



## May 2017 at LVPEI

One of the major components of our work is Research and the progress that our group has been making in this area is notable. The various components of biology research are further strengthened with the recent inauguration of the new cGMP and cGLP facilities. These include the work in the area of stem cells and synthetic cornea. Our research teams' efforts to find solutions to the many aspects of the problem of infections and drug resistance have received a boost with the support and collaboration of Wellcome Trust, U.K., and other reputed English universities. Novel ways of drug delivery is part of this research. The addition of "Adoptive Optics Scanning Laser Ophthalmoscope" (AOSLO), a new technology to visualize the retinal cells in a living human, added an entirely new dimension to our research on retinal diseases. The acceptance of the work by Indumathi Mariappan's team on induced pluripotent stem cells, in the journal "Development" is a reflection of its importance and its potential in the treatment of both corneal and retinal pathology. All these efforts received attention at the annual meeting of the prestigious Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) held in Baltimore during the month. 26 presentations were made by the LVPEI team, with several moderating or chairing sessions. Ten of these presentations were awarded the "Communicator" ribbon representing the top ten percent of all presentations. Subhabrata Chakrabarti received a special honour from ARVO in recognition of his contribution to the development of a "Global Research Training Module". Congratulations to this entire group on all these honours. Both during and around this meeting, several of us had beneficial collaborative discussions with many individuals and institutions. These will further augment our research activity in the future.

In Education, we continue to enhance the quality of training. More recent introduction of 3D video technology for recording surgical procedures has added a new dimension to surgical training, both in-house and at the continuing education programmes elsewhere. A recent presentation by our Retina faculty to 60 ophthalmologists was much appreciated.

We also provide continuing education to other cadres of eye care personnel. One programme was on the critical aspect of "Care and Maintenance" of surgical instruments. Proper care goes a long way in increasing the longevity of these instruments and resultant cost savings. Another critical area of patient care is counseling. A workshop was conducted for counselors from hospitals across India to sensitive them to this very important component of quality care.

Our Rehabilitation centre has organized many activities that promote the rehabilitation of those with vision loss. "Parents Forum" and "Integrated Children's Camp" help in the overall care and add to the positive outcomes of rehabilitation training. Their participation in many such activities boosts their confidence and helps in the building of their personality. In addition, an entire team was trained in community based rehabilitation skills for one of our rural secondary centers. This will help in continuing our tradition of comprehensive care.



Ramayamma International Eye Bank in our Hyderabad campus set another new monthly record with the harvesting of 741 corneas, the highest number ever. My compliments to the entire eye banking team for this superlative performance. We are continuing to work towards increasing this volume while making all efforts to enhance quality at all levels.

The month of May witnessed record volumes of patients at many of our campuses with record revenues, while maintaining our value of "Equity" by providing the same proportion of non-paying services as usual.

On the completion of thirty years of our work on May 31st, we look back with great satisfaction and feel blessed to have contributed our little bit to the alleviation of suffering from various forms of vision loss and impairment. To the millions who have given us the privilege to serve them and to the many friends who believed in us and supported us, we are grateful.

- Gullapalli N. Rao