

### CEO's Message

Please stay safe, stay healthy, follow all safety norms.

The second Covid-19 wave is peaking in India with lockdowns in place in several parts of the country. It is sad to see the human and economic misery it is causing. The retail eye care sector, which was just getting back on its feet, would again be impacted with outlets closed for prolonged periods of time and with several government eye care programs also suspended. However, it has to be said that lockdowns and restrictions such as these are no doubt saving lives, and I am optimistic that Industry will bounce back stronger than ever before.

As part of our focus on supporting vision science research, IVI organized a very successful Research Symposium in honour of the late Prof Brien Holden - Resmeet 2021. Several leading national and international researchers joined the meeting and we are looking forward to implementing the recommendations from the forum.



**Vinod Daniel**

I am pleased to announce our second International Annual Conference 'Eye Health in a Changing World', September 9-11. The event will bring together eye health stakeholders under one virtual roof, as we strive towards 'making vision for all' a reality.

It was also a delight to facilitate an Industry interactive session on the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020. We are looking forward to having these meetings on a regular basis to address industry and consumer concerns so as to better enable access to a pair of spectacles for every Indian.

IVI continued its focus on education and outreach with panel discussions, invited talks and vision screenings. We have also constituted a task force focusing on Vision and Road Safety to develop strategies that can assist in reducing road accidents.

We are thankful to our Trustees and advisory committee members for their constant support and guidance. We are grateful to our funders and partners, including our primary vision care colleagues, for helping make IVI's vision a reality. IVI's professional team has worked tirelessly in this endeavor and their contributions are very much acknowledged.

## Resmeet 2021

### Research Symposium in honour of Professor Brien Holden

The research symposium RESMEET 2021, on April 23 in honour of late Prof Brien Holden, saw participation from prominent global researchers, practitioners, and eye health policy luminaries. Keynote speakers – with Ms Yvonne Holden making the opening remarks – Dr G N Rao, Prof Serge Resnikoff, Prof Kovin Naidoo, Dr Ravi C Bakaraju, and Prof Jason J Nichols gave inspiring talks and presentations.



RESMEET, held in honour of late Professor Brien Holden, commemorated his life, career and achievements. Known as the most influential optometrist of our generation, Professor Holden's career has served as an inspiration for scientists and health care professionals around the world, and his dream of 'vision for everyone, everywhere,' resonates in today's world as much as it ever has.

[Read More](#)

## 2nd Eye Health in a Changing World

ivi

India Vision Institute  
LEADING THE CHANGE

# 2nd ANNUAL EYE HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD

*International Conference & Trade Fair*

10 & 11 SEPTEMBER, 2021

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WATCH OUT**

## IVI's second annual conference

### WHAT'S IN THE CONFERENCE

- A FULL PRE-CONFERENCE DAY OF WORKSHOP SESSIONS
- FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE; MANAGING MYOPIA, TECHNOLOGY & SERVICE DELIVERY, AND STANDARDISATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS
- ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS
- A TRADE FAIR WITH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR DELEGATES

Watch this space for updates.

## Scientific Committee Members:

1. Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Director - Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences; Scientist - Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, L V Prasad Eye Institute
2. Dr. Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, Honorary consultant & Faculty - Binocular vision/ Vision therapy clinic, Sankara Nethralaya; Clinical Diplomate - Binocular vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section & Inaugural president India chapter - American Academy of Optometry; President - OATN
3. Dr S May Ho, Optometry & Primary Care Adviser, Knowledge & Innovation, The Fred Hollows Foundation
4. Dr Ramesh S Ve, Professor and Head, Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)
5. Ms Pirindhavellie Govender, Academic Director, Global Ophthalmic Institute; Honorary Lecturer - Department of Optometry, University of KwaZulu Natal
6. Dr Priya Morjaria, Assistant Professor - International Eye Health; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Head of Global Programmes, Peek Vision
7. Dr Cathy Stern, Behavioral, Developmental and Neuro-optometrist Canton, Massachussets, USA
8. Dr Krishna Kumar, Freelance Optometrist and Educationalist
9. Ms Jissa James, Knowledge Manager, IAPB

## Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020

To discuss the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020, IVI facilitated an Industry Forum led and moderated by Ramachandran, Hon Adviser, IVI, and Vinod Daniel, on March 24. Fifteen senior industry and retail representatives participated.

In accordance with the consensus arrived at in the Forum, IVI has facilitated a Submission to the Government signed by representatives of industry, including Essilor India Pvt Ltd, Luxottica India, Carl Zeiss India, Hoya Lens India Pvt Ltd, Safilo India Pvt Ltd, Suprol/ Indian Optics Pvt Ltd, Kakubhai Purshottam Thakker-Opticians, and Bon Ton Opticians. The Submission had the support of Dr Bansal Optics Pvt Ltd, Vision Spring India, and Vision2020 India.



