

## Message from the CEO

We wish you a very happy new year!

The new year is being welcomed with great hope and expectations. The past year has exposed the gaps in health systems and challenged every gamut of service delivery worldwide. Fortunately, we seem to have crossed the initial hiccups and are able to move forward. India has embarked on the world's largest vaccination program. The introduction of the vaccine in India should be a happy augury for the optical industry and the eye health sector. For NGOs and others working at the grassroots level, this would also mean aiming for greater heights in their endeavours.

IVI has an ambitious plan in place for 2021. We have started eye health screening programs in communities, with safety protocols in place. These programs have been conducted in and around Chennai, Salem and Nellore. We will start

screenings soon in Maharashtra, Delhi, Himachal, Kolkata, Odisha, Coimbatore, and Auroville. We are continuing our education and professional development activities, including our monthly online Panel Discussion series in association with VisionPlus magazine and 'IVI Talks'. Several new programs are also on the anvil.

In April, we are planning a research symposium as a tribute to late Professor Brien Holden, our mentor and co-founder. The symposium will bring global leaders in vision care research to talk about the exemplary work going on in eye health with a view to contributing to improved quality of eye care services and "vision for everyone, everywhere". Following the success of our first virtual International conference 'Eye Health in a Changing World' last October, we will bring you the second Annual Eye Health conference from 9-11 September, 2021. Please await



further details and announcements in the next few weeks and months.

I thank our supporters who have assisted us in our journey and look forward to their continued cooperation in the coming years as well.

- Vinod Daniel

## Second Annual International Eye Health in a Changing World conference, 9-11, September



**2nd ANNUAL EYE HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD**  
International Virtual Conference & Trade Fair  
10 & 11 SEPTEMBER, 2021

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**LOOK OUT FOR**  
**IVI'S NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

- PRECONFERENCE DAY SESSIONS ON 9 SEPTEMBER
- PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND TALKS ON URGENT EYE HEALTH MATTERS
- ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS
- A TRADE FAIR WITH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR DELEGATES

Learn more about the conference & get updates  
Write to us on  
[info@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:info@indiavisioninstitute.org)

The second virtual Annual Eye Health in a Changing World conference will be held on 10 and 11 September, 2021. There will be pre-conference workshop sessions on September 9.

The Eye Health in Changing World conference will bring together eye health experts, professionals and public health specialists from around the world. The conference deliberations and discussions are expected to find ways to address pressing issues confronting us. Included in the conference would be panel discussions and talks, oral and poster presentations, and a virtual trade fair for companies and institutions to come together, and showcase products and innovations.

IVI's first international Eye Health in a Changing World conference was held successfully on October 2-4, 2020.

## IVI is a member of



World Council of Optometry



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness



Asia Pacific Council of Optometry



Vision 2020

**Save the Date. Be a Sponsor and Support the Conference. The agenda will include pre-conference sessions, panel discussions and talks on urgent eye health matters, oral and poster presentations, and a Trade Fair with engaging activities for delegates. Watch for more details and announcements.**

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## Spectacles: See Well and Look Good

Selecting a pair of spectacles is a lot more than just picking a frame you fancy. The right spectacles will make your face look good and, at the same time, not compromise on what your eyes need. Optometrists and opticians play a big role in helping customers identify the right frame for their face type while giving eye care considerations such as lens processing, lens thickness, and peripheral vision due priority.



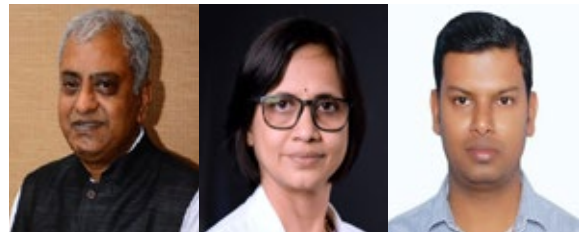
Panelists at the India Vision Institute (IVI)-VisionPlus Magazine hosted 'Spectacles: See Well and Look Good' panel discussion on December 21 shared their knowledge and experience in an informative discussion that straddled multiple issues related to spectacles, frames, lenses and eyewear fashion and trends. The panel comprised Yeshwant Saoji, Consultant Optometrist, Saoji Vision Care, Kunal Shah, CEO, Eyesavers, and Ajay Shinde, CEO and Optometrist, Shinde Eye Care Centre. The session was moderated by IVI's CEO, Vinod Daniel.

