25 YEARS LVPEI So that all may see

NEWS @ LV Prasad Eye Institute

March 2013

Sixth Annual Champalimaud Research Symposium

Conducted by the Champalimaud Translational Centre for Eye Research (C-TRACER 1) on January 30th, this year's event had world leaders in ophthalmology, scientists, distinguished faculty from C-TRACER 2 at Coimbra in Portugal (Dr Luisa Ribeiro; Dr Andreia Rosa), and C-TRACER 3 at Sao Paulo in Brazil (Prof Jose Gomes; Dr Rubens Belfort Mattos Neto), Dr Leonor Beleza, President, and Mr Joao Botelho, Board Member, Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.

Dr Leonor Beleza delivering her address.

Prof David R Williams receiving the Champalimaud Symposium plaque from Dr G Chandra Sekhar.

The speakers included this year's Champalimaud Oration Lecturer, Prof David Williams of the University of Rochester, NY, USA, a special lecture by Prof Adrian Lee of Sydney, Australia, and two outstanding young scientists from India: Dr Chetan Chitnis from New Delhi (on his efforts towards producing a vaccine for malaria, currently being field-tested in Southeast Asia) and Dr Imran Siddiqi of Hyderabad (on how he could retain hybrid vigour in plants by engineering clonal seeds through two genes).

LVPEI Extends Its Footprint to Karnataka

February 13th marked the launch of LVPEI's services in the state of Karnataka. The institute's 11th secondary care service centre, the Y Mahabaleshwarappa Memorial Eye Centre in Bellary, launched its outpatient services. Built on 3.5 acres of land, the 20,000 sq ft facility is located on Talur Road, on the outskirts of Bellary, and is funded by a generous donation from M/S Y Mahabaleshwarappa & Sons, Bellary.

Gracing the inaugural occasion were dignitaries Sri Sri Sri Pranava Swarupi Siddalingaswamy Galu of the Sri Tontadarya Math in Gadag; Reverend Dr Henry D' Souza, the Bishop of Bellary; and Sri Krishna Mohan Trivedi, General Manager, SBI, Bangalore.

@ Bhubaneswar campus, Bhubaneswar

Third Bijayananda Patnaik Memorial Lecture

Prof Suresh R Chandra, Professor of Ophthalmology & Director, Division of International Ophthalmology, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, USA, and Founder-Chairman, Combat Blindness International, was the invited guest at the event on January 28th. He delivered a lecture on *Compassion in Eye Care: Lessons from Combat Blindness International*.

Awards & Honours

Dr Harsha BL Rao's article *Behavior of visual field index in advanced glaucoma* (Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, 2013) has been recommended as being of special significance in its field by Chris Johnson from the F1000 Faculty.

Award for Best Garden: The gardens maintained by LVPEI at the Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry campus at Kismatpur won second prize at the Garden Festival conducted by the Department of Horticulture, Government of India, January 1-15, 2013.

Senior Optometrist **T Shyamsunder's** article *Evaluation of corneal elevation and thickness indices in pellucid marginal degeneration and keratoconus* in the Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery was featured on the www MDLinx.com site. MDLinx is the world's most current index of articles that matter in the daily lives of physicians and other healthcare professionals.

Dr Sirisha Senthil's article *Treatment outcomes in malignant glaucoma* in Ophthalmology was featured in www MDLinx.com site on 8th February 2013.

Research Optometrist **Preeji Sudharman's** article *RGP contact lens fitting in keratoconus using FITSCAN technology* in Contact Lens and Anterior Eye was featured on www MDLinx.com site.

@ International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE)

Kandukuru Secondary Centre Celebrates 4th Anniversary

The Sudhakar and Sreekanth Ravi Eye Centre at Kandukuru in Prakasam district celebrated its 4th anniversary on 1st February. Guests included Dr D Malakondaiah, physician, Mr Subbarao and Mr Veeraiah from Pantavaripalem village, Mr Vasu Babu from Karamchedu, Mr Anil Krishna Reddy and Mr Rajesh from Nellore. Playing hosts were the SSREC staff: Ophthalmologist Dr Mrinmoy Dey; Ophthalmic Officer Mr Chandrashekar.

UNSW Team Visit

A UNSW team - Dr Catherine Suttle, Dr Isabella Jalbert and Ms. Belinda Allen – came visiting from 4th to 8th February to work with the ICARE faculty on the development of an online Masters Program in Community Eye Health. Out of the six courses, three will be offered online in March 2013 and the remaining in December 2013. A new website has been developed exclusively for this program: www.communityeyehealth.unsw.edu.au.

Groundbreaking Ceremony of 12th Secondary Centre

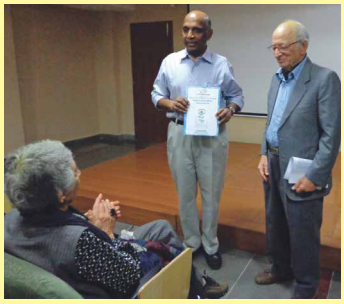
The groundbreaking ceremony of the Edward and Soona Brown Eye Centre, LVPEI's 12th satellite centre was formally performed on 28th January. The centre is located in Dhulipalla village, Sattenapalli mandal of Guntur district, and is supported entirely by Mr Edward Brown and Mrs Soona Brown of France. Other dignitaries present included Mr Y Venkateswara Reddy, the local legislator, and Dr Gullapalli N Rao and Dr Padmaja K Rani from LVPEI.

