



## **November 2019 at LVPEI**

Philanthropic support has been our greatest strength throughout LVPEI's journey. The support that came in the form of funds and in-kind donations has been used exclusively for expansion and development of all the functional components in the Institute. The generosity of many individuals and organizations from different corners of the world has made this phenomenal growth possible. This month we have added another country to the list - Abu Dhabi. A gentleman from this country came to our Institute seeking eye care. Impressed by what he saw, he and his sons expressed interest to support our work. Following discussions, the family decided to support the procurement of a state of the art "Digital slide scanner" for our Ophthalmic Pathology laboratory. The huge volume of material that we generate can now be scanned, studied and preserved at much lesser time. This enhances our ability to archive, diagnose, teach and do research better. The teaching can also extend to any location worldwide. We are grateful to Mr. Ahmed Abdulla Al Hameli and his family for this munificence.

Speaking of research, our biologist, Samhita Roy received acclamation for "Exceptionally good review" by the journal, Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science. An article on "Alterations in the gut bacterial microbiome in fungal keratitis patients" authored by Shivaji, our Director of Research, has been ranked as the top 10 percent most cited articles. Recognitions like these are a great encouragement for our work.

Yet another of our clinician-scientists, Aparna Rao received her PhD this month. She is the second among our clinicians to have completed Ph.D. Congratulations to her for completing this while carrying a full load of clinical work. We are indeed proud of the work of our clinician-scientists.

The "Advanced Pediatric Cornea Workshop" and the first of its kind "Corneal Neurotization" surgery during the workshop were a great attraction to several corneal specialists from across India. Faculty included well known figures like Prof. Ken Nischal from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh; Prof. Christina Prescott from Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University; and Dr. Asim Ali from the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto. The 55th edition of the Indian Contact Lens Programme and the Preceptorship programme in the management of Glaucoma were the other main education events, in addition to a few CPD programmes for our staff. We also had several visiting professors from around the world.

A team from Jefferson University and Wills Eye Institute visited us to discuss various possibilities of collaboration in diverse areas. The projects identified offer promise.

The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare (NABH) granted its approval to our tertiary care campus in Vijayawada (Kode Venkatadri Chowdary Campus). With this, we have this accreditation for all our tertiary care hospitals. This exercise has helped to fill some gaps and sharpened our quality.



On the honours front, the most exciting of these was the “Dr G Venkataswamy Gold Medal for Ophthalmology” awarded to our resident, Sashwanthi Mohan who received the top rank in the National Boards Examination for the degree of DNB in Ophthalmology. Our Research Director, Shivaji was elected as Fellow of the prestigious “National Zoological Society”; and Subhabrata Chakrabarti was elected as Fellow of ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology). Somasheila Murthy got the best poster award at the International Ocular Inflammation Society (IOIS) meeting; Vivek Dave, Komal Agarwal and Bhavik Panchal won awards in the Retina Brain quiz and video contest at the Asia-Pacific Vitreo-retina Society Meeting.

The 'Children's Eye Care Week' was organized across the LVPEI network, with a series of activities to raise awareness about 'Cataract in children'. The integrated fun camp organized by the Vision Rehabilitation centre is a highly sought after annual event and was attended by over 470 clients and their family members, volunteers and LVPEI team members.

The story of Banu Prakash, a 7 year old child with cerebral palsy is heart-warming. He was identified through community based rehabilitation programme in 2014 and has been undergoing early intervention therapies at our rehabilitation centre. While there was improvement in his overall development, he required a neurosurgical procedure to improve his motor skills. The family could not afford the expenditure, and several LVPEI staff and volunteers came forward to meet the surgical costs. He recovered well and is now able to walk independently, leading to a vast improvement in his quality of life. This is an example of togetherness and generosity on the home front!

- Gullapalli N. Rao