

Optometry DistList

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Today's Messages:

Date: Friday, 20 March 2015

From: Mel Pierce ([mel@melpierce.com](mailto:mel@melpierce.com))

Subject: WCO launches a global platform for eye health care

As part of its commitment to quality eye health and vision care accessible to all and facilitating the development of optometry around the world, the WCO has developed The 1st World Congress of Optometry. Organised in partnership with the Colombian Federation of Optometrists (FEDOPTO), this is the first global event to encompass all aspects of optometry in order to share knowledge, explore clinical and technological innovation and establish an agreed holistic policy for the sector and for the future of accessible eye health care. The Congress will bring together educators, practitioners, leaders from optometric associations and representatives from the optical industry to discuss optometric education and practice across the world and help shape the future of the profession.

The three day itinerary is designed to appeal to all delegates. There are two parallel programmes: - a scientific programme with lectures and workshops on 17 topics, which will support delegates' continuing education through COPE and CET accreditation, and an educators' programme, which focuses on six key areas of optometric education. Lectures and seminars will be presented by leading experts from across the globe including Prof Brien Holden, Prof Thomas Freddo and Drs Randall Thomas and Ron Melton. The Congress will also offer an

exhibition of clinical videos and photographs, a public outreach programme and a trade exhibition with more than 40 international and national exhibitors.

Susan Cooper, WCO President says: *'The significant and increasingly recognised role of optometrists as the first point of contact for primary eye care and in the reduction of blindness and visual impairment needs to be supported at all levels. The biennial World Congress of Optometry is the ideal platform to evaluate our progress in achieving this goal for developing the collaborations needed to make positive progress. It is the essential event for anyone working in this area interested in playing a role in the future provision of high quality accessible vision and eye health care for all.'*

Jose Manuel Gomez, Director of FEDOPTO, says: *'We are delighted to take a leading role in hosting this ground-breaking event. The Congress will not only strengthen the presence of optometry globally, it will also enable us to raise awareness of, and leverage support for, optometry across Latin America and the Caribbean. We are very optimistic about the lasting and positive legacy the Congress will leave for the region.'*

The 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Optometry takes place 14 - 16 August 2015 in Medellin, Colombia and is the first of an ongoing series of biennial global conferences to be held in different regions across the five continents.

**Registration is open and further information is available at**  
[www.worldcongressofoptometry.org](http://www.worldcongressofoptometry.org)

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Date: Monday, 23 March 2015  
From: Asha Lele Das ([ashaleledas@gmail.com](mailto:ashaleledas@gmail.com))  
Subject: Half the donated eyes in India go waste

CHENNAI: More than 2.5 lakh blind people in India could regain eyesight if they get a corneal transplant, but more than 22,000 eyes donated last year went waste due to delay or infections.

Union health ministry data shows 51,354 eyes were donated in 2013-14, but only 22,384 were used for transplant. The numbers have remained dismal over the past few years, with more than 50% of the donated eyes going waste.

"The delay often occurs when family members of the deceased do not inform the nearest eye bank about the death. In time of grief, they do not think about it. And even if they do, the window period lapses as eyes have to be retrieved within six hours after death," said senior cornea surgeon Dr Ashwin Agarwal of Agarwal Eye Hospitals, Chennai.

The removed eyes should be implanted in the next 24 hours, or stored at an eye bank, where it could be preserved for up to 14 days. Many harvested eyes are rendered useless because of infections. "We perform a blood test on the deceased, and if we find they have any infection, the eyes are declared unfit for transplant," Dr Agarwal said. Eyes of those with a history of trauma or previous surgeries are of little use.

While hospital-based cornea retrieval is easy, there is lack of awareness among the public towards eye donation, said consultant cornea surgeon Dr M P Veenashree of Global Hospitals. "

**Full Article is available on:**

<http://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/half-the-donated-eyes-in-india-go-waste/46591445>

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Date: Tuesday, 24 March 2015

From: Anwer Shakeeb K ([rayhanhospital@gmail.com](mailto:rayhanhospital@gmail.com))

Subject: South Indian Regional World Optometry Day Celebration 2015

*2015 proved to be a golden year for Rayhan College of Optometry in their professional fame.*

Rayhan College of Optometry in association with ASCO organised "South Indian Regional World Optometry Day" celebration on 21-22 March 2015 at Edappal, Malappuram District, Kerala. Several dignitaries from the optometry world graced the occasion.

