
Blinding eye diseases including refractive errors, corneal diseases, ocular infections, cataract, glaucoma, and retinal diseases afflict about 20 million individuals in India alone, and remain a major health and economic burden worldwide. To stimulate development of new strategies for diagnosing and treating complex eye diseases, a symposium on “Novel Tools and Themes in Vision Sciences” was held from 21-22 January 2013 at Hyderabad. The event, jointly organized by Dr Subhabrata Chakrabarti (L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad) and Dr Uday B Kompella (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, USA), was attended by about 50 participants, including 9 resource persons from USA.

Bhubaneswar campus, Bhubaneswar

Rehab Centre Creates Awareness

The NTPC Centre for Sight Enhancement & Rehabilitation for the Visually Challenged participated in the 8th annual program of the All Odisha Students Union of the Visually Impaired on 23 January 2013. The rehab professionals – Sirajum Monira and Sumita Lima displayed assistive devices for the education and empowerment of persons with visual impairment. About 200 visually impaired students attended the program from various parts of Odisha. Mr Arun Kumar Sahoo, Minister of Energy & Information and Public Relations, presented the students prizes and certificates for excellent performance in educational and other fields. The stall received great response and succeeded in making many people aware of the advanced technology and low vision services available.

Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, Vijayawada

Vijayawada Oculoplasty Update

The campus conducted an Oculoplasty Update on 30 December 2012 to highlight common oculoplasty procedures for the comprehensive ophthalmologist. It comprised interactive didactics, a video session discussing common surgical procedures, and a Botulinum toxin live injection workshop.

Awards & Honors

Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Founder and Chairman of L V Prasad Eye Institute, honored with the GOH Naumann Award by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO), the global umbrella organization for all national and regional ophthalmological societies of the world at the Council’s meeting in Hyderabad on January 15, 2013. The award is given in recognition of “outstanding global leadership in eye care”.

Dr Taraprasad Das, Vice Chair, LVPEI network, conferred the Padma Shri Award in Medicine for the year 2013, announced on the eve of Republic Day. Another feather in LVPEI’s cap!

Dr Taraprasad Das inducted as Member, Editorial Board of Ophthalamic Research

LVPEI awards at AIOS

LVPEI reaped a rich haul of awards at the joint meeting of the 28th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress and All India Ophthalmological Society at Hyderabad, January 17-20, 2013

• Taraprasad Das, Prashant Garg, Santosh Honavar, Milind Naik — APAO Achievement Awards

• Subhadra Jalali: P Siva Reddy Oration Award

• Sujata Das: B K Narayan Rao Oration Award

• Sirisha Senthil: Best of Session award for “Glaucoma in Boston keratoprosthesis”

• Niranjan Pehere: Best paper in “Neuro-ophthalmology” session

• Mohd Javed Ali: Comprehensive Ophthalmology Award for “RB1 Gene mutations and its clinical correlation”

• Kaustubh Mulay: Best Paper in “Ocular pathology and tumours” session

• LVPEI Alumni: Archana Singh (Cornea) and Savari Desai (Oculoplasty)
Guest lectures in January 2013

January 17: Early detection of keratoconus premium IOL selection based on total corneal wavefront
Dr Carlos G Arce, Dept of Ophthalmology, Paulista School of Medicine, Federal University of Sao Paulo, Brazil

January 18: Clinical pearls in the management of corneal trauma
Dr Richard L Abbott, Professor, Clinical Ophthalmology, Co-Director, Cornea & Refractive Surgery Service, UCLA, CA, USA

January 19: Therapeutic strategy for severe corneal diseases
Dr Shinichiro Kinosita, Director, Dept of Ophthalmology, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Japan

January 21: Noninvasive "live histology" (spectral domain OCT) of retina in different retinal conditions
Dr KV Chalam, Chair, Dept of Ophthalmology, University of Florida College of Medicine, Jacksonville, FL, USA

January 22: Optics of the eye and vision
Dr Geunyoung Yoon, Associate Professor, Dept of Ophthalmology, Institute of Optics, Biomedical Engineering, Center for Visual Science, University of Rochester, NY, USA

January 23: Retinal ciliopathies: Mechanisms and treatment paradigms
Dr Hemant Khanna, Asst Professor, Ophthalmology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, MA, USA

January 25: Multifocal electrophysiology in diagnosing and managing diseases affecting vision development, sample data, prospects for the future
Dr Erich Sutter, President & CEO, Electro-Diagnostic Imaging, Inc., CA, USA

January 28: Assessment of vision in children with multiple disabilities
Dr Lea Hyvärinen, Sr Lecturer, Developmental Neuropsychology, University of Helsinki, Finland

Nawab Arastu Yar Jung Bahadur Endowment Lecture

The Fourth Nawab Arastu Yar Jung Bahadur Endowment Lecture was delivered by Prof Rajvardhan Azad, Head of Vitreo-Retinal Diseases & ROP Services and Chief, Dr R P Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi, on January 5, 2013. Speaking on the 'The Art, Science and Commerce of Medical Education in India', he gave a brief outline of the medical scenario in India and the measures required to improve it.