Even though the brand value and on-shelf aesthetic appeal are important elements informing the choices of many buyers, the ideal pair of spectacles will have a lot more going for it. "You may think that your favourite celebrity looks amazing in a particular pair of spectacles, but those glasses need not be ideal for you," said Kunal Shah. "Frames that do not hinder peripheral vision will be my first choice," said Yeshwant Saoji, stressing the need to prioritise good vision over what is considered fashionable or trendy. Mr Daniel noted that much of the designing work for eyewear is done with Western customers in mind. He asked the panelists if the eyewear available in India is designed for Indian face types, which are different from European ones. Ajay Shinde observed that frames designed for European face types do not often suit Indian faces, but added that it is possible to prevent mismatches by analysing face types. Full text at <https://visionplumag.com/article/see-well-and-look-good-with-spectacles/>

## Addressing Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy may become the leading cause of preventable blindness and visual impairment in India. This pressing challenge has to be addressed by all stakeholders in a concerted and consistent manner. Strategies must aim at building service-delivery capacity and generating awareness, experts say. An estimated 11.9 million people globally may have preventable moderate or severe vision impairment or blindness due to diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and trachoma.

IVI marked 'Diabetic Eye Disease Month' with a Panel Discussion on 'Addressing Diabetic Retinopathy', November 25, in association with VisionPlus Magazine. Moderated by Vinod Daniel, the panel comprised Prof GVS Murthy, Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad & Professor, Public Health Eye Care and Disability, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani, Network Head, Tele-Ophthalmology & Consultant, Smt Kanuri Santamma Retina Vitreous Service, LV Prasad Eye Institute, and Md Alamgir, Optometrist and Founder, Khushi Eye Care. This was the first panel discussion in association with VisionPlus, which will now be held on a regular basis.



Mr Daniel remarked that diabetes has become a significant health care problem in India and the world. Lifestyle changes related to food habits and a decrease in physical activity, among other factors, have served only to accelerate the rise in diabetes cases the world over. "Diabetic retinopathy is a problem both in urban and rural India and can affect people from all socioeconomic classes," said Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani. A person who develops diabetes will have the condition for life. Accordingly, Prof Murthy suggested that the term "people living with diabetes" be preferred over "patients." Full text at <https://visionplumag.com/article/addressing-diabetic-retinopathy/>

## Greenberg Prize for Dr GN Rao



We congratulate Dr Gullapalli N Rao and the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) on being awarded the 'Greenberg Prize-End Blindness 2020'. Dr. Rao, IVI's co-founder, mentor and Trustee, receives the prestigious award in the 'outstanding achievement prize' category. Awarding \$3 million in prize money,

The Greenberg Prize is the high watermark of a historic joint effort by leading scientists and figures from the world of business, politics, culture, art, music and entertainment. It is instituted by the Sanford and Susan Greenberg End Blindness Foundation.

## 10,000+ followers on Facebook



We now have 10,000+ followers on Facebook.

Join us on Facebook to learn about our activities and projects. Be part of the growing community of our partners and enthusiasts who motivate us to do more for the prevention of avoidable blindness.

## IVI Talk Influencing & Directing Social Change



The Deputy CEO of The Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF), Sydney, Nick Martin, gave an illuminating talk on 'Influencing and Directing Social Change' as part of the monthly 'IVI Talks' series, on December 4.

but action with vision and vision with action does.”

Giving an overview of the activities of the Foundation, Mr Martin’s talk included details about the See Now campaign in India's Uttar Pradesh state. He highlighted the campaign's face, acting legend Amitabh Bachchan's role in the success of See Now during its first and second phases.

The talk underscored the role of leadership and action in driving change.

Echoing the sentiments of the late Nelson Mandela, in the context of social change, Mr Martin said “action without vision and vision without action do not make sense,

He acknowledged the important role played by the campaign's several partners, including Essilor, Sightsavers, IVI and others. The session evoked 1,300 views and a reach of 5,720.

### Young Leaders Program Sessions

The fifth session of the IVI Young Leaders Program 2020 was conducted on 24 November. Jissa James, General Manager for Professional Development at IVI, made a presentation on essential aspects of implementing a project, from conceptualizing, adding substance to the idea, risk mitigation, execution, monitoring etc., to its successful completion.



The sixth session by Kristan Gross, Global Executive Director, Vision Impact Institute, 18 December, focused on 'Advocacy in Public Eye Health – Need of the Hour'. Kristan’s talk covered what advocacy in vision care is to processes involved in implementing a campaign.

