It has been a very encouraging and exciting two months for IVI with the launch of a pilot awareness raising initiative for optometry institutes in Chennai and Kolkata; and the Young Leaders Program – initiatives that will play a significant role in progressing Indian optometry for decades to come.

Collaboration is the key as we work together to advance the cause of optometry in India, given the magnitude of what needs to be achieved. I am really thankful to Mr Vivek Mendonsa, President - Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, India; Mr Rajesh Wadhwa, President - Indian Optometry Federation and Ms Lakshmi Shinde, CEO - Optometry Council of India for their personal commitment and enthusiastic support and to their respective organizations for partnering with us in many of the initiatives.

We continue to receive support for IVI initiatives from our key stakeholders. I thank Essilor India Pvt. Ltd. and NWO Group for their support for the awareness campaign at the Times Education Boutique 2013 in Chennai and Kolkata and the Faculty Support Program for dispensing optics respectively.

I also appreciate continued support from the Alcon Foundation, Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation, JSW Foundation, Lawrence & Mayo and Optometry Giving Sight for our initiatives in making a difference for Indian optometry.

IVI is constantly developing new initiatives to meet the needs of the sector and we continue to welcome feedback from you. I would also like to encourage optometry professionals including students to avail the IVI Higher Education Scholarships and the Faculty Support Program currently on offer.

Vinod Daniel
CEO

29 Low Vision Awareness Program

IVI in collaboration with LVPEI, organized a day long Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP) on 12 April 2013 at LVPEI. Over 50 practitioners and students attended this program involving a series of lectures and panel discussions, followed by a hands-on session on the various devices used for examining low vision patients. Owing to the success of the program, this was the third time that IVI conducted the LAP program with LVPEI.

IVI provided 10 registration scholarships to students from various educational institutes in Hyderabad including University of Hyderabad, Sarojini Devi Optometry School and Pushpagiri Eye Institute to participate in this program.

IVI Young Leaders Program (YLP)

An IVI initiative to motivate and train young eyecare professionals to take up a leadership role in optometry, the year-long IVI Young Leaders Program was launched with a two-day workshop at Hyderabad on 27-28 April 2013. Given the sheer magnitude of challenges in eyecare delivery in India, the program will equip participants to approach challenges with a fresh perspective.

The workshop was supported by Optometry Giving Sight and the Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation.

The workshop introduced participants to core leadership concepts, including creative thinking and change management. To experience a real life example of leadership in eyecare delivery in practice, the group interacted with experts at L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI); and obtained insights into the leadership role played by key optometry stakeholders including IOF, ASCO and OCI.

Participants also got a broader understanding of how eye health is linked to public health and the challenges of integrating the two.
Four optometry institutes each in Chennai and Kolkata participated in this annual education and career fair and interacted with prospective students, teachers and parents to discuss available options for pursuing optometry as a career. The program is expected to contribute to increased student intake in optometry institutions in the two cities.

IVI acknowledges the support of ASCO as program partner and Essilor India Pvt. Ltd. for funding this project.

Australian Leadership Awards Fellowships (ALAF)

IVI is pleased to announce the successful candidates for the ALAF round 13 of the Optometry Faculty Development Program scheduled for August 12-20, 2013 in Sydney. The program is anchored by the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney with support from IVI.

- Ms Jayarajini, Sri Ramachandra University & Research Institute, Chennai
- Ms Jyothi Thomas, Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal
- Mr Kartheek Kumar Sangewar, Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
- Mr Nirav Kumar Mehta, Hari Jyot College of Optometry, Navsari
- Mr Shyam Sunder Tummanapalli, Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad

Australia Awards Fellowships aim to develop leadership, address priority regional development issues and build partnerships and links between Australian organisations and their partner organisations in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and the Middle East.

IVI - NWO Group Faculty Support Program for Dispensing Optics

IVI is pleased to announce the Faculty Support Program for Indian optometry educators teaching Dispensing Optics. Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Optometry, Pune, will host the two-week program.

Selected educators will gain first-hand experience in teaching Dispensing Optics from an academic perspective, including curriculum planning & development, teaching methodologies and evaluation & assessment patterns for an undergraduate program. IVI will cover travel and accommodation costs for selected educators. Deadline for submission of application for August batch: 30 May 2013.

IVI acknowledges NWO Group for funding the program.
**IVI Optometry Resource Platform**

IVI proposes to launch a one stop portal providing links to optometry education and research resources for the benefit of practitioners, educators and students of optometry.

We will shortly get in touch with a number of you to develop the platform into a global resource platform for optometry. For additional information, please write to ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

**Higher Education Scholarships**

Applications are open for the next round of scholarships for optometry professionals to pursue M Phil and PhD in India. Please submit a detailed research proposal by 30 May 2013.

Shortlisted applicants will be expected to appear for a personal interview in early June 2013.

**Online Seminar Series**

To bring the latest innovations in optometry to the attention of optometry students in India, IVI is initiating an online seminar series for optometry schools. A number of experts from India and around the globe will speak on a range of aspects in eye-care.

The inaugural seminar on Everyday challenges in contact lens clinical practice will be presented by Dr Kalika Bandamwar, Manager, Brien Holden Vision Institute Research Centre, Hyderabad.

The seminar series will start from August 2013. For additional information, please write to ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

**IVI Student Research Grants**

IVI is pleased to announce five research grants worth INR 8000 each for optometry students pursuing Bachelors & Masters in Optometry to undertake research projects within the field of optometry and eyecare. The grant will support creative and innovative research to further develop the optometry profession.

To be eligible for consideration, proposals must be submitted no later than 30 June 2013. Information about the Research Grant is available at www.indiavisioninstitute.org. For queries about research proposals, please write to priya.gupta@indiavisioninstitute.org

**IVI Upcoming events**

- **27-28 July 2013**: YLP Workshop II, New Delhi
- **29-31 July 2013**: Research Methodology & Public Eye Health, Amity Medical School, New Delhi
- **20 September 2013**: Low Vision Awareness Program, LVPEI, Hyderabad
- **21-22 October 2013**: EyeTeach, Amity Medical School, New Delhi
- **24-25 October 2013**: EyeTeach, Chennai
- **22-23 November 2013**: Vision & Occupation, Hyderabad

**What people say about IVI**

“I felt motivated and gained leadership skills through the inaugural workshop of IVI Young Leaders Program.”

Ms Vidyut Rajhans, IVI Young Leaders Program Participant.

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“Thanks to India Vision Institute for their support in Optometry Awareness campaign in Eastern part of India. The participation of IVI in the Times Education Fair has helped the optometry institutes in Kolkata to put forward Optometry as a career option amongst other technical courses. It would otherwise have been impossible to do it individually by the institutes. I appreciate IVI’s effort to develop optometry in Eastern India.”

Mr Debasish Kar, Director, Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science, Kolkata.

**IVI Supporters for Current Projects**

- Alcon Foundation
- Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation
- Essilor India Pvt. Ltd.
- JSW Foundation
- Lawrence & Mayo
- NWO Group
- Optometry Giving Sight