

32nd Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP)

The Vision Rehabilitation centres at LVPEI conducted the 32nd Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP) on 12 September 2014. It was attended by about 75 participants - optometrists including low vision specialists, optometry students, vision technicians and teachers of visually impaired - from all over the country. The popular biannual event notched up several firsts this time: it was networked across the four LVPEI campuses in Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada; participants included 10 vision technicians representing 10 secondary centres; hands-on sessions were conducted by the respective faculty at each campus; and two young low vision patients gave inspirational talks about their lives.



Nageshwari was diagnosed with microcornea and secondary glaucoma. She went on to complete her post-graduation in commerce and is now preparing for employment in the banking sector. **Srikanth** was diagnosed with retinal degeneration when in secondary school but carried on with his life undeterred. He will be completing his PhD in Mathematics shortly at the University of Hyderabad. Both overcame odds through sheer grit and determination, with help from LVPEI's Centre for Sight Enhancement. Their candid talks took the audience by surprise and demonstrated how motivation and being self driven was the key to success in life.

Computer Training Centre for the Visually Challenged



A Computer Training Centre for the visually challenged was launched at the GMR Varalakshmi campus in Visakhapatnam on 4th September 2014. The Centre is funded by Microsoft India Development Center (MSIDC)

through contributions received through MSIDC's Employee Giving Campaign. The Centre was launched by Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Founder & Chair, LVPEI, and Mr Anil Bhansali, Managing Director, MSIDC. The centre's three-month program uses assistive technology in the form of screen reading software combined with soft skills training.

This email is in reference to my cataract surgery on 1st Sep 2014. I was very nervous and afraid though it was a very simple cataract surgery, and had requested for General Anesthesia instead of LA due to the fear of not being able to bear the pain. I had multiple rounds of counseling with both the surgeon Dr Virender Sachdeva and the anesthetist Dr Ravindra, and was given LA with a back-up plan for GA if required. I was placed at a slant on the OT bed to ensure comfortable breathing and a special nose chamber was made for me. Dr Sachdeva kept talking to me throughout the surgery on various topics of interest and before I realized it, the surgery was completed.

Ashok Gupta

Dr Rustam D Ranji Award and Lecture

The Dr Rustam D Ranji Rotary Award and Lecture on 23 September 2014 at the Patodia Auditorium had Dr Ramachandra Pararajasegaram, Former President of International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) & Currently Affiliate of IAPB, speak on "Perspectives of Eye Health in India: Past, Present and Future." The lecture is sponsored by the Rotary Club of

Hyderabad annually in memory of the late Dr Rustam D Ranji, one of Hyderabad's leading practitioners, Honorary Ophthalmologist to the former Nizam, and consultant to the State and Central Railways, Indian Airlines and KEM Hospital, Mumbai.



Awards & Honours

Dr S Shivaji received the 'Carl Woese Memorial Award' for excellence in microbiology research from the Association of Microbiologists of India on 19 September 2014 in Pune.

Parthasarathi Kalaiselvan and **Shyam Sunder Tummanapalli** won the grand prize for the South Zone in the All India Coopervision quiz contest on 4 September 2014. **Reekham Sahu**, Contact Lens resident, won the consolation prize.

Siddharth Dikshit's poster 'Glaucoma progression on 24-2 versus 10-2 Humphrey visual field examinations' won the best poster award at Glaucoma Society of India's Annual Meeting at Bhubaneswar, 12-14 September 2014.

Javed Ali delivered the Dr P Ranga Reddy Endowment Lecture on "The Great Debate: Approaches to Lacrimal Interventions" at the annual conference of Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, 13 September 2014.

Srinivas Mamamula's paper 'Population based assessment of unilateral visual impairment in south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh: Rapid Assessment of Visual Impairment (RAVI) Project' has been accepted for publication in *Ophthalmic Epidemiology*.

Parthasarathi Kalaiselvan won the Best Poster award for the session "Diagnostics" at 36th All India Optometry Conference (AIOC) at Agra, 6-8 September 2014. Title: "Corneal Asphericity in Normal and Keratoconus Eyes - Quadrant-wise analysis"; Coauthors: **Ashik Mohamed**, **Shyam Sunder Tummanapalli** and **Pravin K Vaddavalli**.

Vipin A Das has been invited to be Chief Advisor to the newly initiated Healthcare Innovation Cell in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Telangana.

Ramesh Kekunnaya was invited to speak at the Cambridge Ophthalmological Symposium, 3-5 September 2014. This year's theme was 'Ocular Motility' and had 22 speakers from UK, USA, Europe, Australia, one each from India and Japan.

Alumnus **Rajat Jain** won the 'Suryanarayan Gold Medal' for the best competitive paper at the Annual Conference of the Rajasthan Ophthalmological Society in Kota, 5-7 September 2014.

LVPEI was awarded the 2014 **Frost & Sullivan India Technology Innovation Leadership Award** for Eye Care Solutions. Dr G Chandra Sekhar received the award on behalf of the Institute at Mumbai on 23 September 2014.

Opticals Product Training

A Product Training program on ophthalmic lenses was conducted by expert trainers from the industry on 19-21 September 2014 for the Opticals staff at the four campuses at Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

Mini Alumni Meet

Some of the LVPEI alumni met up over dinner for a "Mini Alumni Meet" on the sidelines of 'Harmony 2014: Update on Cornea and Refractive Surgery' a conference organized by the C L Gupta Eye Institute at Moradabad, 21 September 2014. The institute is affiliated to LVPEI.



