



LV Prasad Eye Institute

June 2016 at LVPEI

Performing 19 corneal transplants in a single day at our main (Kallam Anji Reddy) campus in Hyderabad, our Ramayamma International Eye Bank creating two new records of **distributing 30000 transplantable corneas since inception and 334 corneas this month alone**, the first ever corneal transplant surgery in two other rural secondary centres were the news that captured the attention of many. All these were not accidents but products of rigorous planning and implementation, long hours of hard work of many individuals and made possible by the generosity of many friends around the world. Added to that was the incredible spirit of giving by thousands of families who agreed to donate the corneas of their dear ones at the time of their grief. All these achievements of our team at Tej Kohli Cornea Institute offer a clear indication of how much impact it will make in the years to come.

Yet another “Institute of Excellence” which will focus on disorders of the lacrimal system (tear drainage), “The Institute of Dacryology” got a big boost with a pledge of support from the Shri Kudilal Govindram Seksaria Foundation of Mumbai. Javed Ali, who will head this Institute, is an accomplished clinician–scientist, looking into all aspects of this specialty.

From our Academy for the Eye Care education, fourteen ophthalmologists have completed their two and three year old fellowship training in different sub specialties and comprehensive ophthalmology, and will now be spreading our work across 9 states of India and 2 countries (Argentina and Nigeria) outside India. All these individuals endured the rigorous schedules we have and turned out as world class ophthalmologists, a feat achieved due to the committed faculty whose contribution of time and effort helped in molding these youngsters. Our entire faculty participates in the teaching activity. We want to place on record our appreciation for those among these fellows who have given time to serve in the rural areas in our secondary centres touching those who often may not have had another option. These experiences will have salutary effect on their future career.

News came from Rochester, New York, where our Engineer-Scientist, Ashutosh Richhariya has been working with the group of David Williams to build an adaptive optics capability for us, that the machine is ready for shipment. Pictures from pilot trials there looked spectacular. This opens up a whole new and exciting dimension to our retina and glaucoma research. This infrastructure and collaboration with someone as eminent as David Williams and his group will make all the difference. Ashutosh and two of our clinicians spent time in Rochester in making this happen. Thanks to everyone in David's group and the leadership of Flaum Eye Institute and the University of Rochester Medical Centre for their support throughout this project. While Ashutosh was in Rochester, more collaborations emerged with the world renowned photographic technology group at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.



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The visit of Central Minister of State for Science and Technology, Mr. Y .S. Chowdary was greeted with great enthusiasm and our research group and leadership had a productive interaction with him. He was very appreciative of our research effort. Such visits provide an extra dose of encouragement to the group.

Clients of our rehabilitation programme continue to make us proud with good job placements. Two of them who were trained in IT by our group secured jobs with a technology major while two others from our rural community based rehabilitation programme started their own small business. This manifestation of our vision of “so that all may realize their full potential” is very gratifying.

The primary care vision centres touched 135 with a unique location, in the bus terminal of Vijayawada. This gives us a log of opportunity to spread the messages of eye health.

The story of young Abdullah tells all about what we do. Abdullah is a bright young man who completed his 12th grade as topper of the class in his school. We share in the joy of his proud parents as he came under our care as a premature baby weighing 800gms. Subhadra Jalali, who has pioneered innovative strategies to control blindness from “Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)” examined him and found him with advanced stage of this problem. With her typical passion, Subhadra treated him with laser and complex surgical procedures resulting in partial restoration of his sight partially. The rehabilitation team led by Beula Christy completed the circle by putting him through early intervention services, facilitating his admission to a main stream school and supporting him with multiple devices that made him excel scholastically.

This comprehensive approach of early screening through our surveillance system of premature babies in the entire city of Hyderabad, appropriate and complex care provided by an expert medical team and early intervention by our rehabilitation team paved the path for a bright academic future for Abdullah.

- Gullapalli N. Rao