



January at LVPEI

Earning recognition from one's alma mater is certainly a proud moment for anyone. When this is in the form of "a notable alumna" during the centennial celebrations of an Institution, it is a cause for celebration. Such recognition to our vision scientist, Premnandhini, from the Ohio State University Optometry School has not only enhanced her stature but also of our Institute. It is the likes of Premnandhini that add lustre to our image and help us to sustain EXCELLENCE, a value we cherish.

"EQUITY" is another of our avowed values, and it extends to everything that is part of LVPEI. So it was in the saga of a Banyan tree. Recent expansion efforts at our main campus in Hyderabad (Kallam Anji Reddy campus), involved sacrificing substantial segment of our greenery (much to the distress of many) and a 26 year old Banyan tree was part of this. The unequivocal decision to preserve this piece of our history resulted in its successful transplantation to our other campus (GPR campus) following a very rigorous scientific procedure. Going by the signs at this stage, the prognosis is excellent.

Requirement of blood is rare but needed in some special circumstances for eye surgery. We have entered into an understanding with a local blood bank, the NTR Memorial Eye Bank, by which LVPEI staff will donate blood in return for an assurance of supply of blood for our non-paying patients. The overwhelming response for this appeal with two hundred and eleven people of our group donating blood in one day is a clear illustration of our belief in "PATIENT FIRST".

Accurate assessment of vision in children is one of the most critical and yet extremely difficult exercises. This difficulty is compounded multiple times in children with disabilities. Prof. Lea Hyvarinen from Finland is one of the preeminent authorities in this field. She has become a frequent visitor to us and is very generous with her "time and talent". Her training programmes for our group has made our care much better and this month's workshop had participation from several other organizations. These kinds of exercises are also bringing to the fore the importance of team approach in solving problems. Ophthalmologists, optometrists, low vision and rehabilitation specialists and mental health specialists constitute this team. This fits well with our other value "TOGETHERNESS".

Our EMR group snatched yet another laurel, this time from the Government of Odisha state, for "e - Innovation". Savitri Sharma, Swapna Motukupally and Bhavik Panchal added to the list of honours this month.

While we rejoice at all the vibrancy in the various activities of our Institute, financial health is critical to sustain this energy. I am pleased that January recorded the highest ever income in many of our campuses and activities. All this was achieved without compromising on any of our stated values. This was all possible because of our strong foundation built on "INTEGRITY".

In a series of workshops and discussions over the past few months, we have narrowed down to five core values that are most important for our Institute – **Excellence, Equity, Patient First, Togetherness and Integrity**. We have just initiated the first steps of dissemination of these along with a set of behaviors that best exemplify these values. I am pleased that these fitted so well into the spectrum of happenings during January.

- Gullapalli N Rao