India Vision Institute
LEADING THE CHANGE

News Letter

April - 2016

Message from the CEO

I am delighted to see that the Indian optometry community is thriving. Several recent leadership initiatives such as the Masterclass Optometry, the well-attended Kolkata Optometry Conference and the National Clinical Optometry Conference speak extremely well for the profession. The outstanding calibre of optometry students and the immediate uptake of graduates into the workforce are also very encouraging signs for the future of Optometry in India.

In the last two months, the IVI team has screened 6,422 children and 408 community members, all from underprivileged communities. Some of them could hardly see without glasses and I am thankful for the generosity of our supporters including Australian Consulate Chennai, Australian Consulate Mumbai, Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI), Cooper Vision, Essilor Vision Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight that makes it possible to help these people. With BHVI launching the global "Our Children's Vision" program in New York on April 12, 2016 and IVI coordinating the Indian aspect of the program, we are confident that between our campaign partners in India and us, we can make a difference to the lives of millions of underprivileged children across India over the coming years.

Leadership and Awareness with regard to Optometry have been among the focus areas for IVI, and we are delighted to announce the list of 10 promising young leaders who will join the fourth batch of IVI Young Leaders Program in 2016. By 2017, this program will have trained fifty young leaders to take the profession forward over the next few decades.

Prominent actress Nandita Das, Australian Consul General Mark Pierce and over 700 enthusiastic students and concerned individuals walked along the Worli Sea Face, Mumbai on 20 March to spread awareness on uncorrected refractive error and preventable blindness in India, as well as the role of Optometrists in combating these issues. The strong media interest in this "Walk in the Dark" initiative as well as prior walks in Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi have greatly assisted in spreading the message to tens of millions of people. We are delighted that Essilor India is partnering with us in organizing a similar awareness walk in Bangalore in October 2016, and I very much look forward to working with other partners to take this initiative to different cities in India.

I look forward to working closely with our initiators LV Prasad Eye Institute and Brien Holden Vision Institute as well as all our other sponsors, supporters and optometry colleagues over the coming months and years. Please pencil in 11-13 September, 2017 to join us at the second World Congress of Optometry in Hyderabad to celebrate the whole optometry world coming to India and be part of this event of a lifetime.

Vinod Daniel

Low Vision Awareness Program Plus

The 35th Low Vision Awareness Program Plus (LAP +) was conducted by the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in association with New England College of Optometry, Boston, USA and the India Vision Institute (IVI) from 9 to 11 March 2016.

7 Low Vision Practitioners from School of Allied Health Sciences - Manipal, Nagar School of Optometry - Ahmedabad, MIOT Hospitals - Chennai, Narayana Nethralaya - Bangalore, Techno India (Salt Lake) and Academy of Optometrists from Kolkata participated in the program along with other attendees from LVPEI.

Facilitated by Dr Nicole C Ross and Dr Alexis G Malkin from New England College of Optometry-Boston, USA, the workshop focused on Low Vision rehabilitation, management of scotomas and micro-perimetry, usage of apps and other assistive technology in vision rehabilitation and Cortical vision impairment in a Pediatric Low Vision population, and its unique management challenges.

IVI is an initiative of

Brien Holden Vision Institute

LVPEI
So that all may see
LV Prasad Eye Institute

Walk in the Dark, Mumbai

Ms Nandita Das, noted actress and social activist, led the Walk in the Dark organized in partnership with the Australian Consul General, Mumbai at Worli Sea Face, Mumbai on 20 March, to raise awareness about 'preventable' blindness and the importance of eye care.

Walking 'blindfolded' and led by visually impaired students, Ms Das was joined by Australian Consul General for Western India, Mr Mark Pierce; Director, Lawrence and Mayo, Mr Vivek Mendonsa and the IVI CEO, Mr Vinod Daniel along with other dignitaries. Over 700 students, opinion makers and people from all walks of life also enthusiastically participated in the Walk to spread the message of eye care.

