



## June 2018 at LVPEI

On June 1, we have celebrated the THIRTY FIRST Anniversary of our Institute. Much has happened during these years, and the Institute has evolved into one of the best comprehensive eye care institutions in the world encompassing every activity related to eye health. Clinical care touched millions with the highest possible quality; education fostered the careers of thousands; research touched many aspects of eye care and was impactful; vision rehabilitation transformed lives of thousands; and rural eye health created access to the highest quality care to thousands of villages in remote locations. Additionally, technology innovation is producing new tools; eye banking is becoming a model and a leader in the world; capacity building programmes are reaching out to all corners of India and many countries of the world, influencing the quality of eye care in those communities; product development is making available necessary products that are not commercially available in developing countries; and we are contributing to advocacy efforts at state, national and global levels in a significant way.

All this was possible because of the amazing team that we are gifted with and the supporters from everywhere in the world who believed in us. The results are obvious! While many members of our team enhance our image all the time, two individual examples stand out this month. Our Bio-Physicist, Ashik Mohamad, received the “2018 UNSW Alumni Award” for Young Alumni at the University of New South Wales. Ashik is a medical doctor who has taken the basic research route as his career choice and was greatly influenced by Jean-Marie Parel at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami. His main area of focus is Lens. The other is the invitation received by our young clinician-scientist in Retina, Jay Chhablani to the Editorial Board of American Journal of Ophthalmology (only the third one ever from India working in India). Jay has begun to work more intensively on several aspects of choroid – a relatively newer area of interest. These are reflections of the quality of our group that has gone into making our Institute what it is today.

Our technology innovation group's FITTLE, the first 3D Braille printed puzzle, won a Bronze Lion at the prestigious Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity 2018. This simple tool developed in partnership with Serviceplan and Ravensburger is gaining increasing popularity all over the world and getting widely disseminated.

Our primary care Vision Centre count reached 173 this month. What sets this apart is that for the first time support came from the Middle East from Mr. Khalifa Al Khalifa of Bahrain. This expansion of our support base is very encouraging, particularly for care at the primary level.

Several continuing professional development programmes were conducted in-house for different cadres. As the activities are multiplying at a rapid pace, the increasing need to enhance the competencies of staff is addressed by these programmes.

When someone from Los Angeles travelled to Hyderabad for his care, it certainly bears testimony to the quality of our team, the facilities we have, and the impact of our translational research efforts! This young gentleman was here to seek therapy for his recalcitrant corneal problem. Sayan Basu, provided the necessary care with surface stem cell transplantation that ended in a



positive outcome and a happy patient. Sayan is yet another of our young clinician-scientists who is pursuing research in the area of stem cell biology, in addition to being an excellent cornea specialist. He is the Head of our “Centre for Ocular Regeneration”.

All these activities highlight our commitment to promote excellence and equity; and also provide a glimpse of our efforts to promote a culture of “Clinician–Scientists”. The examples given here are from a larger cohort that we have – those who are spending at least 50 percent of their time in research, each one expanding the frontiers of knowledge. I wish to emphasize that each of our clinicians is involved in research and the Institute is committed to its promotion. We believe that a research outlook sharpens clinical acumen, and expands the reservoir of knowledge to the benefit of those to whom we provide care.

- Gullapalli N. Rao