occasion of celebration of the “International Year of Chemistry”. This was indeed a much deserved recognition. Virender Sangwan continued his award spree with yet another one – “Leadership in Uveitis” instituted by the Lux Biosciences and given by the International Ocular Inflammation Society. Fairouz, fellow in our ophthalmic plastics service scored a hat-trick at the annual meeting of Oculoplastic Association of India by winning the best video, best scientific paper and the quiz prizes.

November completed the first half of our Silver Jubilee year and the journey so far has indeed been very exciting.

Gullapalli N Rao