The Submission outlined the concerns of the industry regarding some provisions of the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules, 2020, including the licensing requirement for spectacles and other low-risk optical devices. Participants said the interests of both industry and the consumer – the end-user – needed to be protected. They agreed on the desirability of expanding the forum in the future so as to ensure the participation of different associations and industry stakeholders.

At the request of the industry, IVI will help convene such discussions on a regular basis to benefit the eye care sector and for the larger good of consumers.

# IVI is a member of



World Council of  
Optometry



Asia Pacific  
Council of  
Optometry



International  
Agency for the  
Prevention of  
Blindness



Vision 2020  
India

## IVI-OATN Research Methodology Workshop

An online Research Methodology Workshop, 22 April, organized in collaboration with the Optometric Association of Tamil Nanbargal (OATN), received a good response. Of some 200 applicants for participation, 150 research aspirants were shortlisted to attend the workshop.



The workshop aimed to promote research by upskilling and encouraging participants on the scope of research, its components and steps of execution. Facilitators included Dr Pavan Verkicharla, Scientist, Myopia Research, Prof. Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, Head & Consultant Optometrist, The Myopia Centre (Prevention and Control), L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Dr Shonraj Ballae Ganeshrao, Associate Professor, Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Dr Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, Lecturer, Optometry Unit, Dept of Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies; Honorary Consultant & Faculty, Binocular Vision/Vision Therapy Clinic, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, Dr Rashima Asokan, Head, Occupational Optometry Services, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, Dr Laxmi Gella, Assistant Professor, Adhoc, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad.

Participants got to learn aspects such as framing a research proposal, writing a crisp literature review to help identify research gaps and frame research questions for the basis of the study, choosing and implementing the appropriate research designs, key things to consider while analyzing data that will help shape the findings and answer the research questions, and transforming research into a manuscript and publishing it in journals. Participants received e-certificates for attending the workshop

## De-mystifying Allied Health Bill



India's Upper House of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, passed the landmark National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2020 on March 16. IVI applauds the Bill which will greatly assist the primary eye care sector.



On March 24, IVI led a discussion on all aspects of the Bill, with Ms Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, Optometry Council of India, Rajesh Wadhwa, Owner, Wadhwa Optikos, Prof Monica Chaudhry, Contact Lens and Low Vision Specialist, Retired Senior Optometrist, AIIMS, and Ex-Director, School of Health Sciences, Ansal University,

and Ramachandran P, Honorary Advisor, IVI. Panelists and audience welcomed the Bill. The discussion coincided with the passing of the Bill by the Lok Sabha.

[Click to view the session](#)

## IVI Talks

### 'Good Practice and Challenges in Sustainable Eye Care in India': Dr Sara Varughese



Dr Sara Varughese, Country Director and Managing Trustee, CBM-India, delivered the 'IVI Talks' lecture on 'Sustainability in Eye Care', on March 8. Referring to the WHO definition, Dr Varughese said that sustainable health practices is a system that maintains, improves, or restores health while minimizing negative impacts on the environment.

[Click to listen in to talk](#)

### Caring for the Eyes of People with Disabilities: Dr Sandra Block

Dr Sandra Block, World Council of Optometry Public Health Chair and Professor Emeritus, Illinois College of Optometry, spoke about 'Caring for the Eyes of People with Disabilities' at 'IVI Talks' on April 7.

Dr Block focused on the eye health care strategies and highlighted the mandatory components of eye health examination for the disabled population. To improve patients' quality of life, she recommended understanding their needs and appropriate referral to other health professionals.

[Click to listen in to talk](#)



## IVI-VisionPlus Panel Discussions

### Spectacles for Every Indian: Making it a Reality

Uncorrected Refractive Error is a major cause of avoidable vision impairment and remains one of the largest public health challenges in the world. In India, millions of people are estimated to suffer from this problem. Visual impairment caused by the issue is preventable or treatable, usually through a simple pair of glasses. Giving spectacles to every Indian who needs them will be a big-impact health intervention with the potential to improve the quality of life for millions of Indians.

Panelists at the discussion 'Spectacles for Every Indian - Making it a Reality' on March 22 (to observe Save Your Vision Month) shared their knowledge and ideas in a thought-provoking and stimulating discussion covering several aspects, including accessibility, affordability, awareness, the need for advocacy to encourage government intervention, and the way forward to ensure that every Indian who needs a pair of spectacles will have it. The panel at the discussion comprised Dr Rohit C Khanna, Director, Gullapalli Pratibha Rao

International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eyecare

(GPR ICARE), Prof Monica Chaudhry, Contact Lens and Low Vision Specialist; Retired Senior Optometrist, AIIMS; Ex-Director, School of Health Sciences, Ansal University, Anshu Taneja, Country Director, India, VisionSpring, and Milind Jadhav, Senior Director, Inclusive Business & Philanthropy (South Asia), Essilor.



