



February 2017 at LVPEI

Comprehensive care is now even closer to the door step of the people, with more services normally within the realm of tertiary care included in our rural secondary services. Our academic clinical faculty in the tertiary centers taking the responsibility of care at secondary centers and their frequent visits to these centres resulted in the initiation of sub-specialty services in Cornea, Glaucoma, Retina and Plastics until now. During this month, even the most recently introduced surgical techniques in partial thickness corneal transplants such as DMEK were performed at one of our Secondary Centre, with the postoperative care provided by our fellows who rotate in the secondary centers. This combination along with continuing education and tele-consultation system has become the formula for providing these services.

The introduction of ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes) platform that we have adopted from the University of New Mexico, for educating our ophthalmologists in secondary centers, has added considerable value in providing optimal care to corneal transplants and corneal infections.

Several continuing education programmes as well as novel education programmes were organized during this month. In collaboration with the world famous photography department of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), we have conducted a workshop for our staff involved in imaging. Prof. Christye Sisson (RIT) and Jenny Kellogg from the University of Rochester constituted the Visiting Faculty. Twenty five from our group benefitted from this exercise. As we engage in ever increasing activity in imaging across all subspecialties, this kind of competence becomes central to that work. We are grateful to Christie for the time she has given so generously in helping to organise this workshop and to Jenny for joining us. Rajeev Reddy, Head of Retina Centre, and Raja Narayanan, Head of Clinical Research, coordinated this. This will significantly strengthen our imaging services in care, teaching and research.

The return of the team from the University of Rochester Medical Centre to continue to help in advancing our nursing care is greatly appreciated. This is having a big impact on our nursing team as well as trainees in nursing. Several of the deficiencies we had were corrected through this intervention.

Yet another area of our future horizons, which we have started realising, is the linkage with existing ophthalmology residency programmes in Medical Colleges to further enhance their services and teaching. We were very pleased when we were invited by my alma mater, Guntur Medical College, to assist them in their capacity building. We have begun assisting in the enhancement of the retina and cornea services in this department. Close on its heels, our colleague, Padmaja Kumari, initiated the services and education for the care of babies with Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) at the Medical Institution in Adilabad (one of the less developed districts).

Steffen Gebauer, Managing Director of Gebauer Medizintechnik GmbH of Germany, was very generous with his support by providing advanced instrumentation for high precision refractive



and corneal surgery over the past few years. We are now engaged in a larger partnership with him to further advance this technology both to enhance quality as well as to reduce the cost. The outpatient service of our Refractive Surgery Centre was named after Gebauer in recognition of this support.

At the Annual meeting of the All India Ophthalmological Society, we participated actively with several from our team moderating, chairing and presenting in several scientific sessions. Quite a few laurels were also received both by our team members as well as our alumni. As always, the alumni evening was a major highlight with a large number participating. The career progression of many of them with a significant number in leadership positions is a matter of great joy.

Our Technology innovation group continued in its recognition spree with its "Bulls Eye Dropper" for ease of self-instillation of drops selected as one of the "Top 5 promising ideas transforming Health care" at the Bio-Asia 2017 conference. Self-instillation of eye drops without wastage is always tricky and for the elderly and infirm it becomes even more difficult. These simple ideas make a big difference for such people.

The story of 27 year old Lakshmi, a poor widow living on the outskirts of her village with two children, clearly focuses on the significance of our rural eye health and pyramidal model of eye care delivery. Identified with poor vision by our technicians during door to door survey, Lakshmi and her 7 year old daughter were diagnosed with cataracts. Prompt cataract surgery restored Lakshmi's sight making her very happy as she could see her children for the first time. Her daughter will be operated soon for her congenital cataracts at our Hyderabad campus. Social, economic and geographic marginalization were all part of the problem plaguing this family. Hopefully with her restored sight, Lakshmi can work to improve her family's economic condition.

This complex web of eye care encompassing all levels of care, education to all cadres of eye care, research into many aspects of the eye, capacity building of other organisations at many levels in all sectors, and the enabling environment in our Institute for all these that we have been able to create and nurture, is what makes LVPEI today.

- Gullapalli N Rao