The participants included students from the National Association for the Blind, Smt Kamla Mehta School for the Blind, Nayan Foundation, Salvation Army Working Blind Men's Hostel, SNDT Women's University, ITM Mumbai, Krishna Eye Centre, Lotus College of Optometry, Hari Jyot College of Optometry as well as several local optometry practitioners, opticians and representatives of the eye care industry.

IVI acknowledges the support of the Australian Consul General, Mumbai in funding the program. Coordination support from Lawrence & Mayo, National Association for the Blind, Smt Kamla Mehta School for the Blind, Krishna Eye Centre and other institutes as mentioned above is also acknowledged.

Watch 'In conversation with Vinod Daniel' video series on IVI YouTube channel

Episode 28 - Ms Monica Chaudhry - HoD, Optometry, Amity University, Gurgaon

www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute

Optometry Education & Career Program at Tirunelveli

On 23 March 2016, IVI organized an Optometry Education and Career program for the third year optometry students and interns at Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital & Research Institute, Tirunelveli. The students are undergoing a clinical internship at the institute.

40 students attended the program facilitated by IVI Program Manager Mr Revanth Kumar. The group comprised students from two institutes: the Al-Shifa Institute of Paramedical Sciences at Malappuram, Kerala and Grace College of Health & Management at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

The students appreciated the multiple benefits of the seminar. It helped them understand the broader landscape of optometry in India, as well as the scope of the profession, giving them more options in terms of career development.

Faculty Support Program (FSP): Geometrical Optics

Mr Darshan Dave, Lecturer, Nagar School of Optometry, Ahmedabad, attended the 13 day FSP on Geometrical Optics from 21 March to 2 April. Hosted at the LVPEI-KAR campus, the program was facilitated by Dr L S Varadharajan, Research Scientist, Visual Optics and Psychophysics Laboratory, LVPEI.

The program focused on curriculum planning, assessment patterns, and scope for research in Geometrical Optics for faculty, as well as students, to undertake. Entailing discussions and key notes from an academic perspective in Geometrical Optics, the program covered practical lecture delivery methods, identification of available resources and recognizing various evaluation patterns. Mr Dave appreciated the firsthand experience that the program provided.

IVI is thankful to the institutions that have hosted past FSPs which have benefitted 16 attendees so far. The institutions are Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, Maharashtra; School of Allied Health Sciences (SOAHS), Manipal, Karnataka and L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Telangana

The program has been awarded 20 CE points by Optometry Council of India.

IVI acknowledges the support of Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight in funding the program

IVI Takes Eye Care Awareness to Palavakkam Beach

As part of its awareness campaign, IVI set up an eye care awareness board at Palavakkam beach, at the end of March. This board carries an eye care message in Tamil and English to connect with the local residents and a large number of tourists. Displaying a new message every two months, IVI plans to set up similar boards across the city to spread the message.

IVI invites partners in its mission to create awareness about eye care.

Kolkata Optometry Conference & Trade Fair

Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of IVI, attended the Kolkata Optometry Conference & Trade Fair held at Science City Auditorium, Kolkata from 16 to 18 April, 2016. He gave the keynote speech titled "Indian Optometry Current Landscape & from where to here". The event was organized by the West Bengal Association for Optometrists and Graduate Optometrist's Association. IVI also sponsored a talk by Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj on Optometry & Scope of Research. The conference had over 600 attendees, including individuals from the optometry industry, educational institutions and also students.

Optometry Distribution List (OptDistList)

Contributions are invited from Optometry and the wider eye care community for OptDistList, an IVI bi-weekly e magazine featuring developments in eye care. Running since 2014, it has 1860 subscribers. Check out the latest 26th edition on the IVI website **www.indiavisioninstitute.org/optdistlist.php**

To subscribe or contribute, please email **info@indiavisioninstitute.org**

IVI Job Portal - www.eyecarejobs.in

Launched in September 2014, IVI's sector-specific job portal is available free of cost to both recruiters and job seekers. This industry and education support initiative has over 300 registered members.

