

WISHING YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

### Inaugural of Tej Kohli Cornea Institute



LVPEI in partnership with Dr May Griffith and her team of scientists from the Linköping University, Sweden, and with the financial backing of Tej Kohli and his Foundation, inaugurated the Tej Kohli Cornea Institute (TKCI) on 11 December 2015. The Centre was inaugurated by Sri ESL Narasimhan, Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana. Also present was Guest of Honour Sri K T Rama Rao, Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat Raj & IT, Telangana.

### Arjun Waney Eye Centre Opens in Berhampur, Odisha



LVPEI's 15<sup>th</sup> secondary centre, and its third in Odisha, the Arjun Waney Eye Centre at Berhampur was inaugurated on 13 December 2015 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The centre is in partnership with The Savitri Waney Charitable Foundation and Mission for Vision. Also present were Shri Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Information & Public Relations, Odisha; Shri Sidhant Mohapatra, MP Berhampur; Dr Ramesh Chandra Chyau Patnaik, MLA Berhampur; Shri Priyanshu Pradhan, MLA Chhatrapur; Mr Arjun Waney, Business Entrepreneur and Founder, The Savitri Waney Charitable Foundation; and Ms Elizabeth Kurian, CEO, Mission for Vision.

### EyePEP 2015

EyePEP, Postgraduate Education Program in Ophthalmology, 24-29 November 2015, had about 75 participants. It had a more interactive format this year, facilitating very informative interactions for the students.



### CROSSTALK 2015



CROSSTALK, 19-20 December 2015, a summit for LVPEI clinical faculty and scientists from across all campuses, was at the imposing Atrium of the Velamati Soubhagyavathamma building at the Hyderabad campus to discuss work, experience and aspirations for the future.

Dear all,  
Please recall the set of granite stones that greet you as you enter the newly built Velamati Soubhagyavathamma Building in the KAR campus. I asked a world expert on geochronology (a scientist who estimates the age of ancient materials), Professor KV Subbarao who took a tiny sample in order to investigate these stones using the latest methods, and he has given us the following results:

#### GRANITE

Coarse grained igneous rock formed around 2500 million years ago (age of the earth – 4600 million years) from a slowly cooled magma within the earth's crust.

Mineral assemblage: Quartz, Plagioclase, Potash feldspar, Biotite, Amphibole.

Chemical composition: SiO<sub>2</sub> 70 %, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> 13 %, Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + FeO 2.5 %, Na<sub>2</sub>O + K<sub>2</sub>O 8 %.

In summary, the granite is at least 2500 million years old. This granite has been faithfully sitting all this while, watching many thousands of generations of people (probably 7500 generations) go by. The stone is thus our "Old Faithful" - one who guards our Institute and us who work here. How fortunate we are!

Professor D Balasubramanian

(Professor Kaigala Venkata Subbarao is a well known geologist and geochronologist, who had worked at the Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Bombay for several years before retirement.)



### Awards & Honours

Aparna Rao was awarded the Intermediate Fellowship of the DBT Wellcome India Alliance to pursue her work in identifying molecular markers for pseudoexfoliation syndrome.

LVPEI received the i-COOP 2015 (Scientific Cooperation Development Program), a collaborative grant award with Visual Optics and Biophotonics Lab, Institute of Optics, Consejo Superior Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC, Spanish National Research Council). Project: 'Quantifying crystalline & intraocular lens optics'. Investigators: Prof Susana Marcos of CSIC; Virender Sangwan, Mukesh Taneja and Ashik Mohamed of LVPEI.

Anthony Vipin Das received Best Paper and Best Presentation awards for 'Eye Smart EMR: Doorsteps to Boardroom' at the 1<sup>st</sup> National Conference of Health Information Management Association (HIM) India Info, at KIMS, Hyderabad, 4-5 December 2015. Kishore Babu was Organizing Treasurer and Moderator.

Alumna Kopal Mittal won the Mohan Lal Gold Medal for her presentation 'Study of risk factors for aggressive posterior ROP' at the 49<sup>th</sup> Uttar Pradesh State Ophthalmological Society meeting at Allahabad, 28-29 November 2015.