### Sightsavers Screening Program for Truck Drivers

Some 954 truck drivers in Salem got their vision screened, and 457 diagnosed with refractive error, received free spectacles. Another 269 people were screened in Nellore, of which 95 diagnosed with refractive error will receive free spectacles shortly.



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

*We also acknowledge the Optometry students of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Potheri and Vinayaka Mission Institute of Medical Sciences, Salem for volunteering in our vision screening programs.*

### Eye See & I Work

As part of our Eye See & I Work program, we conducted vision screenings and provided free spectacles for fishing commu-



nities, daily wagers and self-help groups at the IVI Vision Centre, Palavakkam, Chennai. Over 1,900 individuals were screened, of which 1,286 daily-wage workers diagnosed with refractive errors will receive free spectacles shortly; 248 people diagnosed with other ocular ailments were referred to the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Government Ophthalmology Hospital, Egmore, for further comprehensive examinations.

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

### Thanking our Donors

IVI thanks Patel Opticals, Gujarat, Vijay Opticals, and Sukharam Optical House, Surat for their generous donation of spectacle frames to underprivileged people and giving them the gift of better vision! A big thank you to all. The support will help 723 underprivileged people combat avoidable blindness.

### Watch 'In Conversation with Vinod Daniel' video series only on

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



**Kristan Gross**  
Global Executive Director  
Vision Impact Institute

### Support IVI Programs

To **DONATE ONLINE** and for additional information, please visit

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

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

## What they say about IVI

DOT Glasses was given the opportunity to participate in the IVI Eye Health in Changing World conference, and it was a pleasure to be able to present our radical solution to vision care to such an incredible number of representatives of the Indian eye care establishment. Not only was the audience larger and more esteemed than expected, but the moderators were also of the highest calibre, and asked excellent follow-up questions to further stimulate the discussion. Overall, it was an exceptional conference - kudos to the IVI team for such brilliant execution! – **Philip Staehelin, DOT Glasses**

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be part of the panel discussion on Diabetic Retinopathy on 25 November. Many of my optometry friends and juniors had misconceptions about Diabetic Retinopathy management. Following the IVI panel discussion on 'Addressing Diabetic Retinopathy' on November 25, there has been an attitudinal change in them. I was particularly happy to respond to their queries. All thanks to IVI and to Dr Padmaja for the discussion that got over 1,800 views and more than 100 shares. - **MD Alamgir, Optometrist**

I was in desperate need of glasses after I broke my old pair a few months back. I

thank IVI for the new pair of glasses they have provided me as well as for the free eye test. - **T Rajasekaran, Daily wage worker, Chennai**

I thank IVI for the eye test and distribution of eyeglasses for free to deserving people. - **G Thulasi Ramaiah, Autodriver, Nellore.**

I am very privileged to be part of the IVI team. Happy to work with you and help the underprivileged to see better. - **Muthulakshmi, Program Officer, India Vision Institute**

The Sangagiri lorry owners' association is grateful to IVI for providing the much-needed vision care and spectacles to our truck drivers. But for this timely help, the drivers would not have been able to access the vision care services and free glasses. - **Sathish Kumar, Sangagiri Lorry Owners Association.**

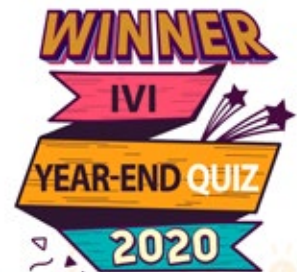
## IVI Christmas Selfie Contest

The Christmas Selfie Contest saw enthusiastic participants send their selfies in wire-rimmed round Santa glasses. Divya Bharathi, an Optometrist from Specs-makers, won the best entry prize.



## Year-End Quiz

IVI's Year-End Quiz, which featured questions on the recent developments in eye health, evoked a good response. Thirty-three respondents gave all-correct answers at the Quiz, held live on 26 and 27 December. Sri Shakthi Rubini, 3rd year student of Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology and Research, Chennai, was selected as the winner from a draw.



The response to our Year-End Quiz was good. Thank you all, participants. We received 33 correct entries.

The winner, selected from a draw of the correct entries, is



Activities listed in this issue are for the November-December period.

## IVI Vision Screening Programs

	Children	Community	Total
No of programs	676	308	984
Individuals screened	2,84,011	71,469	3,55,480
Spectacles distributed	27,979	26,497	54,476

## Current project supporters



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