Paloncha Secondary Centre is Two Years Old

2nd anniversary celebrations at Nava Bharat Eye Centre, Paloncha - LVPEI's ninth secondary care satellite centre.

@ Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus, Vijayawada

2nd Anniversary of The David Brown Children's Centre



Dr G N Rao releasing the Annual Activity report along with Mr Edward and Mrs Soona Brown.

The commemorative program on January 29th had Mr Edward and Mrs Soona Brown share their satisfaction that their hard-earned money was being utilized well and the son they had lost 30 years ago was being remembered for a good cause. Dr Niranjan Pehere welcomed the audience and showed them a video film on the progress of the centre over the last two years and its plans for the future.

Dr Gullapalli N Rao gave away the prizes to the winners of the essay competition for pediatrics postgraduates, won by Dr Raja Ramesh from Guntur Medical College (first prize) and Dr Madhuri N from Eluru (second prize).

Anniversary Celebrations

February 16th marked the second anniversary of the Kode Vankatadri Chowdary campus. Various games and cultural programs by the staff marked the celebrations. Children from Tulip Garden, an Orphanage for HIV positive children, also participated in the cultural activities.

With Love from Uzbekistan

Fatima, just 2 years old, was peering into a bowl of vegetables, while her mother Matluba was cooking. As Matluba poured some vinegar into the dish, it suddenly splattered and damaged both the eyes of little Fatima.

Fatima's father Gholam is a Russian businessman, based in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, a fruit wholesaler. The despairing Gholam took Fatima to several doctors, but to no avail. Dr Akshay Khera, an Indian ophthalmologist settled in Tashkent, advised Gholam to take the child to L V Prasad Eye Institute. Gholam looked up LVPEI on the internet and began corresponding with the institute.

We came to L V Prasad with a lot of hope that has become a reality. Thanks a lot for everything. Wish you all the best and wish your dreams become a reality, because you deserve a lot.

Maryam Barman, UAE
6th January, 2013

Patient: Fatima Barman, MR P707581
Seen by Dr C Jagadesh Reddy

Baby Fatima, MR P676584: The apple of her parents' eyes

The family arrived at LVPEI in Hyderabad in June 2012. Gholam recalls, "After I met Dr Sangwan and he said that he could help my daughter see again, there were tears in my eyes, tears of joy." Fatima was operated upon in June 2012; a Boston Keratoprosthesis lens was implanted in her left eye. The response was good. Back home in Tashkent, Dr Khera provided Fatima post-operative care.

Gholam and the family returned to Hyderabad in January 2013 to attend to Fatima's right eye. Earlier, the doctors at LVPEI had thought that the same type of surgery may not work for the child's right eye as it was severely damaged by the hot vinegar. On this visit, she was re-examined under anesthesia by both the cornea and the glaucoma specialist, who then decided to go ahead with the same kind of surgery. Fatima underwent a Boston Keratoprosthesis lens implant in the right eye and is doing well. She waved goodbye cheerfully as she was returning home with her parents who were more than pleased for her.

Gholam speaks very little English but managed to say, "I say a BIG thank you to all doctors in LVPEI."

@ GMR Varalakshmi campus, Visakhapatnam

Smiley, the Little Anchor

Never did Bonny Gideon and his wife Nagamani imagine that the tiny hands that they held to teach baby steps would be leading them in future. The Gideon couple suffers from vision related problems; Bonny has cataract and several other vision related problems, and Nagamani suffers from night blindness. Their condition is irreversible. They hail from Pangidigudem village in Jangareddy mandal of West Godavari district and Bonny works as an assistant for an NGO. On the advice of some well wishers, they had been coming to the Sight Enhancement services department of L V Prasad Eye Institute in Visakhapatnam.

Baby Bony Smiley Hadassa, MR N016601

During this time, about three years ago, they became proud parents of a baby daughter who they named Smiley. But, when they were told that the baby had cataract, their dreams came crashing down at the thought of their child facing the same fate that they suffered. The doctors in Nidadavolu whom they consulted first, suggested that they take their baby to LVPEI. Smiley was brought to the institute at the age of four months.

When Dr Avinash Pathengay saw them in the OPD, he stopped by to enquire about their well-being. When he heard that they were there not for themselves, but for their tiny bundle of joy, they were reassured about her vision. "They were very supportive and two surgeries were performed on Smiley. She is using vision correcting glasses on the doctors' advice, is attending school and helping her mother after returning home. She reads the names of places and the numbers on the buses for us when we go out. She talks incessantly about the posters on the walls, and tells us about whatever is happening around us all along our way. She is the anchor to our lives; she is our eyes," says the happy father.

We are here for my son's ROP treatment. I would like to thank all the doctors, nurses and the administration for all the excellent hospitality and services provided to us. Thanks a lot.

Susenjit Roy, Jamshedpur
31st January, 2013

Patient: Mast Kritanjan Roy, MR P709934
Seen by Dr Divya Balakrishnan

Our Support in February

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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 39892020
City Centre: 0891 3016380/3016385
E-mail: info.vizag@lvpei.org

Kode Venkatadri Chowdary Campus
Tadigadapa, Vijayawada
Tel: 91 0866 3062020
City Centre: 0866 3064740/41
E-mail: KVC-appointment@lvpei.org