

Optometry DistList

Instance 2018:60

Tuesday, 10 April 2018

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- Glasses for colour blind - Enchroma glasses
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- Workshop on Diabetic Retinopathy for Optometrists at Trivandrum
- Germicidal contact lens to treat Keratitis – Optometry Today

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Date: 29 March 2018

From: Labishetty Sai Charan ([sai.charan@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in](mailto:sai.charan@galgotiasuniversity.edu.in))

Subject: Galgotias University celebrates World Optometry Day

World Optometry Day was celebrated by students and faculty of Department of Optometry, School Of Medical and Allied Sciences, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, UP, in a way that created awareness and marked a new beginning for the students to encourage and understand what is Optometry and the roles and responsibilities of Optometrists.

Prof. Renu Luthra (Vice Chancellor of Galgotias Univesity) along with Prof P.K Sharma (Dean-School of Medical and Allied Sciences) Inaugurated a new series of 6 Refractive clinics for the university feternity as well as for the villages surrounded by Galgotias University. Galgotias University conducted eye screening programme for the University students and faculty, students actively participated in poster presentation on “Eye Health Awareness and the role of Optometrist”and concluded with cultural activities by students.

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Date: 20 March 2018

From: S. Padhmanaaban ([padhmanaaban.ivi@gmail.com](mailto:padhmanaaban.ivi@gmail.com))

Subject: Glasses for colour blind - Enchroma glasses

EnChroma glasses are an optical assistive device for color blindness. Results vary depending on the type and extent of color vision deficiency per individual. The glasses are estimated to be effective for 4 out of 5 cases (80%) of red-green color vision deficiency, most common colour blindness. EnChroma does not endorse use of the glasses to pass occupational screening tests such as the Ishihara test

Part optics, part neuroscience, EnChroma glasses unlock a new world of color for people with color blindness. The EnChroma lens technology is based on over a decade of research effort to understand the causes of color blindness and how to engineer an optical technology platform to address the problem.

The underlying cause of most color vision deficiencies is due to the red and green-sensitive retinal cone cells having an overlapping response to light. Instead of responding separately to each wavelength of light, their response is highly similar. To compensate for the overlap, the EnChroma

lens contains proprietary optical materials that selectively remove particular wavelengths of light exactly where the overlap is occurring

For complete article, click here: <http://enchroma.com/about-us/>

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Date: 19 March 2018

From: Sunny Mannava (mannavas@operationeyesight.com)

Subject: Vision regained in AMD patients treated with stem cell trial – The Guardian

A treatment for the commonest cause of blindness could be available within five years, scientists believe, after revealing the first two patients given a revolutionary stem cell therapy have regained enough vision to be able to read.

The two patients having advanced AMD were implanted with a “patch” of stem cells over the damage retina, has restored the central vision enough not only for reading but to see faces that used to be a grey blur. The treatment was pioneered at Moorfields Eye Hospital and University College London.

Prof Pete Coffey and Prof Lyndon da Cruz aimed to treat 10 people who had the “wet” form of AMD, caused by sudden leakage from blood vessels in the eye that can destroy the macula. The two patients, a woman in her 60s and man in his 80s, are the first in the UK to have the treatment, and were chosen because of their advanced disease. Each had one eye implanted with the patch, which consisted of a membrane covered with human embryonic stem cells engineered to differentiate into RPE cells

Coffey and da Cruz intend to operate on one more patient to ensure the safety of the procedure. One of the successes of the trial has been showing that there was no need for drugs to suppress the patient’s entire immune system to avoid rejection of the stem cells. The eye is self-contained, so they were able just to inject pellets that release immunosuppressant drugs into the eye over the course of two to three years.

Coffey thinks they can have an off-the-shelf treatment available for NHS surgeons to use within five years, at the moment just for the 10% of AMD patients with the wet form of AMD. Dry AMD develops more slowly and there is no treatment for it. Coffey says, however, that there is no reason why the patch would not work for them too.

In due course, the team hopes the treatment could become as common and eventually as cheap as cataract surgery.

For full text article, click here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/nbt.4114>

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Date: 12 March 2018

From: Brien Holden Vision Institute (info@brienholdenvision.org)

Subject: Brien Holden Vision Institute appoints new Head of R & D

Dr Ravi C Bakaraju has been appointed as the new Head of Research and Development at Brien Holden Vision Institute. He takes on the role after Dr Paul Erickson retired in mid-2017.

Professor Kovin Naidoo, CEO at Brien Holden Vision Institute, appreciated the move as a natural evolution for the organisation, with a group of outstanding young scientists now joining a highly experience team to drive its translational research activities.

As Head of R & D, Dr Bakaraju will contribute to strategic direction and be responsible for operational leadership for development of translational research and innovation platforms in the areas of contact lenses, spectacles, intraocular lenses and instrumentation. The ocular therapeutics platform will remain with Prof Naidoo.

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Date: 06 April 2018

From: India Vision Institute (info@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Workshop on Diabetic Retinopathy for Optometrists at Trivandrum

IVI is pleased to announce a one day “Workshop on Diabetic Retinopathy for Optometrists”. The workshop will introduce the concepts of Diabetic Retinopathy and its management to Optometry Practitioners, Educators and Students. It will also orient the participants to categorize cases in Diabetic Retinopathy, latest advancements in Diabetic Retinopathy and much more.

**Facilitators:**

Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani M.S, FRCS, FICO, FNB (Retina) – Vitreo-Retina Consultant, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

Mr Ramesh Bojja- Consultant Optometrist,- Smt. Kanuri Santhamma Centre for Vitreo Retinal Diseases, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad Workshop

**Date and Time:** Sunday, 06 May 2018, 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM Workshop

**Venue:** Chiatanya Eye Hospital & Research Institute, Trivandrum

**Registration fee:** INR 400 per participant

Pay online followed by filling the registration form. Please visit our website for registration: <https://www.indiavisioninstitute.org/upcoming-programs-view.php?id=11>

**Deadline for Registration: Tuesday, 01 May 2018**

*“Funding for the Workshop on Diabetic Retinopathy was kindly provided by Optometry Giving Sight in association with ALCON Foundation”*

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Date: 05 April 2018

From: Sheeba Swarna (sheeba.swarna@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Germicidal contact lens to treat Keratitis – Optometry Today

Scientists at the Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Polymer Research in Potsdam have developed plasma-treated hydrogel lenses as a potential treatment for keratitis.

Dr Storsberg explained that certain types of keratitis do not respond to treatment with antibiotics. The current therapy of combining antibiotics with disinfectants can have severe side effects, he highlighted.

The scientists manufactured contact lenses from silicone hydrogel. The lenses were then soaked in plasma-activated water. Plasma is known to have germicidal properties and is already used in the treatment of skin diseases. "Silicone hydrogel does not react with the plasma-activated water, but absorbs it very effectively without changing its properties," Dr Storsberg explained.

He highlighted that the anti-bacterial potential of the contact lenses has been confirmed through trials using human donor corneas and results have been published in peer-reviewed literature. Dr Storsberg added that further investigation is required before the contact lenses can be established as a new therapy for eye infections.

For complete article, click here:

<https://www.fraunhofer.de/en/press/research-news/2018/March/a-gentle-approach-treating-microbial-keratitis.html>

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