



February at LVPEI

Last month, it was the munificence of a couple living thousands of kilometers away that led to the groundbreaking for a new secondary centre in a rural community in our state. This month, it was the phenomenon of local philanthropy that has taken us across the borders of our state on the western side, into the state of Karnataka. The initial encouragement, invitation and then complete financial support from Mr. Satish, from Bangalore and Bellary, culminated in the inauguration of the Y. Mahabaleswarappa Memorial Eye Centre in the town of Bellary on February 13. While the present plan is to start with secondary level care, this will most likely progress into a tertiary care centre. This beautiful new centre on the outskirts of the city will fill a large void for higher quality eye care in Central Karnataka and its neighbouring part in Andhra Pradesh. Thus, the cycle of growth continues – inauguration of a new secondary centre this month, while ground was broken for another one during the previous month.

At the other end of the spectrum of our activities was the great news of recognition for our academic work. Of the recent publications from our group, an article was selected by F1000 faculty as being of special significance, while three more articles were featured on the www.MDLINX.com site. Congratulations are due to the authors of all these articles. This kind of recognition keeps up the academic momentum in the Institute and encourages the faculty to be more productive. In addition to this was the honour received by Savitri Sharma from the Indian Association of Microbiologists for the Best Paper at their annual meeting.

Online education programmes are getting increasingly common with many educational institutions. Masters in Community Eye Health programme will be the first one among our education programmes to follow this trend. The University of New South Wales team from Sydney was here to work with our group with the aim of making all modules available online by the end of 2013. The main objective is to make these courses accessible to more eye care personnel from different parts of the world, those who cannot take full time courses, and to expose them to the many aspects of public health related to eye care. This experience will also help us to replicate this with some of our other education programmes in future. This convergence of education and technology will certainly benefit many, through initial education and continuing education, covering multiple cadres of eye care professionals in future, as scarce human resources remains a major impediment for effective eye care delivery around the world.

Anniversary celebrations of a tertiary and two secondary centres of our network are some of the other highlights this month. These centres celebrated their second, third and fourth anniversaries respectively reflecting our growth during the recent years.



There are very few centres around the world which are equipped to manage recalcitrant clinical problems with necessary infrastructure and expertise. This is where we believe centres like our Centre of Excellence have a crucial role to play. The story of 2 year old Fatima from Uzbekistan was one such. Fatima came to us with her corneas ravaged by chemical burns and Virender Sangwan, who developed special interest in dealing with such problems, performed the procedure of Boston Keratoprosthesis in her eye, seven months ago. The successful outcome was manifest when a happy Fatima and her family were seen here on a follow up visit. This also provides us with the immense satisfaction of having created one of the most comprehensive cornea centres in the world from world class eye banking to world class treatment of all forms of corneal diseases, whatever may be the complexity.

Indeed, from the vision centres in the remotest rural areas to the centre of excellence in Hyderabad, all our various components are realising our vision of “Excellence with Equity”.

Gullapalli N Rao