



June at LVPEI

What a fantastic month this has been this first month of our SILVER JUBILEE YEAR!

As we began our Silver Jubilee year on the 1st of June with a celebration, five of the long term clients of our Dr. PRK Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation, gave a scintillating musical performance. This left many in the audience in tears. Each of these youngsters started with us many years ago as young children, went on to attain high academic standards, and are currently pursuing professional careers. On this occasion, they gave us a demonstration of that “special” skill that they possessed. Such examples lift our spirits and encourage us to continue along our chosen path.

Twenty four years ago, on June 1, 1989, we had a four year old boy as our first patient, who today is in the senior management of a coffee corporation after completing his law school. That day, we started with four patients – two paying and two non-paying and now, 24 years later, we see about 2,500 outpatients a day, in addition to multiple community door-to-door screening and school screening programmes that match that number. In addition, of course, there is always intense energy in the areas of education, research, eye bank and all other support services.

Adding to the celebratory mood was the news that the maiden publication of our first formal clinician-scientist, Sayan Basu, has been recognized by the prestigious “Faculty of 1000” that has placed it in the top 2 percent of all articles in all of biology. What a stellar beginning to Sayan’s career! While most of the members of our ophthalmology faculty are, by definition, clinician-scientists, with each of them actively pursuing research with clear time allocation, Sayan has chosen a balance where more time is devoted to research. We hope that this will be a trail blazer with many other youngsters emulating Sayan.

One of India’s most eminent medical men, Prof Valiathan was the Guest of Honour at our anniversary celebration. He presented a panoramic view of India’s health care situation, visible only to someone of his stature, with a ringside view of all the developments. Brien Holden, long term friend and supporter, has provided a global perspective on LVPEI that helped many in the audience get a multi-dimensional profile of LVPEI.

There were many events this month, which reflect the expansion spree we are in. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new clinical building at our main campus - Kallam Anji Reddy campus - in Hyderabad took place on June 20th with Mr V C Janardan Rao, the main donor and his daughter, as Guests of Honour. We plan to make this building operational in 18 months, which will double the capacity of patient care on this campus. This will then leave space in the existing building that will triple the physical size for education and research centres, a much awaited development as all these activities are expanding exponentially.

A satellite City Centre attached to our tertiary centre in Visakhapatnam and the inauguration of surgical services in our newly opened tertiary centre in Vijayawada completed the gamut of expansion activities during this month.



Education has always been a predominant focus at LVPEI with a cluster of 5 education campuses, attracting trainees from all over the world. A “Global Academy for Eye Care Education” was conceived as part of LVPEI and during this month, one of our friends and a great philanthropist has pledged to support this endeavour. We are grateful for this gesture as this boosts our capacity for education and training multifold. We plan to inaugurate this later in the Silver Jubilee Year.

A month that began with this series of celebrations finally ended on a high note with the news that the National Board for Accreditation of Hospitals (NABH) has awarded our Hyderabad campus accreditation, making us among the first few eye centres in the country with this distinction. This was the culmination of a lot of work with many staff putting in extra hours each day over nearly two years. Congratulations to the entire team, whose cumulative efforts made this possible. Our other tertiary centres are in the pipeline now, awaiting similar accreditation soon.

The offspring of our LVPEI group continue to make us proud. Rishabh Kaul, son of Subhadra Jalali, Head of our Retina Centre of Kanuri Santhamma Retina-Vitreous Service in Hyderabad, was selected as one of the 50 in the first batch of a new programme called "Young India Fellowship" a 1 year experiential and multi-disciplinary programme. This is touted as India's equivalent of the Rhodes scholarship. Rishabh has completed B.Tech. Engineering (Civil) and M.Sc. Economics from the Birla Institute of Technology & Science in Pilani. On behalf of the entire LVPEI family, we wish Rishabh a very rewarding year.

Let me take this opportunity to convey our deepest sense of gratitude for the millions who have given us the privilege to serve them, thousands of bright young professionals for their association with us in making us better, and for the hundreds of our friends who stood by us and helped make LVPEI what it is today.

Gullapalli N Rao