Workshops and CME's were conducted for optometry professionals across south India on both days. Over 500 participants from over 20 colleges of optometry/hospitals participated in workshop and CME. The two day orientation workshops provided the participants with a broad view in low vision rehabilitation and care, orthoptic evaluations and assessment method, easy fitting in contact lens practice under the super vision of clinically experienced optometry professional. The CME provided students a clear insight into the normal ageing processes in the eye, recent advances in contact lens, importance of sports vision clinic and different components of vision screening. Techniques for interpreting various diagnostic tests like Humphrey Visual Field, A Scan, Specular microscope and Electro Retino Gram was also imparted to the students.

An Optometry exhibition was designed to provide informative sections on a wide range of subjects that catered to the interest of the participants. The exhibition was successfully conducted by SOCIAL WELFARE TEAM & JOURNAL CLUB OF RAYHAN.

Students from 12 colleges enthusiastically participated in the inter college competitions held on the occasion, including oral presentations and quiz.

**For further details, please contact:** Mr. Anwer Shakeeb K,  
[rayhanhospital@gmail.com](mailto:rayhanhospital@gmail.com)

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Date: Wednesday, 25 March 2015  
From: Nirav Mehta ([admin@rotaryeye.org](mailto:admin@rotaryeye.org))

Subject: World Optometry Day 2015 - MEGA EVENT 2

World Optometry Day - MEGA EVENT 2 was celebrated on 21-22 March 2015 at the HariJyot College of Optometry in Navsari, Gujarat in the presence of dignitaries from Veer Narmad South Gujarat University and the optometry world.

Over 30 faculty members and 550 optometry students from various colleges and 50 practitioners participated in the celebrations. Sessions on the importance of research, introduction to OCI and challenging situations in refractions were delivered by eminent optometrist in the country. Oral, poster and video presentations were given by students from various institutions. Cultural performances were also a part of the event.

Workshops on Dispensing Optics, Silicon Hydrogel, Rose K and Sports Vision were conducted on 22 March, followed by posters and model presentation on the anatomy of eye. A quiz was conducted by Bausch and Lomb covering comprehensive optometry and general knowledge.

The event was supported by Biomedix Devices, Alcon Vision, Bauch and Lomb, Essilor, Pooja Optics-Vapi, Mauijim, Subset System, Navsari District Optical Association, the college faculty, students and staff of Rotary Eye Institute.

**For further details, please contact:** Mr Nirav  
Mehta, [admin@rotaryeye.org](mailto:admin@rotaryeye.org)

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Date: Thursday, 26 March 2015

From: Philip Chandrapal, ([P.Chandrapal@brienholdenvision.org](mailto:P.Chandrapal@brienholdenvision.org))

Subject: WHO-BHVI joint Global Scientific Meeting on Myopia discusses the rapidly rising prevalence and impact of myopia.

Key scientists, researchers and clinical experts from around the world discussed the rapidly increasing prevalence, the vision, social and economic impact of myopia and reports that myopia is now the leading cause of blindness in older people in Tajimi, Japan<sup>1</sup> and in Shanghai, China.<sup>2</sup> Professor Holden<sup>3</sup> reported that BHVI had estimated that 5 billion people will have myopia in 2050, with almost a billion having high myopia. Professor Holden said that "vision impairment and blindness was rising in children from uncorrected myopia and in adults from the pathological consequences of myopia later in life."

The meeting reviewed evidence on the epidemiology, aetiology, vision consequences, pathology, social and economic impact, morbidity associated with, and interventions that may be helpful in reducing the threat of myopia. Dr Serge Resnikoff said that "a major contribution from the meeting was the definition and description of the retinal condition that causes blindness with myopia so that future surveys can accurately record the number of people with vision impairment and blindness from myopia."

References:

1. Iwase A, Araie M, Tomidokoro A, et al. Prevalence and causes of low vision and blindness in a Japanese adult population: the Tajimi Study. *Ophthalmology* 2006;113:1354-62.
2. Wu L, Sun X, Zhou X, Weng C. Causes and 3-year-incidence of blindness in Jing-An District, Shanghai, China 2001-2009. *BMC ophthalmology* 2011;11:10.
3. Holden, B.A., Fricke. T.R., Wilson D.A., Resnikoff. S., Jong, M., Naidoo. K.S., Sankaridurg. P. Prevalence of Myopia and high myopia and temporal trends from 2000 to 2050; BHVI Report, 2015.

For more information about the meeting and Brien Holden Vision Institute, visit [www.brienholdenvision.org](http://www.brienholdenvision.org)

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Date: Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

From: Jissa James ([jissa.james@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:jissa.james@indiavisioninstitute.org))

Subject: The Myopia Boom

The Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre, which seems to have been carrying the legacy of being the largest eye hospital in China, is witnessing large inflow of patients over the past few years specifically children with complaints of blurred vision for distance. The centre now plans for expansion and has relocated some of its doctors and researchers to a local shopping mall. Statistics show that about 60 years ago 10-20% of the Chinese population were short sighted. The current estimates show a transformation to an enormous 90% of teenagers and young adults who are myopic. The story is no different in other parts of the world. "We are going down the path of having a myopia epidemic," says Padmaja Sankaridurg, head of the myopia programme at the Brien Holden Vision Institute in Sydney, Australia.

