



LV Prasad Eye Institute

July 2016 at LVPEI

The greatest spurt of growth of our Institute happened during this new millennium. The entire pyramid of our eye care delivery model, encompassing primary to advanced tertiary care, has completed its evolution and proliferated to cover four contiguous states. While the most growth is in secondary and vision centres (primary care), only two tertiary centres were added. In the year 2006, one centre in Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha state and the other in Visakhapatnam, the port city in the northeastern part of Andhra Pradesh were inaugurated. The idea was to cover those geographic areas where no high quality tertiary care was available. Let me begin this month's communication by congratulating the teams at our Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam campuses on completing an eventful ten-year journey. Both campuses created significant impact in clinical care and education while research activity is just beginning to take shape. To the multiple organisations and individuals where their generosity made this possible, we are indebted.

Irreversible blindness and low vision constitute significant problems in the rural areas of India. With support from the SightFirst of Lions Clubs International, we have embarked on a large scale community based rehabilitation programme (CBR) in one of the economically weaker districts of the state of Telangana (Adilabad), with gratifying outcomes. Over 800,000 persons were screened from 720 villages and 1733 of them with blindness or low vision with some having additional disabilities. Low vision aids and appliances were provided to nearly 400 of them while 41 of them were economically rehabilitated. In addition, this project also included 685 school screening programmes along with 230 awareness programmes. This impressive score card will become a template for a much bigger programme in the near future. The inclusion of low vision and rehabilitation services in our secondary and primary care vision centres located in this geographic area made such success possible and will provide ongoing services. Anyone who required additional medical or surgical care was referred to an appropriate level of care.

The activities of our Tej Kohli Cornea Institute continued to grow. Our team is working diligently to multiply the corneas available for transplantation with the help of our team in Hyderabad. The number of hospital cornea retrieval programmes has expanded to more hospitals and the trustees of Mohsin Eye Bank in Visakhapatnam have handed over its operations to us. Together with the upcoming new eye bank in Vijayawada, the needs of the state of Andhra Pradesh will be met in five years. While this is in progress, our Ramayamma International Eye Bank in Hyderabad bettered its last month's record by distributing 353 transplantable corneas. The initiative of making corneal transplantation accessible to rural populations continued with three corneal transplants, including a stem cell transplantation procedure being performed at our secondary centre in Paloncha (the Nava Bharat Eye Centre), in the predominantly tribal district of Khammam. Corneal transplant procedure was also performed in another secondary centre (in Nellore). This is a direct reflection of our faculty's commitment to travel to the rural areas to provide the services.



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Our “Operation Eyesight Universal Institute for Eye Cancer” deals with one of the highest volumes of childhood eye cancer, Retinoblastoma. As a tribute to those children who have conquered this cancer, a “Wall of Hope” was created and was unveiled by noted media personality, Simi Garewal. The collage of hand prints of many of these children and the miniature photographs of these children tell a moving story. Early diagnosis and prompt management is the key to this success. More ophthalmologists need to be exposed to the possibilities to have a bigger impact. To this end, the Institute organised a continuing education programme with reputed faculty from India and abroad to precisely meet this need, and over 130 ophthalmologists from all across India attended.

The convergence of technology and biology is revolutionising the way health care is delivered. Precision in diagnosis and care with greater reach and affordability are becoming increasingly possible. Our innovation centre Srujana, organised its annual “Engineering the Eye” workshop, along with faculty from MIT Media Lab from Boston, during this month, aiming at taking the fruits of the best of technology to the most neglected population. Eighty students of technology and design from across India participated and came up with 13 prototypes. The highlight of this year's workshop was a “TKCI Srujana Innovation Award” given to encourage innovation.

We are pleased that our Visakhapatnam campus also received its accreditation from the National Accreditation Board of Hospitals (NABH) during this month, coinciding with their tenth anniversary. This follows similar accreditation to our Hyderabad and Bhubaneswar campuses earlier. Congratulations!

We feel proud of how our Academy of Eye Care Education is multiplying our impact through our alumni all over the world. Adedayo Adio is a consultant pediatric ophthalmologist in Nigeria and an alumnus of our fellowship programme on this subject. The following letter from her is illustrative of such impact of our education.

“I'm one of your fellows from Nigeria who finished my fellowship in Pediatrics and strabismus with neuro-ophthalmology in 2014. I was well taught by my teachers Drs Ramesh, Preeti and Virender. I'm glad to let you know that I'm doing well and have also established the first rehabilitation center in Nigeria opened by an ophthalmologist. It's been an uphill task convincing parents that their blind ward can also make it with a little help and with aggressive follow up. This was made possible with the passion I observed and the exposure I received while in LVPEI at the early intervention and rehab services of the institute. I'm also working at the teaching hospital offering eye care to children as the only specialist in my region. It's been wonderful and I get quite a lot of referrals. I can say that my career has taken a great boost since I came back from India after training at your institute.”

- Gullapalli N. Rao