

LVPEI Launches "Next-25" Initiatives

LVPEI's strategic initiatives "Next 25" were launched on 19th April at an event presided at by Sri M M Pallam Raju, Hon. Minister for Human Resource Development, Government of India. The initiatives are a progression of the institute's measure of expertise, best practices and cutting-edge capabilities accumulated over the past 25 years of dedicated service in the elimination of avoidable blindness.

The new initiatives comprise the following:

- Academy for Eye Care Education
- Centre for Ocular Regeneration
- Child Sight Institute
- Institute for Eye Care for the Elderly
- Institute for Eye Cancer
- Centre of Excellence in Eye Banking

As part of LVPEI, these institutes will encompass care from primary to advanced tertiary care, education, research, public health, planning and policy, built on the foundation of the institute's vision of Excellence with Equity.

Nutritional Forum

The patient care department at GMR Varalakshmi campus at Visakhapatnam started a new initiative from 1st January 2013 in organizing patient education forums on various health and eye problems. One of the forums "Nutritional Education Forum", is being conducted by Ms K Neetha (dietician) in the patient lounges, with support from the faculty and Dr Avinash Pathengay (patient care in-charge). The Forum aims to explain the importance of healthy dietary habits, provide education on basic health and nutrition, and help the participants understand the importance of unconventional therapeutic foods.

Film on Children with Special Needs



A preview to the film documentary *Handle with Care* directed by Mr Pingle Pranav Reddy was organized by Aalim Javeri, a volunteer to LVPEI's rehabilitation services. The film which was screened on 10th April 2013 portrays the socio-cultural challenges that parents face towards the rehabilitation process of their children with special needs.

Graduation Day for Ophthalmology Fellows

The Graduation Day of the Ophthalmology fellows of LVPEI was celebrated on 28th March 2013. Among those who graduated were 3 long-term fellows, 5 students who underwent Zeiss Training, 1 in Retina Laser, 1 in SICS training and 4 students of the short-term fellowship program.



Sri Gullapalli N Rao with Sri Pallam Raju after unveiling the "Next-25" initiatives.

This is to place on record the excellent services rendered by Anil K Mandal, Glaucoma Specialist at your Hospital. Dr. Anil K Mandal is courteous, smiling, infusing courage in the patient, and makes them comfortable by removing their anxiety and tension. He even explains to them about the treatment and operation that is necessary for them. He does this with a very reassuring manner, with all kindness.

K Gopalakrishna
Retd. Deputy General Manager, Dept. of Telecom, Govt. of India
April 6, 2013

First Ever Cheaper, Easier, Regenerative Treatment for Corneal Blindness: *Simplifying corneal surface regeneration using a biodegradable synthetic membrane and limbal tissue explants* - a collaborative effort between LVPEI and the University of Sheffield, funded by the Wellcome Trust, was published in the journal *Biomaterials* via an electronic version on April 15, 2013. The authors are Pallavi Deshpande, Charanya Ramachandran, Farshid Sefat, Indumathi Mariappan, Claire Johnson, Robert McKean, Melanie Hannah, Virender S Sangwan, Frederik Claeysens, Anthony J Ryan and Sheila MacNeil. The publication announces a breakthrough cheaper technique to restore vision for blindness due to chemical burns.

29th LAP Demystifies Low Vision

The 29th Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP) on 12th April 2013 was organized under the aegis of the Meera & L B Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement and Dr P R K Prasad Centre for Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired. The program had members presenting papers on topics ranging from assistive devices to rehabilitation services.



Rehab Placements

LVPEI's rehabilitation centre facilitated assistive 'IT' services for some of its visually challenged clients enabling them to successfully find suitable employment opportunities. As a feather in the cap, some of the clients, such as Anand Rao, Misha, Reshma and Sai Sudha have been selected for training to be placed as probationary officers in the banking sector.

Awards & Honours

Sanghamitra Dash received the prestigious Rajdhani Gaurav Samman award by the Government of Odisha on 13th April 2013, on the eve of the 65th Foundation Day celebrations of Bhubaneswar city.

Soumyava Basu is to lead the International Working Group on Ocular TB, in preparation for the next meeting of the group to be held in the Philippines in 2015.

Subhabrata Chakrabarti is invited to serve on The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)'s Education and Meetings Steering Committee.

From Blindness to a Bank P.O!

Mr Ananda Rao is from Ramagundam in Karimnagar District. One of the three children of an NTPC employee, he is a post graduate in Law. He suffers from a rare form of blindness known as RP (Retinitis Pigmentosa).

