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Nimnagadda Foundation, India
ORBIS International, USA
Vision CRC, Australia
World Diabetes Foundation, Denmark

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On the cutting edge of care
Clinical research at LVPEI

Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre
Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation
LV Prasad Eye Institute
India
LVPEI is a comprehensive eye health facility with its main campus located in Hyderabad, India. A Collaboration Centre of the World Health Organization for Prevention of Blindness, the Institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.

LVPEI’s mission is to provide equitable and efficient eye care to all sections of society. LVPEI’s innovative and comprehensive approach to community eye health, known as the LVPEI Eye Health Pyramid, has been adopted as a model by the Government of India and by other developing countries.

The LVPEI system is now a network that spans two tertiary centres in Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam, and 76 secondary and primary care centres that cover the remotest rural areas in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India. LVPEI is a not-for-profit organization governed by two trusts: the Hyderabad Eye Institute and the Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation. During 2008-2009 a total of 1,928,720 people were provided services by the LVPEI network.

Research at LVPEI

The Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation (HERF) conducts basic, clinical and public health research at L V Prasad Eye Institute. It has received vision research grants from many academic and corporate organizations from around the world, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) of the United States and the Vision Cooperative Research Centre (Vision CRC) program of Australia. The Institute’s basic and clinical research is organised under its research department. The naming of these centers is in recognition of the generous support of the individual and institutional support we have received. Public health research is coordinated through the Institute’s International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE).

Clinical research has two components – clinical trials and other research. Every clinician is involved in at least one clinical research study.

Growing expertise

The Clinical Research Centre attempts to find new and effective treatments for ophthalmic disease conditions by conducting Phase III clinical trials. Established in 1994 with a single study administered in a small room, it has now grown into a full-fledged centre equipped with qualified and trained ophthalmologists, optometrists, clinical research coordinators and support staff. On an average, at any given time, the department handles 20-25 clinical trials sponsored by multinational and Indian collaborations. In addition, the establishment of two more campuses in two other major cities has doubled our capacity.

In the area of ophthalmic research, LVPEI has become an ideal partner for the highest level of clinical trials. We have been part of several trials for the United States Federal Drug Agency (US FDA) approval. So far, we have successfully completed over 50 sponsored and in-house clinical trials, many of which were large, multicenter global trials for approval by the US FDA. In some of these studies, we have been the top enroller globally, which has been a key factor in getting FDA approval for our collaborators in many trials. Successful trials have included revolutionary treatment modalities like the Bausch & Lomb Uveitis Implant trail (Reisiter). For the ongoing study related to this implant, (SCYFtx), LVPEI is the only centre globally.

Complete infrastructure

The breadth of clinical expertise and the large and diverse patient volumes are complemented by an excellent physical and technical infrastructure comparable to the best in the world. High-end diagnostic and investigative equipment and advanced testing facilities such as the dynamic vision laboratory, allow us to undertake projects at the cutting edge of both clinical and basic vision science research. The technology and clinical-scientific expertise is supported by up-to-date information handling systems and statistical know-how.

A rich research context

The LVPEI network spans a large geographical area, drawing patients from every ethnic and socio-economic group in this region. Consequently, the Research Centre is able to access a range of subjects for clinical trials and genetic studies, as well as for research on the efficacy of treatments modalities and protocols in a hospital or community setting.

Ethics in clinical research

The health care team involved in research at the Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation, L V Prasad Eye Institute, is ethically committed to respect human life and people’s autonomy. Good research practice demands that researchers must respect the rights of their subjects, listen to and share information with them, and treat them courteously and caringly.

LVPEI has an Institutional Review Board (IRB) and an Independent Ethics Committee (IEC), that has been formally designated to approve, monitor, and review research involving humans with the aim of protecting the rights and welfare of the research subjects.

About LVPEI

L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) is a comprehensive eye health facility with its main campus located in Hyderabad, India. A Collaboration Centre of the World Health Organization for Prevention of Blindness, the Institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.

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A partner in clinical research

Clinical research at LVPEI began with contact lens research in collaboration with Vision CRC (formerly CCLRU), Australia, in the early 1990s. Today LVPEI’s multidisciplinary clinical research program meets international standards and conducts studies sponsored by funding agencies in India and leading multinational corporations from USA, Europe, Australia and Japan. The group not only conducts intramural clinical research, but also participates in multi-centre clinical trials.

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Advantages of partnering with LVPEI

- World-class quality research by study teams trained in Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- Fast recruitment due to the availability of large patient databases and the large and diverse patient pool
- Wide array of diseases covering all eye disorders
- GCP trained, English speaking research team – ophthalmologists, optometrists, research coordinators
- Fully equipped research infrastructure with state-of-the-art equipment
- Vast experience of 18 years in clinical studies, trials and other research
- Strong support teams
- Excellent track record in research
- Culture of an academic institution

If you are interested in collaborating with us on a clinical trial, please visit our website: clinicalresearch@lvpei.org or call 30612525 / 30612526.