The escalations led to several researchers ponder over the cause of Myopia. Extensive research on the role of genetics in myopia has been done and this however could not provide the other part of story about the spiralling incidence. This led to several researchers focus their attention on the contribution of environment to myopia. Increased near work - reading a book or staying glued to the computer or smart phone and spending more time indoors (limited exposure to the light outdoors) amongst young adults, appear to contribute significantly to this condition. Experiments on animals have been conducted to understand the mechanism involved in the role of light on near sightedness. Nevertheless some researchers think that there is still room for more research to establish this link more concretely, and research studies regarding it are in progress.

**Full article is available on:** [http://www.nature.com/news/the-myopia-boom-1.17120?WT.mc\\_id=FBK\\_NatureNews](http://www.nature.com/news/the-myopia-boom-1.17120?WT.mc_id=FBK_NatureNews)

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Date: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015

From: Mr Murukan ([giridhareye@gmail.com](mailto:giridhareye@gmail.com))

Subject: Gridhar Eye Institute World Optometry Day Celebration

On the occasion of World Optometry Day, Giridhar Eye Institute & SSM Eye Research Foundation organized an exhibition and public awareness camp at Oberon Mall, Cochin (supporting partners) on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015. The awareness camp had a good turnout of about 450-500 people visiting the mall.

Optometrists from the institute focused on five sub-specialties - Paediatric Ophthalmology, Oculoplasty& Orbit, Contact Lens & Lasik, Cataract-Glaucoma-Retina, and Ocular Emergency in this day-long program. They shared information on refractive errors and treatment alternatives for the correction of refractive errors, visual disorders in children, the importance of early identification of problems and management, and facial aesthetics and oculoplasty. Low vision devices were displayed. Environmental modification in a visually impaired person's room to improve their quality of life was demonstrated through video. The participants were also educated about various diseases related to the eye, their symptoms, precautions to be taken, the treatment options available and consequence of neglects. A stage show was also presented on eye donation.

For further details please contact: Mr Murukan, [giridhareye@gmail.com](mailto:giridhareye@gmail.com)

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Date: Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015

From: Sneha A ([sneha.krishnan@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:sneha.krishnan@indiavisioninstitute.org))

Subject: Telescopic contact lenses could help people with blinding disease

Scientists are developing smart contact lenses embedded with miniscule mirrors that can magnify your vision by almost three times.

The 1.55mm-thick lenses incorporate a thin reflective telescope made of mirrors and filters; when light enters the eye it bounces off the series of mirrors and increases the perceived view of an object or person. It is hoped that the lens will improve the sight of people with age-related macular degeneration (AMD) - the third leading cause of blindness globally. "AMD is the biggest problem where magnification is a proven visual aid," says Eric Tremblay, research scientist at EPFL in Switzerland. Tremblay led the optical design of the lens, which is based on a surgically implantable telescope currently used by some patients with AMD, but which is more invasive than a lens.

A key innovation with the lenses is the added ability to switch between magnified and regular vision through a complementary pair of glasses. The battery-powered glasses use LCD technology to watch the movement of the eye and a simple wink can alter their polarization and determine whether light entering is magnified or not. "Having the ability to switch on demand is attractive," says Tremblay. The ability to selectively magnify your vision makes the design of the glass-lens combination more suitable for daily life. "When magnified you lose a lot of your field of view, your peripheral vision," says Tremblay. A strategic wink will enable users to keep an eye on their periphery, such as cars approaching them as they cross a street, whilst also being able to zoom in and recognize the faces of those around them.

The team developed their technology on scleral lenses, which have an increased thickness and diameter, making them commonly used for more special purpose eye care. "[They provide] a lot more area to work with," says Tremblay. The challenge these lenses bring with them, however, is comfort, as they impede the amount of oxygen reaching the eye. The most recent prototype, unveiled by the team in February, overcame this challenge by introducing air channels to aid the flow of oxygen to the eye. But the team hopes to improve this further still by instead developing a contact lens solution saturated with oxygen which can be stored and slowly released into the eye.

**Full article is available on:**

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/life/technology/telescopic-contact-lenses-could-help-people-blinding-disease>

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India Vision Institute  
Plot No 212, No 45, Palkalai Nagar,  
7th Link Road, Palavakkam,  
Chennai - 600041, TN, India  
Tel. No. : +91 - 44 - 24515353.

Email: [ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org)

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

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