RP is an eye disorder that affects the retina of the eye, causing progressive vision loss and difficulty in dim light or the dark, with the loss of side or peripheral vision.

As part of rehabilitation, Mr Ananda Rao had undergone skills training at LVPEI, including JAWS (Job Access With Speech), an assistive computer software training supported by Mahindra Satyam Foundation, besides courses in personality development, English language training and mobility training.

He is now recruited as a Probationary Officer with the Andhra Bank, and will commence his training shortly.

He recalls with joy the time he spent at LVPEI during his six months training program and is grateful to his mentors Shiva, Sai, Hema and Beula.



Mr Ananda Rao receiving his certificate

Dear Dr G Chandra Sekhar,

My sincere gratitude for seeing Olivia and making an assessment of her eyes. We were truly impressed by the professionalism, standard of medical care provided and, of course, the attitude and efficiency of all the doctors we met during our visit to your hospital. The services provided and the time management far surpasses the clinic/hospital here in Auckland.

Vitus J Fernandes,
Auckland, New Zealand
April 17, 2013

We were truly impressed by the work done at LV Prasad Eye Institute, and the commitment of the staff to deliver the best possible care for their patients.

Nicole Yap, Elli Suzuki and
Dmitriy Lyan
Students of MIT Sloan,
Cambridge, Massachusetts,
on a two-week project
March 18 - 31, 2013.



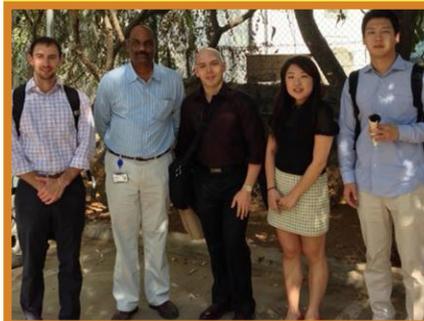
Dmitriy and Nicole after having their eyes examined by Dr Pravin V Krishna

One of my biggest takeaways from the project was the corporate culture in India, specifically at LVPEI. I cannot stress enough how nice it was to work with such humble and caring individuals at an organization that serves as a model for all others. In meetings, my team and project sponsors were able to actively listen to each others' questions and suggestions and really gather consensus in a way that is rarely found in the U.S.

Joe Marcino
MBA Candidate - Class of 2014,
Johns Hopkins University,
Carey Business School.

Affiliation Agreement

A landmark affiliation agreement was signed between the University of Kentucky and LVPEI's Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation on 5th March, 2013. The agreement mainly aims to facilitate research pursuits, including a joint program on transcriptomics of AMD coordinated by Dr Inderjeet Kaur and Prof J Ambati.



Students from the
Johns Hopkins University,
Carey Business School,
with Mr Chaitanya
(Head of Administration,
Education Centre)

Veeramma's Hope Restored

Mrs. Veeramma of Tempalli village, near Gannavaram, visited our Vijayawada campus on July 12, 2012, with her 2 blind children. Someone had told her that the institute provided certificates to help blind children avail Government facilities.

However, on examination, her 6 year old daughter Roja was found to have total cataract in both eyes. Though she had noted white opacity in both eyes for her daughter at the age of 3 months, Veeramma had not opted for treatment owing to a bad prior experience involving her elder son who had the same problem since birth. He was operated in the right eye in a local hospital, but to no avail. Additionally, he developed constant pain and watering from the operated eye. This resulted in Veeramma losing faith in the health system, and not opting for any further treatment for her son or daughter.

After being convinced by the counselors and optometrists at LVPEI, Veeramma agreed to get Roja operated. Dr Niranjana Pehera performed the surgery in both the eyes of little Roja, and now there is significant improvement in her vision. Roja plays around wearing glasses, goes to school like other children and Veeramma feels very happy about it. Her vision is not as good as the other children, but whatever new vision she now has, has changed her life significantly.

During the Support Group meeting where parents with children suffering from childhood cataract share their experiences, Veeramma could not hold back her tears of gratitude. She is so enthused with her experience that she uses it to persuade families with blind children to seek treatment at LVPEI.



Veeramma with her two children

Our Support in April

Bengaluru

Mr K Hari Hara Nath
Mr G Mallikharjun Rao/ GMR
Varalakshmi Foundation

Bhubaneswar

Mrs Kalpana Mohapatra

Delhi

Mr Ashok Jain / Shri Vidya Trust

Hyderabad

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Mr Dowraiswamy Domadaram
Mr Shreesh Dubey
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Mr Rajan Mani
Dr Raja Narayanan
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Pharm Aromatic Chemicals
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Mr Raavi Venkata Subbarao
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