Optometry students and practitioners across India are invited to sign up. Companies wishing to advertise a current job opening can forward details to **ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org**

IVI is a member of

World Council of Optometry
Asia Pacific Council of Optometry
VISION 2020 - The Right to Sight - India
Indo Australian Association
Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce

Australian Dignitaries Distribute Spectacles to School Children

IVI distributed spectacles to 27 students of Dhanalakshmi High School, Tondiarpet, Chennai on 22 April 2016. Ms Sophie Craig and Svetha Venkatram from the Australian Consulate, Chennai, Ms Rita Holt from DFAT, Canberra and Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of IVI participated in the distribution which helped improve the quality of life and learning ability of the school children who were struggling without glasses.

Young Leaders Program YLP 2016-17

The names of ten successful candidates for YLP (Round IV) were announced in Hyderabad on Wednesday, 27 April 2016.

1. Anup Zimba - Operation Eye-sight Universal, Siliguri
2. Niranjan Sharan - Lawrence & Mayo, Hyderabad
3. Nirav Mehta - Hari Jyot College of Optometry, Navsari
4. P. Hari Kumar - L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
5. Phani Krishna Athreya - Amity Medical School, Gurgaon
6. Ramesh Shukla - Riti Eyecare Hospital, Rewari
7. Riswan Rasheed - Giridhar Eye Institute, Kochi
8. Shreya Agrawal - R.P. Centre of Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi
9. Venkatesh L. - Shreya Eyecare Centre, Hyderabad
10. Sandhya Shekar - India Vision Institute

The program will provide the participants an unmatched opportunity to build networks among the Indian Optometry community. It will also give them a deeper understanding of their role in elevating the standard and reach of eye care in India.

IVI acknowledges the support of 'Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation' and 'Optometry Giving Sight' in funding the program

DONATE Online

For as little as Rs 500,
- You can help screen the vision of 10 needy children and provide spectacles
- Help an adult to work to their full potential

You could also support initiatives to ensure excellence in eye care:
- Creating a pool of young eye care leaders
- Strengthening Optometry education & research
- Creating awareness about eye care

To donate online or for additional information, please visit www.indiavisioninstitute.org

All donations shall qualify for deductions u/s 80 G of the Income Tax Act 1961.

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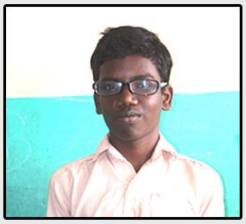
The Inspiring Story of Chinna Raj - OCV Brings Better Sight to Children

"I can now watch the news channels" – a beaming Chinna Raj replied on being asked about how he felt after wearing spectacles. 14 years old, Chinna is a student of class X at Government Adi Dravida Welfare High School, Palavakkam, Chennai. An ardent follower of TV news channels, Chinna was having trouble pursuing his favourite pastime, experiencing difficulty in seeing the clock and blackboard in the classroom. He also suffered from occasional headaches and blurred vision. A simple pair of spectacles was all he needed.



Many children like Chinna will benefit from 'Our Children's Vision' a Global campaign led by Brien Holden Vision Institute to ensure that our children are healthy and productive through access to vision and eye-care services. The campaign will deliver appropriate, accessible and quality eye care to 50 million children globally by 2020 and aims to generate evidence for effective advocacy and policy change with governments and other stakeholders to integrate eye health into school health.

IVI is facilitating 'Our Children's Vision' India campaign to screen the vision of 10 million children in India. While one million children will be screened by IVI, an additional 9 million will be screened through IVI's campaign partners in the next five years. So far the campaign has 5 partners and IVI is working on building more partnerships.

To join this exciting campaign, please email ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

Outreach Initiatives - Screening and Spectacle Distribution

	Children	Community	Total
No. of Programs	69	18	87
Individuals Screened	22846	35435	58281
Spectacles Distributed	1450	4530	5980

Speciality Fitting in Contact Lens Workshop

IVI conducted a one-day workshop on "Speciality Fitting in Contact Lenses" on 3 May at Hyderabad, facilitated by Mr Parthasarathi Kalaiselvan, PhD scholar, University of New South Wales and Mr Preetam Kumar, Associate Optometrist, LVPEI.

