



May 2019 at LVPEI

“Resilience” has always been an enduring strength of our Institute since its inception. This strong trait has once again come to our rescue when our Bhubaneswar Campus (Mithu Tulsi Chanrai Campus) had to face the nature’s wrath in the form of super cyclone “Fani”. High velocity winds and sand rain left the campus devastated with several hundred trees in the beautiful garden uprooted (a pride of our Institute). Obstructed roads and pathways, minor damages to the building, and loss of power supply for many days, led to suspension of all our patient care services for a few days. The city roads were blocked and transportation became difficult and hazardous. Fortunately, there were no human casualties. Since no help was available from external agencies, our team rolled up their sleeves and made the campus functional in a short span of four days. Once again, we could see how the spirit of “togetherness” did wonders. Thanks to each member of our team who made us proud with their spirit of service.

The six monthly “Exit Competency” exercise, held for the fellows in comprehensive ophthalmology and the residents, focussed on retinal pathology and ocular inflammation. These events have added yet another layer of rigor to our education programmes, thanks to Avinash Pathengay and his team.

Other activities of the “Academy for Eye Care Education” included a focussed and advanced workshop for paediatric ophthalmologists on “Strabismus Surgery”. Twenty two specialists from across the country benefitted from this workshop. Case presentations, interaction with experts and demonstration of surgical techniques formed the content of the course. Another event was a course in “optical dispensing” in collaboration with the Brien Holden Vision Institute of Australia. First of its kind, the curriculum included optical dispensing skills coupled with client centric behaviour and soft skills.

The “Institute for Vision Rehabilitation” continues in its efforts to expand the horizons of realizing the potential of the visually challenged. A workshop was organized in the area of tactile paintings and the result was some spectacular pieces of art work.

As part of the Global Retinoblastoma (childhood eye cancer) week, the second edition of our “Whitathon” was organized. This is to raise awareness among the public about eye cancer and mobilize support for the treatment of children from underprivileged families. Over 3,000 participated in this event inaugurated by the Governor of the State, Hon’ble E S L Narasimhan. Several activities were conducted in other campuses also.

Our Institute has an enviable collection of art adorning our walls across our network adding a special dimension of aesthetics to our campuses. This was because of the unusual privilege we had of an “Artist in Residence”. Surya Prakash, one of India’s foremost artistes had his studio on our Hyderabad campus since almost our inception. Art has become a regular feature of our Institute and several pieces of art were created, both through his creativity and the talent that he invited from across India to multiple artist camps he conducted here. The Institute was shocked when Surya passed away suddenly from a cardiac problem leaving a large void in our Institute. While we will miss him, his presence will always be felt because of the indelible legacy that he left on the image of the Institute.

- Gullapalli N. Rao