

Optometry DisList

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Today's Messages:

Date: Thursday, 30 April 2015

From: Philip Chandrapal (P.Chandrapal@brienholdenvision.org)

Subject: The birth of a new technology: Australian invention creates clear vision for the future

Brien Holden Vision Pvt Ltd. (BHV) today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted clearance for its Extended Depth of Focus (EDOF) contact lenses, a world first for the correction of presbyopes - people in need of vision at distance, for computers and close up.

Professor Brien Holden, BHV Board member and CEO of the Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI), at the University of New South Wales, whose scientist, Dr. Ravi Bakaraju, invented the technology, has hailed this as 'the birth of a new technology'.

"This is a landmark for the Brien Holden Vision Institute, the creation of a new technology that provides clear vision from distance to near while minimising ghosting or double imaging. This is a vital step forward in quality vision for presbyopes", said Professor Holden. "The contact lenses,

available at the end of 2015, represent a significant growth opportunity for our robust science, technology, research and development, licensing, education, public health and blindness prevention activities as BHV will donate a substantial part of its profits to fund our work at a time when both science and humanitarian development funds are drying up.”

Presbyopia affects over 1 billion people and is expected to increase to 3 billion by 2050. “Although a range of treatments are available, the number of presbyopes is rising – the BHV EDOF contact lenses will play a major part in helping those with presbyopia see more clearly”, said Professor Holden. “Other EDOF lenses are also being tested for their ability to control the rate of progress of myopia in children at risk, an extremely important current concern in eye care.”

BHV’s new generation of EDOF contact lenses uses higher order aberrations to optimise retinal image quality over a wide range of distances from far to near while minimising ghosting and haloes. Invented by one of the Institute’s top scientists, Dr Ravi Bakaraju, the EDOF contact lenses perform relatively independent of a patient’s natural aberrations and variation in pupil size and are designed to meet the vision needs of emerging presbyopes, middle aged and older people.

“Many claims are made that multifocal lenses provide simultaneous vision at various visual distances but often this comes at the cost of reduced contrast, increased ghosting and compromised overall vision satisfaction,” said Dr Bakaraju. “These shortcomings are often exacerbated with low illumination levels. Such visual compromises have been associated with an increase in patient dropout rate and lack of confidence in fitting by practitioners. Our comprehensive data tells us that our contact lenses will greatly benefit the U.S. market as well as others.”

In 2013, the Institute announced the spin-off of Brien Holden Vision, a commercial subsidiary that provides a pathway for advanced and beneficial products and services for those in need of vision correction. “We have a rich history of innovation”, said Professor Holden. “Products we have co-developed include silicone hydrogel lenses, the most popular soft contact lenses used in the world today, the leading soft toric lenses for astigmatism and the leading multifocal contact lens in the U.S. These products have generated over \$30 billion in sales for the industry over the last 15 years, and earned Australia and the partners in the Vision CRC \$300 million in royalties while bringing in \$1.5 billion in cash and in-kind research funds.” “This will be the first Brien Holden Vision product brought to the market by our own spin-off company – exciting times.”

“We have a vision, to be an established contact lens company, bringing innovative and quality contact lens products to market,” said Dr Paul Erickson, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Pvt Ltd. “This achievement is testimony to the ongoing dedication and professionalism of our team in Sydney,

Australia, as well as our collaborators worldwide, who have worked hard to bring this new technology to life.

“Dr Ravi Bakaraju, and his Vision Innovations Science and Technology Applications (VISTA) team, working with the Institute’s Technology Group led by Professor Arthur Ho and Dr. Klaus Ehrmann, have jointly developed a product that we believe will achieve great things.”

Dr KahOoi Tan who is CEO of BHV Innovation Pvt Ltd., the Singapore based BHV company, and responsible for the worldwide marketing of EDOF products, especially in Asia, said, “Practitioners having long needed a lens for presbyopes that provides excellent distance, intermediate and near vision with minimal ghosting, so we are excited about product being cleared by the FDA. Early indications are that the EDOF lenses designed for myopia control are effective in reducing the rate of progress of myopia, and because of the Extended Depth of Focus technology, they provide excellent vision.”

For more information, please contact: Philip Chandrapal (P.Chandrapal@brienholdenvision.org)

Date: Saturday, 2 May 2015

From: Apoorva Chauhan (apoorva.chauhan@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: 11-Year-Old Visually Challenged Boy Becomes Tamil Channel News Anchor

COIMBATORE: Eleven-year-old Sriramanujam, born blind at birth, read the special news live with the help of Braille for 22 minutes, while his anxious teary-eyed parents watched. The news he read included the follow up of the Nepal earthquake and the Mahinda Rajapaksa trial.

Channel Chairman, GKS Selvakumar told PTI that the main purpose of introducing the visually handicapped boy was to promote and create awareness on eye donation among the public,

"So that such talented people get their vision back and achieve their goals."

At present he has been tasked with reading special news weekly and after some time, Sriramanujam would become a permanent daily news reader, he said.

Sriramanujam said being blind, he wanted to achieve something in life and chose the TV medium, so that many people could see him reading the news.

A fifth standard student of Government School at Uliyampalayam on the outskirts of the city, Sriramanujam, hailing from Palani, said he went through these news items six times before going live. "I was scared in the first two minutes but then it was business and I read it fluently," he said.

Asked what his ambition was, he said he wants to become a Collector.

Article Source: <http://www.ndtv.com/tamil-nadu-news/11-year-old-visually-challenged-boy-becomes-tamil-channel-news-anchor-759910>

Date: Monday, 4 May 2015

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

Subject: The world through his eyes

Singapore-based photographer Vinay Swaroop Balla is organising a photography exhibition and fundraising sale 'See The World Through My Eyes' at LV Prasad Eye Institute. Proceeds from the exhibition, which will go on till May 30, will go towards eye treatment for the needy.