Dr Taraprasad Das presents a plaque to Prof Rajvardhan Azad (left)

Our Support in January

Angamaly
Dr Thomas Cherian
Chandigarh
Mr Pranay Garg
Gurgaon
Dr G V Rao
Hyderabad
Mr Manoj Agarwal
Ms Savitri &
Mr S L Kumar
(Sadbhavna Trust)
Mr D Sri Krishna
Mr Udhy Kumar Dintyala
Ms Vijaya L Ramam
Kolkata
Mr Prakash C Laha
Khammam
Mr Shyam Sunder Daram

New Delhi
Ms Kavita &
Mr Sanjay Gandhi
Sonal Chauhan (UFP)
Mr Kailash Nath
Fandey
Birmingham (UK)
Mr Krishna Mohan
Udeshu & Family
Japan
Dr Nobuo Ishida
USA
Mr Daisaku Itoh
Dr Gangadhar
Prasad Kilaru
Dr Sashidhar
Prasad Kilaru

My Experience with LVPEI, Visakhapatnam

After L V Prasad Eye Institute, Visakhapatnam, was established, I went there for an eye check-up in the month of October 2008. I had developed glaucoma by then. After an eye check-up by Dr PVKS Varma at LVPEI Vizag, I was advised to undergo laser treatment. I underwent the treatment at monthly, quarterly and half-yearly intervals, according to the pressure in my eyes.

Since then I have visited the hospital many times. The hospital, cooperation and assistance given by the staff as well as by Dr Varma cannot be imagined, especially in the practice of welcoming patients by saying Namaste. During my vast experience with the hospital, I felt that the staff were not working for their livelihood but for serving the patients. In one word, this institution is a VIP hospital for the poorest of the poor.

On 23 November 2012, I underwent surgery in my right eye. The role played by Dr Varma cannot be imagined. With his sweet words, he reassured me. The staff working under him, Mr Gopal and Ms Pushpa, also work with a service motive. Since then I have visited the hospital many times. The hospitality, cooperation and assistance given by the staff as well as by Dr Varma cannot be imagined, especially in the practice of welcoming patients by saying Namaste. During my vast experience with the hospital, I felt that the staff were not working for their livelihood but for serving the patients.

December 15, 2012
K Rama Krishna Das
Redhat Singh, Kothapeta village, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

The Philanthropic Kollipara Family of Peddanandipadu

This is an inspiring story of how a businessman from a middle-class family stepped forward to support the provision of eye care services by L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), to ensure the eye health of the people in his hometown.

Mr Kollipara Srinivas Rao and his two brothers donated space in a busy locality of Peddanandipadu near Guntur, in memory of their late parents Mr Kollipara Sheshagiri Rao and Mrs Rohini. Speaking of his involvement in extending eye care in the area, he said, “Authorities at L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad were making enquiries at the Karamchedu base centre, seeking local donors in Peddanandipadu. When they approached me I spoke to my brothers and we readily agreed to provide built space for a Vision Centre. We set up the Vision Centre (VC) at a crucial junction – the crossroads of Peddanandipadu and Nagalapuram. We believe that LVPEI’s name and fame precedes it and it will surely fulfill its promise to provide medical support to people.”

“The building extension was constructed under the aegis of a service organization. We also helped in the glaucoma project established by Dr G Chandra Sekhar of LVPEI, because we were convinced that people in the area would benefit by early detection of glaucoma.”

“The Vision Centre will help people have eye check-ups closer to their home. People above 60 cannot go far for eye care as they are dependent upon a younger family member to accompany them. Also, traveling far means a loss of daily wages as this is a predominantly agricultural community. This VC will ensure that people receive care, instead of ignoring the problem, as they need to spend only Rs 10 to Rs 15 on transport to reach it. The Centre has helped save at least Rs 2000 per day for the community and helped take care of the eye health of the people.”

A group of interns from Carey Business School, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA, visited LVPEI from January 6-18, 2013, as part of their International Interns Program. They were working on an “Innovations for Humanity Project”. The team, led by Prof Bonnie Robeson and Program Manager Mr Dan Sheats included Ms Hye Jin (Sally) Choi, Mr Sungmoon Jung, Mr Joe Marcino and Mr Eric Yockey.