



November 2020 at LVPEI

The big news this month is the ranking of India's hospitals by "The Week" magazine. Our Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam campuses were all ranked among the top 15 in the country with the Hyderabad's Kallam Anji Reddy Campus being number 2 behind the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. The dedication of all our teams through this difficult period of pandemic deserve special applause. The focus on "reconciling Excellence with Equity" remained unwavering. Congratulations to the teams of each of the campuses!

Our Visakhapatnam GMR Varalakshmi campus was awarded A+ grade for quality by the State Government's Health Care Programme. This has implications on the support for services.

The addition of new services continued with the inauguration of the "Hima Bindu Yalamanchili Centre for Eye Cancer" at our Vijayawada's Kode Venkatadri Chowdary campus. Mrs. Ratna Thulasi and Dr. Basaveswara Rao Yalamanchili funded the creation of this Centre in memory of their daughter whose life was shortened by parotid cancer. Mr. Gautam Sawang, Director General of Police of the State of Andhra Pradesh did the Honours. Dr. Anasua Ganguly will be leading this centre. This is the first such centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh with a population of over 50 million and will play an important role in the care of eye cancer in the state, especially Retinoblastoma, the main cause of eye cancer in children. Care will be available to everyone irrespective of their ability to pay in conformity with our Institute's policy and practice. We are grateful to the Yalamanchilis for their munificence.

Our Standard Chartered - LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education continued its very vibrant activity hosting 93 webinars for various cadres and 8213 trainees attended these. The webinars covered multiple niche areas of ophthalmology and optometry. This activity will continue in future months.

This month we have harvested 474 corneas enabling 411 corneal transplants across the country. The success of our eye banking programme is due to the generous and inspiring gestures of bereaved families and the confidence given to them by our team with their quality of work. The following note from the daughter of a donor illustrates this so well - "My mother was my best friend and the wind beneath my wings. She was my father's soulmate, and they were together for 57 years. She always wanted to donate her eyes so that someone else can benefit from them. The LVPEI team respectfully visited our house on the day of her death to collect the corneas of both her eyes. It is indeed gratifying to know that a part of my mother is still alive and helping others. The wonderfully worded thank you letter that we received was very comforting during this difficult time of my life. The amazing work you are all doing is making a great difference in so many lives".

Research activity resumed to almost pre-Covid levels with all the laboratories open. As in the past few months, this month again there was a harvest of about 50 publications. Prof. Balasubramanian (Balu), our Director Emeritus of Research was honoured by his alma mater, the prestigious Birla Institute of Technology, Pilani (BITS) with the appointment as "Distinguished Adjunct Professor". This is in recognition of his outstanding contributions to diverse aspects of biology research.

Rashmi Krishna Murthy received the first prize in the video competition of the “Ocular Trauma Society of India”. Congratulations to Balu and Rashmi.

Finally, the story of Dr. Fallah Moses, a general surgeon at the John F. Kennedy Medical Center in the Liberian capital city of Monrovia is yet another validation of the value provided by our programme. Dr. Moses narrated his experience as follows: “My visual problem began in the right eye with the appearance of a little dark spot. It felt like looking through thick plastic. I was diagnosed with cataract, and later glaucoma. As the vision in my left eye was not so bad, I continued working as a surgeon. But knowing that the result of glaucoma is blindness and cataract was already leading its way to visual impairment, I was scared. Even after a couple of surgeries (performed by visiting doctors), several eye drops and injections, my vision continued to worsen.” Eleven years later, when the Liberia Eye Centre started its services, Dr Moses was operated at the centre by an ophthalmologist from LVPEI. “The surgery was very successful, and surprisingly, there was no postoperative pain. The improved sight makes me feel much younger. I am relieved to have finally won the fight to save my vision,” concluded Dr Moses.

- Gullapalli N. Rao