Speaking about his will to contribute towards eye treatment for the needy, the photographer says, "As an optometrist by profession and a photographer by passion, I always wanted to give back something to the community that I care for. I thought a lot and came up with the idea of having a photo exhibition." An optometrist by profession, Vinay S Balla is a self-taught photographer.

Since 2012, he has garnered his photographic experience from a diverse range of subjects, events and locations eventually earning recognition and publication in renowned media sources like National Geographic Daily News and Earth Sky to name a few. Vinay believes that optometry and photography have two things in common- lights and lenses, which enabled him, master photographic skills in a short while.

Article Source: <http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/2015-05-02/The-world-through-his-eyes-148436>

Date: Friday, 15 May 2015

From: Sandhya Shekar (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Indian-origin teen Raghav Ganesh in US develops device to help blind

A 13-year-old Indian-origin student in the US who developed a device to help visually impaired navigate has been named one of America's top 10 youth volunteers of 2015 and granted a USD 5,000 award. Raghav Ganesh, a seventh-grader from San Jose, California, was named one of America's top 10 youth volunteers of 2015 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Ganesh started a quest to help the visually impaired by focusing his attention on the white canes used to detect obstacles in their path. "I saw how, despite being used for several centuries, the white cane does not provide users enough information about their environment," said Ganesh. Ganesh designed and built a device that uses sensors to detect objects beyond the reach of the canes.

His device clamps onto the cane, uses ultrasonic and infrared sensors to detect obstacles more than six feet beyond the end of the cane and communicates this information to the user through vibrations in the cane's handle. Ganesh secured a grant to make multiple copies and hopes to create an open patent so that organisations for the blind around the world can make the device for their clients.

For his efforts, Ganesh was one of the 10 middle and high school students named America's top youth volunteers for 2015 at Prudential's 20th annual Spirit of Community Awards on May 4. Ganesh and the other national honorees received USD 5,000, engraved gold medallions, crystal trophies for their schools and USD 5,000 grants from The Prudential Foundation for the charities of their choice.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards programme represents the US' largest youth recognition programme based exclusively on volunteer community service. This year's winners were selected from a field of more than 33,000 middle level and high school youth volunteers nationwide.

Article source: <http://www.india.com/whatever/indian-origin-teen-raghav-ganesh-in-us-develops-device-to-help-blind-382706/>

Date: Monday, 18 May 2015

From: Alison Ewbank (a.ewbank@iacle.org)

Subject: Educators worldwide invited to tune in to the Third IACLE World Congress

Contact lens educators around the globe will have the opportunity to participate in the Third IACLE World Congress when the International Association of Contact Lens Educators meets in the UK next week.

Lectures and discussion over the four days of the Congress will be broadcast live online by webcast for IACLE members worldwide to take part.

Hosted by The University of Manchester, the Congress runs from 24th to 28th May and is timed to precede the British Contact Lens Association's 2015 Clinical Conference & Exhibition in Liverpool (29th to 31st May).

More than 100 educators and key opinion leaders from 30 countries are gathering to help shape the future of contact lens education by exploring new technologies and approaches that can be applied to teaching. Delegates are travelling from all three of IACLE's global regions: Asia Pacific, Americas and Europe/Africa – Middle East. Nepal, Guatemala and South Africa will be among the countries represented.

Participation for IACLE members attending the congress has been facilitated by IACLE, thanks to the generous support of Platinum Sponsors Alcon, CooperVision and Johnson & Johnson Vision Care. Delegates will also attend from the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) and British Universities Committee of Contact Lens Educators (BUCCLE).

Among the sessions broadcast live will be a business symposium, How can educators grow contact lens penetration around the world? with presentations from industry speakers.

IACLE Vice President and Congress Chair, Professor Philip Morgan, commented: 'Delegates will be learning how we can harness the latest technology to advance contact lens teaching worldwide so it's especially appropriate that we should use technology to extend a welcome to all our members. We look forward to their participation to help make the Congress a memorable and enjoyable experience for everyone.'

Proud Platinum Sponsors of the Third IACLE World Congress on Contact Lens Education are Alcon, Cooper Vision and Johnson&Johnson.

For Further Information, Please contact Alison Ewbank (a.ewbank@iacle.org)

Date: Tuesday, 19 May 2015

From: Geeta Vemuganti (gkvemuganti@gmail.com)

Subject: Opportunity for Visiting Professor (Job)

Our program of 5 years Integrated Masters in Optometry and Vision Science is running very well at the University with nearly 500 applications for the seats and 100% placement for the outgoing students. To strengthen this further we would like to invite a Visiting Professor (optometrist /Ophthalmology) who would be willing to spend a semester in our School, as per the norms of the University. The responsibility of the faculty would be to teach courses, guide students from 5 years Integrated Masters in Optometry and Vision Science in their project, and organize/participate in conferences at UoH.

A Visiting Professor can be appointed for not more than one semester duration. A Visiting Professor could be:

- a) Still in service
- b) Superannuated
- c) Professional artist with proven track record

Remuneration subject to a maximum of Rs.75, 000/- per month on pro rata basis could be paid. For outstation persons invited under the above category one time apex return-air Fare by Air India Economy class may also be reimbursed. For persons Invited locally (within the twin cities of Hyderabad &Secunderabad) a transportation allowance of Rs.3,000/- p.m. on pro rata basis will be paid. Accommodation in the UoH Guesthouse subject to availability will be provided. No HRA would be paid. The appointment of Visiting Professor could be done in a School/Centre/Department which has a provision of project or on the basis of expertise against existing vacancy. The appointment can also be done against a leave vacancy.

For further information, please contact Geeta Vemuganti (gkvemuganti@gmail.com)

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