



April 2018 at LVPEI

About eighteen months ago, we have decided to make the one-year period starting April 1, 2018, a “consolidation year” both at the institutional and individual level. After extensive deliberations, certain areas have been identified and each area is led by one among our group of future leaders. The objective is to bring about all the required changes to make our Institute better in everything. Fairly extensive planning has taken place and we are hopeful of achieving positive outcomes. This is very much required before we get into the next phase of our growth which has many exciting possibilities.

One area that we are going to concentrate is mid-level management since this group plays a pivotal role in the day-to-day functioning as well as in the expansion of our programmes. This month, the first workshop focused on “Intrapreneurship” was organised and led by Prof. Seshadri of the Indian School of Business. Several of our non-clinical Heads of Departments participated actively in this and are now moving forward in making appropriate refinements to make their work stress free while also making our systems more efficient and effective in some clearly defined priority areas. We are grateful to Prof. Seshadri for his generosity in providing this much needed mentorship.

Our “Academy for Eye Care Education” has begun to make the exercise of exit competency testing for the trainees better organised and more intensive; and this is being done with different groups separately. This serves as an excellent tool both to recognise high talent as well as to provide close monitoring and mentorship to those who can benefit from additional attention. Ultimately, this will benefit the trainee, the Institute, and most importantly contributes to better patient care. Kudos to Avinash Pathengay, Suryasnata Rath, Shrikant Bharadwaj and others on the faculty who have contributed to this important part of education.

We were invited by the Chief Minister of the state of Andhra Pradesh, to develop a major Centre of Excellence in Eye Care in the new capital city of Amaravati a few months ago. Following on this, the state government has allocated twelve acres of land. Groundbreaking will happen in the next few weeks. This will add considerably to our ability to realise our vision of creating a robust model of “high quality comprehensive eye care to all people” for the entire 150 million population in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. In addition, this will also considerably expand our capacity in education, which will relieve the pressure on our education programmes that are in high demand; and also expansion of research. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the government of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Minister.



We are used to our faculty garnering limelight with honours! However, our Institute is privileged to have such talent in just about every cadre of our group and they make us proud with their work. Our audio-visual technician, G. Srinivas is one such example. Gifted with unusual talent in photography, he creates magic with his simple telephone camera. He recently got his due when he won the “Rising Star” award by Pixoto photo website for his contribution “Smooth stones to guide persons visually impaired”. Congratulations to Srinivas for this honour so well deserved.

Cataract is the leading cause of blindness globally and India has the largest burden of this problem. While this can be treated successfully with effective and cost-effective surgery, awareness and then accessibility often remain major barriers and keep people needlessly blind. One such case is the story of 43 year old Venkata Ramana. Deaf and mute since birth and abandoned by her husband, she and her young daughter became dependent on her mother. She then became blind from cataract and completely lost her independence. Identified through our community screening programme near one of our secondary centres, Sudhakar and Srikanth Ravi Eye Centre in Prakasam district, she was successfully operated in both eyes free of cost. With her vision restored, she regained her independence and indeed encouraged her mother to get her cataracts operated too. Again, high quality services closer to the door step of the people can make a huge difference and transform lives.

- Gullapalli N. Rao

PS: My apologies for the delay in sending out this communication this month.