Eye Screening at Residential Apartments



GMR Varalakshmi Campus organized free eye screening and diabetes awareness program for the residents of New Life Apartments at Sheelanagar in Visakhapatnam, in collaboration with OMNI RK Super Speciality Hospital on 21 September 2014.

Dear Dr Sangwan and Dr Vipin,
 I receive a monthly research stipend of 18,000 INR. I would like to contribute a part of this towards the visually challenged. It is something that I have always wanted to do. I was a bit hesitant to write this mail as the amount that I can contribute is small at this stage (1000 INR every month)! There might be a period of inactiveness in my contribution for a two year period as I pursue my higher education. But I will resume doing so and even increase my contribution as my earnings increase over the years.
 Poor vision is something which I am also affected with. By God's grace, my family has been financially supportive enough to take care of my brother's and my eye treatment and I want to support those who lack similar financial backing. I have already discussed this with my parents and they have encouraged me to go forward.
 Krishna Prasad V S
 Junior Research Fellow, Center for Product Design and Manufacturing
 Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
 30 August 2014

Eminent Visitors/ Updates

Anil Kumar Bhansali, Managing Director; Juhee Ahmed, Senior Manager; and Debjani Mukherji, Communications Head; Microsoft India Development Center (MSIDC); Launch of Computer Training Centre for the Visually Impaired at GMR Varalakshmi Campus, Visakhapatnam; 4 September.

Oculoplasty Live Surgery Workshop, jointly organized by ARC-APOS, Vijayawada Academy of Ophthalmology and LVPEI, conducted at Kode Vankatadri Chowdary Campus, Vijayawada; 14 September.

Charlotte Spooner and Saskia Hagelberg, Volunteers, Project Trust, UK, to volunteer and teach English; 1 September 2014 to 30 July 2015.

Professor Kay Dickersin and Assistant Professor Tianjing Li, faculty from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore USA; Sept 21-26. The former delivered a Guest Lecture on "How much of what we read can we believe, and what are the reliable sources of information?" on 26 September.

Alumnus Dr Vasumathy Vedantham, Director - Radhatri Nethralaya, organized RADNET 2014 their annual CME, under the aegis of AIOS-ARC on September 14 2014 at Chennai. Dr Subhadra Jalali was an invited speaker.

Eye Donation Fortnight

A painting competition for school children was organized by Drushti daan Eye Bank at the LVPEI Bhubanswar campus on the occasion of Eye Bank Awareness Fortnight, 25 August – 8 September 2014. Other allied activities conducted to raise public awareness included an 'eye donation pledge drive' in corporate offices, a street play, and a panel discussion on "Synergy Among Eye Banks in Odisha" on 7th September that had Shri Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister of Health and Family Welfare as Chief Guest, and Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Comm-cum Secretary, Department of Culture and Tourism, Government of Odisha as the Guest of Honour. Dr Gullapalli N Rao was the keynote speaker.



*I wish to thank Dr Pravin K Krishna for the cornea replacement in my left eye on 2 July 2014. I was very pleased and impressed with the way I was treated here. All the nurses and other staff provided whatever I needed in a timely manner, and never behaved as if they didn't have time for me. My family and I appreciate the extensive help and assistance I received. I now seek an appointment for my right eye too.
 Radheshyam Agrawal
 Indore*

Our Support in September

Vijayawada
 Yarlagadda Ramesh
 Lingineni Rajashekar
 Krishna Yalamanchi
 Bezawada Ladies Circle

Sukla Mitra
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 Tilak

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 Mahesh Alhthur
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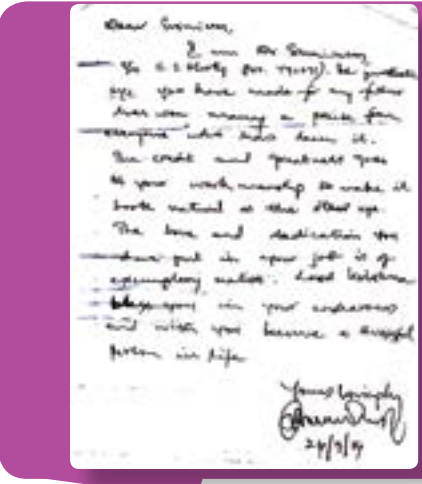
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Kolkata
 Abhi Chakrabarti
 Pooja Talwar

Australia
 Tim Kemsley

Kochi
 Joyalukkas Foundation



Dear Srinivas,
 I am Dr Sreenivasan (son of C S Murty, patient). The prosthetic eye you have made for my father has won many a praise from everyone who has seen it. The credit and greatness goes to your workmanship in making it as natural as the other eye. The love and dedication you have put into your job is of an exemplary nature. Lord Krishna bless you in your endeavours and wish you become a successful person in your life.

(A note of appreciation for Allam Srinivasulu, Ocularist Apprentice, Kallam Anji Reddy campus.)

L V Prasad Eye Institute

Kallam Anji Reddy Campus, Hyderabad
 Tel: 91 040 30612020
 City Centre: 91 40 39171600/39171601
 Extension: 91 40 30484669/30484670
 E-mail: info.hyd@lvpei.org

Patia, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
 Tel: 91 0674 3989202
 E-mail: info.bbsr@lvpei.org

GMR Varalakshmi Campus, Visakhapatnam
 Tel: 91 0891 3984555
 E-mail: info.vizag@lvpei.org

Kode Venkatadri Chowdary Campus
 Tadigadapa, Vijayawada
 Tel: 91 0866 3062020
 E-mail: KVC-appointment@lvpei.org