In a first ever, Ramayamma International Eye Bank (RIEB) exceeded a record 5,000 tissues collected this year in 2015.

### Visitors & Updates

Dr Tony Aldave, Professor Ophthalmology, Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA, California, USA; Dr Satish Srinivasan, Consultant Ophthalmologist, Ayrshire, Scotland; Ally Haviland, Coordinator and Josie Noah, Global coordinator for Surgeon training programs, SightLife, Seattle; for the Sightlife DSEK workshop; 30 November – 3 December.

Dr Sanjeev Arora, Director, Project ECHO - Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes, Professor - Department of Internal Medicine, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center; Guest lecture - 'Democratizing medical knowledge: Improving healthcare access to rural populations'; 22 December.

Natasha D Agrosa, Giving Account Specialist; Anna O' Connell, Director of Giving Trips; Ruthie Eisenberg, Manager Giving Trips; and Heidi Chase, Director, Seva Foundation visited the Kuchukulla Ramachandra Reddy secondary centre at Thoodukurthy and the Nagarkurnool Vision Centre as part of the TOMS "One-for-One giving eyesight" program supporting LVPEI for rural service delivery.



# News @ GMR Varalakshmi Campus, Visakhapatnam



Vocational Training for Rehabilitation Clients was organized on 21 November 2015. The 30 clients were taught the craft of making candles, floating candle stands, and wire and paper bags.

Workshop for Andhra University Students on low vision and rehabilitation services was organized on 26 November 2015 for 23 students of the Special Education department at Andhra University.



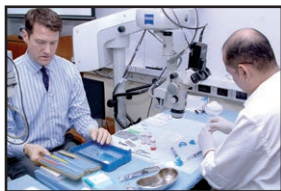
5<sup>th</sup> Integrated Fun Camp by the Rehabilitation Centre on 13 December 2015 had over 100 participants indulging in the fun and games, including the visually impaired and their families.



Special Olympics Lions Club International Opening Eyes event, 16 - 20 November 2015, had 256 special athletes who were screened for refractive errors, colour blindness, cataract, retinal and corneal problems, glaucoma and squint.

*I have been a non-paying patient of your Bhubaneswar hospital right from its inception in 2006. Last year, in June 2014, I underwent a glaucoma surgery by Dr Sanghamitra Das and I wholeheartedly thank her for it. The feeling my family and I have is similar to what we feel when we have dharma darshan at the Tirupati Venkateswara Swamy temple. Just as devotees who pay a premium Rs 50 or Rs 300 merge with the devotees lined up for dharma darshan, all ultimately seeking the divine blessings as one, your hospital too offers the same services without discrimination to paying and non-paying patients.*

Chilakalapalli Kalidas



## Training Programs

The fourth edition of the LVPEI-SightLife DSEK Skills Transfer Course, 30 November - 3 December 2015, had the LVPEI Cornea faculty besides Dr Anthony Aldave, Jules Stein Eye Institute, Los Angeles, USA and Dr Sathish Srinivasan, Ayrshire Eye Clinic and Laser Centre, South Ayrshire, Scotland. It had 15 participants.

Trainer's Training in Optical Dispensing (TTOD) at the Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, 2 November - 11 December 2015, had 24 participants: 7 from India, 6 from Sri Lanka, 7 from Nepal and 4 from Bangladesh. The program was organized with support from WHO and IAPB.



## Tenth Public Lecture at Bhubaneswar



The last in the series of public lectures at LVPEI Bhubaneswar was delivered by well-known film-maker Shri Sabyasachi Mohapatra

on 15 December 2015 who shared his journey and experiences across the world.

## That time, this day, then...

*We would average a modest 65 corneal transplants in our formative years of 1987-88 and always had a long list of restless patients awaiting transplants, some of whom would travel from outstation and await their turn for months, as graft surgery in those days was straight from the donor to the recipient, whatever the time of the day or night, for there was no storage medium for the corneas such as the MK medium.*

*It's been a long road indeed to the inauguration of the Tej Kohli Cornea Institute, with which we hope to ascend to even greater heights of achievement!*

- Vijaya L Ramam

## Our Support in December

**Bhubaneswar**  
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