[Read More](#)

### Women and Eye Health

Women are 12% more likely to have vision loss than men. Worldwide, of the 1.1 billion people with vision loss, 609 million are female compared to 497 million males.

In India, the risk of blindness among females is 1.41 times higher compared to males in urban areas and 1.51 times higher in rural areas. Women make up for 60% of Glaucoma cases reported worldwide, and in India they are 60% more prone to blindness due to Cataract than men are. This empirical data paints a compelling picture, highlighting the

glaring eye health gap that exists between women and men, and underscores the need to make vision care more accessible to women in India.



The panel at the discussion (to observe Women's Eye Health and Safety Month in April) comprised Dr Anuradha Narayanan, Principal, Elite School of Optometry and Program-in-Charge, School Children Eye Health, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Preethi Pradhan, Dean, Chitkara School of Health Sciences, Chitkara University, and Ms Prema Chande, Faculty, Lotus College of Optometry.

[Read More](#)



## **Sleep Cycle and Myopia - How they are Correlated?**

### **Dr Lisa Ostrin**



On March 19 - World Sleep Day - a talk on 'Sleep Cycle and Myopia - How they are correlated?' by Dr Lisa Ostrin, Associate Professor, University of Houston College of Optometry, focused on the underlying mechanism of the sleep cycle and development of myopia. Dr Ostrin recommended adequate sleep, more outdoor and less indoor activity to arrest the progression of the disease. Some 1,800 viewers online, including on Facebook, participated in the session.

[Click to view the session](#)

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## **Optometric Management of Traumatic Brain Injury**

### **Dr Cathy Stern**

With brain injury awareness month in March, a talk on 'Optometric Management of Traumatic Brain Injury' by Dr Cathy Stern, Behavioral, Developmental and Neuro-optometrist from Massachusetts, focused on basic-to-advanced evaluation methods and treatment strategies for patients with traumatic brain injury. Dr Stern said a detailed patient history was crucial for managing patients with traumatic brain injury.



### **IVI Monthly**

### **Case Discussion Series**



'Management of Digital Eye Strain' was the theme for our March Case Discussion and it witnessed all-round and enthusiastic participation. Sourav Ghosh, a student at Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, presented his case to Md Oliullah Abdal, Co-Founder & Director, Bynocs and IVI's Samrat Sarkar, both moderators of the session, and to an audience of over 600.

[Click to view the session](#)

**Watch 'In Conversation with Vinod Daniel'  
series only on**

[www.youtube.com/indivisioninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/indivisioninstitute)



**Thulasiraj Ravilla**  
Director-Operations, Aravind Eye Care System  
Executive Director-LAICO  
Aravind Eye Hospital, LAICO



**Ali Bandali**  
President and CEO, Give Sight Global

## Vision & Road Safety Working Group

IVI has set up a working group on Vision & Road Safety to take the issue of road accidents and their causes to the center stage of public debate and the Government with the involvement of key stakeholders. The taskforce includes R N Mohanty, CEO, Sightsavers, Ms Kristan Gross, Global Executive Director, Vision Impact Institute, Dr Elizabeth Kurian, CEO, Mission for Vision, Milind Jadhav, Senior Director, Inclusive Business & Philanthropy, Essilor-South Asia, Anshu Taneja, Country Director, India, Vision Spring, Madhur Gupta, Editor, Optician India Magazine, and Vinod Daniel.



The group's first meeting identified and suggested ways to address the primary challenges involved in reducing road traffic accidents from impaired vision in India. The stigma associated with drivers wearing spectacles, drivers not collecting spectacles from the location of the vision screening camp, difficulty in following up and routine eye examination, unwillingness to wear spectacles and lack of evidence needed for strong advocacy on the importance of vision health in road safety were some points discussed.

## World Optometry Day & Week - Vision Screenings

IVI commemorated 'World Optometry Day & Week' in March with week-long screenings for underprivileged communities (enforcing strict COVID protocols) in Chennai and Salem. The campaign screened 72 people at the Urban Primary Health Centre in Palavakkam, Chennai and 429 at Sankagiri, Salem, of which 389 were provided free spectacles.



Also, over 1,500 children and adults in Neikarapatti, Hasthampatty, Meyyanur, Fairlands, Nattamangalam and Kandhashramam, Salem were screened – and 194 diagnosed with vision difficulties received free spectacles.

**IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles.**

## Eye See & I Work

Some 160 underprivileged daily wage workers were screened in Chennai's Chetpet and Saidapet during first week of March – of which 92 wagers diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles.



About 815 people were screened at Pallipalayam, Komarapalayam, Seelanaickenpatti, Shevapet, Tharamangalam, Sankagiri, Vasanthapuram, Paduveedu villages of Salem, of which 567 diagnosed with vision difficulties received spectacles. Screening of adults will afford them a life of new opportunities, be more productive and gainfully employed.



At Asli, Maharashtra state, the Lawrence and Mayo Foundation and IVI screened the tribal community and 159 diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles. With the access to vision screening, the tribal villagers can look forward to a life of better and clear vision.

**IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles.**

## Gift of Vision to Prison Inmates and Community in Madurai

In Madurai, we screened 167 inmates at the men's prison and 41 inmates in the women's prison – 117 men and 24 women diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles. Another 290 individuals from the underprivileged communities of Paapan Valasai, Sunnambur and Kilathari villages of Madurai got their eyes tested – and 94 diagnosed with refractive errors were given corrective glasses. The screening at the prisons and in the surrounding villages of Madurai were a boon to the beneficiaries, who with improved vision, can look forward to a better life in any vocation they choose to pick.



*IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles, the Department of Prisons for the necessary permissions to undertake the screenings and for the facilitation support of the Krupa Foundation.*

## Vision Screening in Delhi NCR



In collaboration with the SRF Foundation, an IVI screening campaign has benefited 1,522 underprivileged children and adults in the National Capital Region of Delhi, at Kherla, SP Nagli, Rewasan, BA Pur, Khod Basai, Meharola, Ghasera and Firozpur Namak of Nuh district. Of those screened, 657 diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles.

*IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles.*

## Truckers Screening at Salem

IVI has focused on vision screening truck drivers with a view to reducing the growing number of road accidents associated with poor and impaired vision. Continuing with this mandate, IVI screened truckers in Salem district. Some 633 truckers were screened, and 274 diagnosed with vision difficulties, were provided free pairs of spectacles.

*IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.*



## Better Vision for Weavers of Arakkonam

A generous support from Ms Barbara Kipper of Chicago, USA has helped us screen 68 weavers at Arakonam in Ranipet district; 48 diagnosed with refractive errors have been provided with spectacles. The program will benefit 12,500 school children in Chennai, in addition to 3,800 adults from the weaving community.

*IVI acknowledges the support of Ms Barbara Kipper for supporting the program.*



## Sunglasses for Fishermen and police Personnel

Free sunglasses were distributed to fishermen at Palavakkam and to Chennai police personnel for protection from harmful UV rays and the sun. A total of 3,500 sunglasses will be provided to the fishermen and police personnel.



**IVI acknowledges the support of VisionSpring for providing the sunglasses.**

### What people say about IVI

*"An apt and befitting tribute to the legendary Prof. Brien Holden. Kudos to IVI for organizing Resmeet."* – **Madhur Gupta, Editor, Optician India Magazine**

*"I am honored to be involved in this Research Symposium. Thank you for asking me and thank you so much for remembering Brien and his work."* – **Yvonne Holden, wife of late Prof Brien Holden**

*My sincere thanks to you and the entire team for putting up a great event like Resmeet honoring Prof. Brien Holden. I felt so honored to be a part of an event like this and thoroughly enjoyed the talks and the panel. This event also served as an opportunity to me and many others to reflect upon the journey of Optometry and vision science research in India, and provided a sense of hope and optimism for the path ahead. Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude, and assure you of my support towards future initiatives of IVI.* – **Dr Jameel Rizwana H, Lecturer, Optometry Unit, Dept of Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies**

*"IVI continues to provide excellent service and work in the field of eye care. Thank you, Team IVI. I appreciate your achievement of screening 7,100 people and the free spectacles you have distributed to 4,200 poor people in the last two months. And kudos for the virtual research symposium in honor of late Professor Brien Holden. Your activities are benefitting many people in our country."* – **Ramesh Babu, Krishika Financial and Investment Services**

*"The protective sunglasses from IVI will help protect us from the harmful rays of the sun during summers as we patrol the streets."* – **Pradeep, Sub Inspector Neelankarai police station, Chennai**



## IVI Vision Screening Programs

	Children	Community	Total
No of programs	676	387	1063
Individuals screened	2,84,011	82,659	3,66,670
Spectacles distributed	27,979	33,348	61,372

## Current Project Supporters



Barbara Kipper (Chicago, USA) Lions Club, Padur Equitas Development Initiatives Trust

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## Support IVI Programs

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[www.indiavisioninstitute.org](http://www.indiavisioninstitute.org)

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