The workshop focused on soft contact lens pre- and post-fitting evaluation, RGP and other contact lens options for keratoconus, scleral lenses and complications pertaining to soft, RGP and scleral contact lenses.

25 participants including students, educators and practitioners from University of Hyderabad; Dr. D Y Patil Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Pune; Lawrence and Mayo, Hyderabad and Mumbai; and Rajsan Eye and Contact Lens Clinic, Mumbai attended the workshop.

The program has been awarded 05 CE points by Optometry Council of India.

OUR CHILDREN'S VISION

Upcoming Programs and Registration Deadlines

Program	Date and Venue	Registration Deadline
1) Online seminar for optometry professionals: Prof Graham Erickson - Pacific University, on "Refractive Prescribing for Athletes"	20 May	19 May
2) Online seminar series for Institutional Development: Dr. Shrikant Bharadwaj - LVPEI, on "Research: an approachable territory"	26 May	25 May
3) Online seminar for optometry professionals: Prof. Monica Chaudhry - Amity Medical School, on "Rose K fitting for irregular corneas"	End of May or Early June	NA
4) Young Leaders Program YLP 2016-17	11 and 12 June	NA

EYE SEE & I LEARN

• IVI conducted vision screening programs at 14 schools for underprivileged children in Chennai, Tirunelveli, Namakkal and Salem in Tamil Nadu and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh. 239 students among 4237 screened received free spectacles. IVI optometrists Mr Revanth Kumar and Ms Sony Singh conducted the screening program. IVI partnered with Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Salem and Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital & Research Institute, Tirunelveli to conduct the program. IVI acknowledges the support of Australian Consul General, Chennai for funding this program.

• IVI conducted vision screening programs at 4 schools for underprivileged children in Navsari, Gujarat and 2 schools in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. 26 students among 963 screened and 82 students among 648 screened received free spectacles, respectively. IVI optometrist Mr Chandra Shekher conducted the screening programs. IVI partnered with Hari Jyot College of Optometry - Rotary Eye Institute, Navasari and Mundada ENT & Eye Care Centre, MEECC School of Optometry, Aurangabad to conduct the program. IVI acknowledges the support of Australian Consul General, Mumbai for funding this program

• IVI conducted vision screening programs at 10 schools for underprivileged children in Chennai. 176 students among 2379 screened received free spectacles. IVI optometrists Mr Revanth Kumar, Ms Sony Singh and Mr Chandra Sheker conducted the screening programs. IVI acknowledges the support of Cooper Vision and Optometry Giving Sight for funding this program

EYE SEE & I WORK

• 182 free spectacles were distributed to the flood victims in Kolathur as part of the Flood Relief Screening Program conducted in Chennai. Several screenings were conducted across Chennai in the areas of Palavakkam, Madipakkam, Pallikaranai, Kotturpuram and Saidapet. IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles towards this initiative.

• IVI also conducted vision screening programs for 179 minimum/daily wage workers at Athanur and Padappai in Tamil Nadu. IVI partnered with Krupa Foundation in organising this program.

What People Say About IVI

• "Congratulations!!! This initiative is well spoken of by the optician fraternity and we are appreciative of your effort in spreading awareness." - ***Mr P Ramachandran, Group COO, Essilor India Pvt Ltd on the IVI Walk in the Dark, Mumbai***

• "The program was very well-designed and organized. A great overall experience, the program provided me opportunities to learn new things and discuss my doubts related to my subject." – ***Darshan Dave, Lecturer, Nagar School of Optometry, Ahmedabad***

• "The school vision screening program has helped 134 underprivileged children from our schools in Nagari and we are sure that our students will perform better in their studies with better vision. This program was very useful as there are no eye care clinics in and around rural and urban parts of Nagari." - ***Mr Bhanu Prasad, HM, Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School, Nagari, Andhra Pradesh***

Current Project Supporters

Australian Government
Australian Consulate General

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