



March at LVPEI

Our annual calendar runs from April 1 to March 31 coinciding with India's financial year. What better way to complete the year than with the highest ever monthly incomes in our tertiary care campuses and the centre of excellence. This also culminated in the highest ever annual revenues. This happened despite significant waiver of fees for financially constrained paying patients and without compromising on any service to the non-paying patients. This year we also had the highest ever expenditure due to a large number of major capital projects across the network. The fierce commitment to our values of PATIENT FIRST, EXCELLENCE, EQUITY, TOGETHERNESS and INTEGRITY resulted in greater patient care revenue coupled with grants and philanthropic support. Some gestures of generosity from our younger faculty are greatly appreciated as this augurs well for the future of the organization. All this support preserved our sound financial health through the year. To all these groups, we are indebted.

The tally of our primary care vision centres climbed to 116. An exciting development is the agreement we had with our state (Telangana) government to develop vision centres in their primary health centres, at their invitation. We are keen for this to succeed and further expand with potential for a huge impact. With increasing activity in the rural areas of Odisha, we have begun to work on creating a state resource centre for community eye health as part of our "Community Eye Health" component. An Indian public sector corporation pledged to support this centre with a sizable grant and we plan to launch this later in the year.

Following his visit to inaugurate the first rural secondary care centre in Odisha, former President Kalam continued to be generous to us with his time. He visited our newest tertiary centre in Vijayawada to launch a few new initiatives and dedicated the campus to the new state of Andhra Pradesh. Dr. Kalam is a Global Ambassador for the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight Programme. We are grateful for his enthusiasm, and continued and active interest in eye care and prevention of blindness.

Our vision for the education of eye care professionals is the development of a high quality work force constituting all cadres of an eye care team in the developing world and more so in our immediate neighborhood. A "Pediatric Eye Care team" from Myanmar completed their training with us this month and will now herald a new chapter in the eye care of their country with special focus on childhood blindness, a much neglected area with enormous socio-economic consequences in the developing countries. This was facilitated by the World Health Organisation as part of their efforts to combat childhood blindness. "Low Vision Rehabilitation Programmes" for visually challenged individuals hardly exist in most parts of the world. A group from the African countries of Kenya and Ethiopia completed their fellowship in this area and will now develop this much needed service in their organisations. We are committed to continue our assistance as they build these programmes. Planning and implementing eye health programmes is yet another weak spot. Our education programmes leading to Masters and Diploma in community eye health are designed to develop this cadre. Health professionals from India and a few other countries registered for these courses during this month. Each of the



above efforts contributes to the strategic pillar of "Human Resource Development" of the "VISION 2020: The Right to Sight" programme.

Another first for our Education Academy was a course conducted on "Ophthalmic Anesthesia" for the residents of Anesthesia. This need is felt increasingly as surgical procedures for more complex problems and children are done ever more frequently now.

While honours and awards from different areas of eye and health care are part our monthly news, indicative of the talent in our team, the one that stood out this month was the one received by our Executive Vice-Chair, Ramam Atmakuri. Ramam, a long time veteran of IT sector was honoured by the Hyderabad Software Exporters Association (HYSEA) with their "Outstanding Service to IT Industry" award in recognition of his meritorious contributions to this sector. To Ramam and other honour recipients of this month, my congratulations.

While our entire network, now spread over 137 locations, is full of intense activity, it is always worthwhile to get an external perspective. The following comments from the students of the Johns Hopkins Carey School of Business provide one such.

"The most substantial impression that was left with me following the Innovation for Humanity project with LVPEI was the impact that an organisation can not only have on a community but also on the entire region. Although this model was proved to work in healthcare, I believe that it can be transitioned to a range of organisations that will be able to provide service to those who have no access as well as remain a financially viable entity. The Institute's work is inclusive and provides care not only to those who are economically vulnerable but also socially and medically vulnerable too. The L V Prasad Eye Institute is a true model of innovation for Humanity and Business, with Humanity in mind" - Indeed, comments that justify our existence.

- Gullapalli N. Rao