



## June at LVPEI

Glancing through the activities of June, what struck me was the fact that we have provided eye care to people from twenty different countries during this month. This covers the entire spectrum of complex problems involving all the sub specialties. This geographic impact that hit home is also owed to two other developments in the past couple of months. Along with the experts in the Microsoft Development Centre in Hyderabad, our technology team lead by Dr. Vipin Das came up with a very powerful tool, the "Power BI" that provided a very detailed geographic mapping of our patient population. This clearly showed a global distribution of our patient population. This is all possible because of the talent we are fortunate to have in our group and the focus on EXCELLENCE, PATIENT FIRST and TOGETHERNESS. Our colleague Sayan Basu's experience, when he was on the visiting faculty of the recent Pan-American Cornea Society meeting in Mexico, further corroborated this. His demonstration of our surgical innovations in the areas of stem cell transplantation and Keratoprosthesis received much applause. These innovations made the two procedures more cost effective and placed them within the surgical armamentarium of many more ophthalmologists.

Part of our faculty development programme is a one year stint abroad with leading figures in the field. Merle Fernandes, Director of our Tertiary care campus and a Cornea specialist in Visakhapatnam completed her one year stint with Prof. Reza Dana at Harvard - Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary; and Tapas Padhi, our Pediatric Retina specialist from Bhubaneswar campus completed his year at the Kellogg Eye Centre of the University of Michigan and Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oaks, Michigan. The letters I have received from Prof. Dana and Prof. Paul Lee about their contributions during this year is worthy of a huge celebration. We are grateful to Professors Dana, Lee and Trese for mentoring them as they move to the next step in their career paths. This talent pool of our next generation augurs well for the future of the Institute.

While this work at the frontiers on the most complex of eye problems continues unabated, our focus on primary care in the remote rural areas remained unwavering. With the inauguration of three more primary care vision centres this month, the tally is now 120! We were delighted that Dr. Issac Ferguson and Mr. Dean Walker of LDS Charities from Salt Lake City, USA, joined us on this occasion. We gratefully acknowledge the funding from LDS Charities that formed the bulk of support to these centres.

Our eye bank recorded a very healthy 51 per cent growth in corneal procurement during the second quarter of 2015, compared to the same period last year. Hospital Corneal Retrieval Programme (HCRP) in three additional hospitals and excellent work by the eye bank team, support by the government with the necessary permits, and the assistance from SightLife have contributed to this phenomenon. This rate of progress is a very healthy sign towards achieving our targets for the year 2020.



Several of our colleagues received honours from both International and National organisations for their contributions to the educational and research activities. To all of them, my hearty congratulations!

Each of these developments has greater meaning and purpose when translated into touching lives and making a difference. The experience in our Bhubaneswar campus with one month old Subham clearly illustrates that neonatal screening can be beneficial beyond the well recognized problem of ROP (Retinopathy of Prematurity). Subham was diagnosed with congenital glaucoma and prompt surgical intervention averted loss of sight for this child. Our team is making significant effort to make the practice of eye screening of new borns a routine across the three states where LVPEI has a presence.

Finally, as I often mentioned, members of our Boards add lot to the strength of our organisation and we bask in the glory of their achievements. Mr. B.V.R. Mohan Reddy, Founder and Chair of the reputed technology corporation, CYIENT, was elected as the President of NASSCOM (The National Association of Software and Services Companies) and we congratulate him on this well deserved recognition for his contribution to this sector.

- Gullapalli N. Rao