



Dr. Prem Satgunam enjoying Ohio's colorful fall at Mirror Lake circa 2007.

“A large part of Ohio State is still with me,” she said. “Sometimes, I close my eyes and can still see the fall colors.”

Returning Home

With her master's and doctoral degrees completed, Dr. Satgunam received additional post-doctoral research training with the famous vision scientist Prof. Eli Peli, at Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard Medical School. Upon completion of this training, she returned to India to advance the optometric profession as a researcher, clinician, and instructor.

“I knew that I wanted to return to India, even before I left India,” she said. “My mind was fixed.”

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Dr. Satgunam

Her six-day (often seven-day during the pandemic) work week consists of long, yet rewarding days.

“Even before the pandemic, unless you are a workaholic, it is difficult to enjoy work/life balance in India,” she explained. “I take time for yoga and social activities, and prior to the pandemic, I volunteered at an orphanage. For me, I think the fact that I enjoy working makes it more of a challenge to achieve work/work balance ... balancing projects in different clinical areas of research.”

Dr. Satgunam sees the future of optometry each day as she educates India's future eye doctors, and she passes along a little bit of BuckEYE spirit to them with each lesson.