



December 2019 at LVPEI

December ended with further expansion of our activities that have been so symbolic of the past decade. During the decade, our network of centres expanded at a significant pace, with at least one primary care vision centre getting added each month, and more than one secondary care rural centre each year. In addition, during this past decade, we have added one more tertiary centre, thus enhancing the coverage at this level of eye care along the east coast of India between Kolkata and Chennai. The 182nd and 183rd vision centres were inaugurated during this month. The 20th secondary centre in Siddipet started to function on the December 23. By the time of formal inauguration planned specifically for January 20, 2020, this 20th secondary centre has already provided services to nearly 1000 out patients and registered over 125 for surgical care. On December 23, the foundation was laid for yet another tertiary centre in Kadapa right in the heart of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh, a region deprived of high quality health services for a long time. The Chief Minister of the State, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy, laid the formal foundation. His personal encouragement to create this centre and allocation of 9.25 acres of land by the government made this possible.

The New Year 2020 is special for all those involved in eye care in the world; and as we ended the year and moved to 2020, our Institute can be justifiably proud of its contributions to the global initiative, the VISION 2020: The Right to Sight programme at the global, national and state levels in a variety of ways. Not only through our network, but also through working in partnership with several involved in the global and national programmes, we have contributed significantly for the elimination of needless blindness.

Quality has been the hall mark of each of our activities. The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH) officially accredited our Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus in Vijayawada this month. With this, we now have that official stamp of approval for each of our tertiary care centres. Congratulations to the entire staff of our KVC campus and the Quality team!

Our Suven clinical research centre has received a shot in the arm through a first of its kind Wellcome Trust-Department of Biotechnology Grant in partnership with the prestigious Indian Institute of Management of Ahmedabad and the Public Health Foundation of India. This is to set up a Centre of Excellence in Health outcomes, Research and Economics. Congratulations to Raja Narayanan for leading this effort!

We had our annual graduation day celebration of the Standard Chartered-LVPEI Academy amidst much gaiety. Diplomas were awarded to 271 graduates from various streams of education in the presence of their families and faculty. Renowned vaccine biologist and former Chairman of the University Grants Commission, Prof. Virander Chauhan was the Chief Guest. He gave an inspiring message to all the graduating students.



Also on the Education front were many continuing education programmes. We have hosted the inaugural meeting of the Indian Pediatric Glaucoma Society. Over 100 glaucoma specialists participated from all over India and other countries including Bangladesh, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. The international faculty included Dr. Arif O Khan, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi; Dr. Maria Papadopoulos, Moorfield Eye Hospital in UK; Dr. Algis Vingrys, from the University of Melbourne, Australia; Dr. Amani AlBakri and Dr. Nayef AlObaity from the King Khaled Eye Specialist Hospital, Riyadh.

The fourth edition of Bhubaneswar cadaver course on ophthalmic plastic surgery and continuing Rehabilitation Education programmes were the other events.

Numerous individuals have received laurels, both international and national. We congratulate all these individuals for their contribution to enhance our image. Our Technology innovation group got a boost when one of the nascent additions “OM (Order of Magnitude)”, an intelligent vision screening device won the NASSCOM Tech 4 good health care prize at the national level.

To cap all our decade long activities and achievements, the “Times of India” survey once again ranked us as the number One Eye Hospital in the country for the third successive year.

Through the expansion and advances we have made during this past decade, we could touch the lives of millions, as highlighted by the story of a twenty five year old woman from a rural village in Odisha. When she came to our secondary centre in Rajgangpur (an addition to our network during this past decade), she had a history of sudden loss of vision in both eyes of two years duration. She was diagnosed with ocular tuberculosis. With appropriate anti-tuberculosis therapy for a few months followed by cataract surgery in one eye she was different person with a bright smile. This was possible because of the way we have structured our secondary care that is further strengthened by the visits of specialists offering services that are in the realm of tertiary care. As we move into 2020 and beyond, we are hopeful of increasing this kind of impact on a larger number of people directly and even more indirectly.

- Gullapalli N Rao