LVPEI Team Visits Liberia

Following on from last year’s visit by President Sirleaf to LVPEI to formally launch the Liberia Eye Health Initiative, Chairman Dr G N Rao led a team to Liberia on an assessment visit, 17-19 February. He was accompanied at the meeting by Honorary Consul General Sachdeva; Sam Balasundaram and Rajashekar Varda from LVPEI, General Administrator of the JFK Medical Centre, Dr Wvannie Mae Scott-McDonald; Chief Medical Officer Dr Billy Johnson; and Dr Wafe Boateng, Senior Ophthalmologist associated with the program in Accra, Ghana. The LVPEI team suggested building a robust eye care service including at the Government’s referral hospital, the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Medical Center.

MoUs for Setting Up Secondary Centres in Odisha

LVPEI signed MoUs with The Savitri Waney Charitable Trust and Naraindas Morbai Budhrani Trust (NMBT) on 13 February 2014 for the setting up of secondary centers in Odisha. The former was represented by Ms Devika Mokhtarzadeh and Ms Rebecca Muir and the latter by Mr D N Budhrani and Mr V N Hegde. Dr Prakash Mirchandani from the Tulsi Trust was also present.

School Screening and Teacher Training

As part the Hyderabad Outreach Urban Slum Eye Health (HOUSE) program at the City Centre in Madhapur, school children were screened in the Hafeezpet area. A Teacher Training program was organized by GPR ICARE on 6th February. 10 high schools and 2 Aanganwadi centres participated.

Champalimaud Research Symposium

The Seventh Annual Champalimaud Research Symposium on 2 February 2014 had seven streams reflecting the range of research activities at LVPEI: Stem-cell Biology, Genomics, Infections, Visual Psychophysics, Low Vision and Rehabilitation, Public Health and Clinical Research. The Champalimaud speaker this year was Prof Jayakrishna Ambati, University of Kentucky College of Medicine, who spoke on “New insights into geographic atrophy.”

LVPEI Alumni’s ‘Taj Walk’

The LVPEI alumni meet on the sidelines of the 72nd Annual Conference of All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) at Agra, had a group of about 40-45 alumni and faculty bonding over a walk to the historic Taj Mahal.

Awards & Honours

At the 72nd All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS) in Agra, 6-9 February 2014:

- Taraprasad Das awarded the Adenwala oration, the highest oration award of AIOS
- Subhadra Jalali honoured with the P Siva Reddy International Gold Medal
- Mohammad Javed Ali won the Santosh Honavar Award for the best paper in lacrimal disorders
- Sujata Das honoured with the B K Narayan Rao Oration Award
- Sirisha Senthil won best paper award in Glaucoma

LVPEI received two special prizes from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Horticulture Department for its gardens at Kallam Anji Reddy Campus and GPR ICARE Campus, Kismatpur, on 17th February, at the Horticulture Expo 2014, Hyderabad.

Pulse Media Production’s TV series ‘A Question of Science’ episode titled ‘Stem Cell Therapy for Rejuvenation of Cornea’ at LVPEI has received the Golden Beaver Award for Best Science and Technology Short Film at the Rashtriya Vigan Chalchitra Mela and Competition 2014, 29 January - 02 February at Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Kasturba Road, Bengaluru. Four entries by Gattu N Naresh from the photography department were accepted into the Ophthalmic Photographers’ Society Exhibit at the ASCRS-ASOA Annual Symposium and Congress to be held in Boston, USA, 25–29 April 2014.

Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp on 30 January 2014, supported by NTR Memorial Trust Blood Bank with whom LVPEI has an MoU, received overwhelming support with 211 donors across all cadres of staff. The donors were later felicitated on February 14th with appreciation certificates.
Eminent Visitors

Dr Leonor Beleza, President, Champalimaud Foundation; Dr James Chodosh, David G. Cogan Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA; Prof Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, Chair, Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India; Dr Luisa Ribeiro, Clinical Trial Center Director, CEC/AIBILI Azinhaga de Santa Comba, Celas, Coimbra, Portugal; Prof James L. Funderburgh, Department of Ophthalmology, Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, USA; Prof Jayakrishna Ambati, Vice Chair, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Professor of Physiology and Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist, Dr E Vernon Smith and Eloise C Smith Endowed Chair, University of Kentucky, USA; Prof Pablo Artal, Professor of Optics, University of Murcia, Spain; Prof Alladi Suvarna, Associate Professor of Neurology, Nizam’s Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, India; Prof Rufino Silva, Head of Medical Retina and Neuro-ophthalmology, University Hospital, Coimbra, Portugal; in connection with the Champaulimaud Symposium, 2 February.

Dr Fernando Cembranelli, Duke University, USA, for a tour of the institute, 10 February.

Ms Sampada Shidve, Director, Perkins Voice and Vision, India, for a rehabilitation workshop, 11-13 February.

Mr Monty Montoya, President and CEO, SightLife; Dr Paul J Dubord, Associate Medical Director, SightLife, Seattle, USA, 26 February.

Dr Ken Nischal and Dr Hannah Scanga, Children’s Hospital, University of Pittsburgh, USA, as visiting faculty for Genetic Advisors Review Course 8-11 February, and Guest Lecture on 10 February.

Ms Maureen Guiridham, former Dean, School of Business Management, Westminster University, 5 February.

A team from Novartis visited LVPEI on 19 February 2014 to understand decision-making in the choice of technologies/drugs for treating retinal diseases, and the funding mechanisms for healthcare delivery through insurers/Third Party Administrators for relevant patient categories.

Anniversaries

The 5th anniversary of Sudhakar and Sreekanth Ravi Eye Centre at Pantavarpaleam (Kandukuru), Prakasam district, on 1st February attracted about 200 people from the locality. Dignitaries included Dr Malakondaiah (Physician), Sri CH Srinivas (Palukuru Panchayati President), Sri E Koteswar Rao and Sri N Subbarao, Mr L Srinivas Reddy (Chair of Lakkala Krishna Reddy Charitable Trust, Pamuru), Sri Ramesh, (former Panchayati President, Palukur) and others from the LVPEI family. A variety of competitions were conducted and prizes were distributed.

Y Mahabaleshwarappa Memorial Eye Centre, Bellary, celebrated its first anniversary on 13th February. Dignitaries included Sri Y Basavraj (donor), his son Sri Y Satish and daughter Smt Anuradha Bhoomreddy. Children from Anugraha school for the differently abled performed and prizes were distributed for various sports organized at the centre. Sanjeev Satla, Vision Technician, was awarded ‘Best Employee’.

The 3rd anniversary of the Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, Vijayawada on 16 February had a prize distribution ceremony for various games, cultural programs, a video showcasing milestones and tribute to the donors. ‘Best Employee’ of the year was awarded to Mr Narendra.

Workshops

The workshop on Ocular Surface Disorders by Dr Virender Sangwan and Prof James Chodosh, 28 January - 1 February 2014, drew over thirty cornea specialists from India, USA, UK and the Middle East. It combined surgical sessions with examining long-term outcomes of two surgical techniques developed exclusively at LVPEI: Simple Limbal Epithelial Transplantation (SLET) and LVP Keratoprosthes (LVPKpro).

The workshop on 3rd February by the Rehabilitation team was to ideate on developing a website for persons with visual impairment. Dr Virender Sangwan who led the discussions hoped to benefit visually challenged persons, their family members, acquaintances and networked professionals through this endeavour with information about child rearing, early intervention, education, employment, low vision care, social benefits, eye health, latest research in the field, etc.

A workshop Handling children with multiple disabilities: A sensory motor approach by Perkins Voice and Vision India for rehabilitation team members across the LVPEI network, 11-13 February, had Dr Loganathan, field expert in Neuro-Developmental Therapy, Helen Keller Institute for the Deaf and DeafBlind, Mumbai, as faculty. The program covered aspects of motor development such as sensory integration and its dysfunctions, oro-motor exercises, handling and facilitating children with Visual Impaired Multi-disability (VIMD).

Our Support in February

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