



March 2021 at LVPEI

Yet another year ended for us on March 31st, but this ending was different. We entertained the fervent hope of seeing the back of COVID-19 pandemic based on the steady decline in volume of cases during this quarter. The rapid surge of cases noticed at the end of the month dampened this optimism, however.

But we have positive news! While the financial year started with many challenges for the Institute last March, it ended on a very encouraging note on numerous fronts. During this March, many new monthly records were set for patient volumes across all tiers of care in the network, with the primary vision centres and secondary centres in rural locations leading the way. The revenue from paying patients followed this pattern ultimately leading to complete recovery of our financial health by the end of the financial year. Many friends and supporters came forward with funding for a variety of projects during this month that helped in the continuation of projects. New partnerships were initiated and long term partners continued to contribute.

The inauguration of the “Glaucoma Education Programme” and “Glaucoma Research Centre” in memory of late Dr. Usha Kumar, a long term friend and supporter, further boosted our glaucoma programme at our Hyderabad campus. We are indebted to Dr. Kumar for making us part of her legacy giving. At the other end of the pyramid, the vision centre programme continued to expand with the addition of four more new-generation, technology-enabled centres in Andhra Pradesh as part of the Standard Chartered grant. This has taken the tally now to 206 vision centres spread over four states.

Our Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system, developed in-house, has now reached one million patient consultations across 42 customer locations globally. The demand for this system is increasing from many countries, and it is a good sign for the future of this programme. Kudos to Dr. Antony Vipin Das, Ranganath and their team. They will be soon moving to an expanded space in a new Technology building at our Gullapalli Pratibha Rao campus in Hyderabad that will enable them to meet the increasing demand.

Vijaya Kumari Gothwal, Head of our “Outcomes Research” unit was ranked among the top 200 global optometry researchers by the reputed journal, Clinical and Experimental Optometry. Vijaya has been a consistent high performer among our researchers. Congratulations to Vijaya on her well-deserved recognition.

Congratulations are also due to younger members of the research group, Jayasudha Rajagopalaboopathi, Ranjit Konduri and Mukesh Damala for the Honours they have received.

All these research efforts also ended in a very productive publication year – a total of 569 peer reviewed publications. Our compliments to Dr. Sayan Basu, the new Director of Research, and the entire group of researchers from our multi-disciplinary research group.



The feedback we receive from our patients and trainees is a gauge of the impact of our efforts. It was a boon for the children waiting for surgery at our Liberia Eye Center, when the center received the long awaited Universal Anesthesia Machine, Three year old Gloria and 5-year old Wilsonline were first to undergo treatment and benefit from this new facility. Availability of safe anesthesia equipment is a significant healthcare challenge in Liberia. Received with funding support from Latter-day Saint Charities, this is a unique anesthesia machine designed for a low-resource setting. “It is a delight to watch Gloria and Wilsonline giggle and play” says Dr. Gurucharan Singh, who treated them.

Ms. Andrea Orji, who came to our Institute in Hyderabad to conduct public health research, through the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), has this to say about her experience. “At the end of a full day of seeing patients, sometimes I’d tear up. The way the hospital prioritized care for everyone, regardless of income or background, was mind-blowing to me. They managed to combine all the things I had been thinking about. I knew that this was what I wanted to do. It led me to wonder if the methods used by LVPEI’s hospitals to improve accessibility could also be applied in Nigeria.”

– Gullapalli N. Rao