



Among the various **eye disorders in newborns and young children**, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and Amblyopia are major ones. Early detection and treatment can prevent permanent vision loss. The **Newborn Eye Health Alliance (NEHA)**, inaugurated at LVPEI Bhubaneswar in March 2017 by **Mrs Abha Dalmia and Mr M H Dalmia** - Former President, OCL, is playing a critical role in this.

LVPEI is the only pioneering centre in Odisha offering comprehensive pediatric retinal imaging, neonatal intensive care and the complete range of ROP services. Till date, 9,236 newborn babies have been screened for ROP, 338 babies (606 eyes) have received laser treatment, 206 babies (397 eyes) injected (anti-VEGF), 70 babies (104 eyes) operated upon, as also ROP screening being done in 11 out of 30 districts in the state, and the team churning out 9 publications on ROP management.

In collaboration with **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**, LVPEI has scaled up the ROP services to 8 districts of Odisha, with 3 districts now screening and treating ROP independently. The unit is also providing mentoring support to eye care professionals in India, Nigeria and Bangladesh. LVPEI has also received significant support from the **Cognizant Foundation** and **The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust**.

Awards and honours



Dr Vijaya Gothwal, Head - Outcomes Research Unit at LVPEI, is listed for her research work in the **Global Optometrist Top 200 Research Ranking** by the internationally reputed journal - Clinical and Experimental Optometry. While there are 3 other Indians on the list (who work outside India), she is the only one who made it to this elite list through her work in India.

Dr Subhadra Jalali: Received the 'Hyderabad Women Achievers' Award in the field of medicine at the Hyderabad Women Achievers Conclave.



Dr G S Ramani: Received the Best Picture prize in the photography contest organized by The Glaucoma Society of India

Dr Swati Singh: Appointed to the editorial board of Annals of Anatomy.



PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr Jayasudha Rajagopalaboopathi and **Dr Ranjit Konduri** receive the Indian Council of Medical Research - 'Young Scientist Award'

Travel grants from The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology: **Sushma Vishwakarma** (Kreissig Travel Grant); **Lalit Kishore Ahirwar** and **Jayashree Gandhi** (ARVO International Travel Grant)

Mukesh Damala awarded the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - Senior Research Fellowship in the medical science category

Updates



Dr Usha Kumar Glaucoma Education Program and **Dr Usha Kumar Glaucoma Research Centre** were inaugurated to commemorate the support extended by the late Dr Usha Kumar - a renowned scholar, an avid teacher and a former patient at LVPEI. Her nephew **Mr Sanjaya Mathur** and elder sister Mrs Sneha Mathur inaugurated the new initiatives in her loving memory.

With the inauguration of **four new vision centres**, the **Primary Eye Care network** has **expanded to 206 centres**. The new centres were inaugurated in the West and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh, courtesy - **Standard Chartered Bank**.



Sri Krothapalli Sitaramaiah & Smt Pushpavathi Vision Centre in Amruthalur at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, on the occasion of its 9th Anniversary, was upgraded to a **Technology Enabled Vision Centre**; courtesy: **Prof Krothapalli Ravindranath**, in memory of his father Sri Krothapalli Satyanarayana. Initial support for the centre came from **Latter-day Saint Charities, USA** and **Prof Krothapalli Anjaneyulu** (for the premises).

Award-winning in-house developed **eyeSmart EMR** - Electronic Medical Record System - reached one million patient consultations across 42 customer locations - globally.



Training

The **Standard Chartered-LVPEI Academy for Eye Care Education** hosted 15 webinars benefiting over 764 trainees. Three of the webinars were awarded credit points by the Telangana Medical Council (webinars - Therapeutic PK and Occuloplasty) and the Optometry Council of India (webinar on low vision).

Raising Awareness

Glaucoma Awareness Week: A Q&A with Experts was organized on social media. The audience were asked to post their concerns and queries, which were later answered by our expert panel. The aim was to raise awareness among the general public about early diagnosis and treatment of Glaucoma, also known as the silent thief of vision.

World Tuberculosis Day: A focused social media campaign was run to raise awareness about ocular (eye) TB, its symptoms and treatment.



Extracts from an interview with **Andrea Orji**, who through the **MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) came to LVPEI Hyderabad to conduct public health research. "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."



Liberia Eye Center receives its first **Universal Anesthesia Machine**

Availability of safe anesthesia equipment is a significant healthcare challenge in Liberia. So, it was a momentous feat when the Liberia Eye Centre finally received its own Universal Anesthesia Machine, thanks to years of relentless efforts and the funding received from Latter-day Saint Charities. This is a unique anesthesia machine designed for a **low-resource setting**. It has rechargeable batteries that last up to 6-8 hours; highly beneficial in times of power-cut. And, its in-built oxygen concentrator can extract oxygen from atmospheric air, hence obviating the need for a medical oxygen cylinder. With this machine, the Liberia Eye Center has become the only facility in the region providing need-based assessment and surgery under general anesthesia by trained ophthalmologists. Gloria, aged 3, and Wilsonline, aged 5, are the first two beneficiaries of this newly launched service that will benefit many more children and adults in the coming years. "It is a delight to watch Gloria and Wilsonline giggle and play," says their treating doctor, Dr Gurcharan Singh.

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Support research in the area of vision-threatening eye conditions. Donations made to **LVPEI's Hyderabad Eye Research Foundation** enjoy 100% tax exemption.



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