We are going through unprecedented times. I am aware that a number of you have had to face hardships, both professional and personal. We at IVI are hopeful that this phase will pass, paving way for new opportunities, partnerships, and programs.

IVI has faced the pandemic with caution, with our staff working remotely and has made a conscious effort to focus more on continuing education of eye health professionals to better equip them to thrive in the future. As you will notice in this newsletter, we have had several professional development webinars and panel discussions on the sector post-COVID-19 and on topics that have been of great interest to the profession.

One of the significant activities that we have planned for later this year is ‘Eye Health in a Changing World’, conference that promises to be a great platform for the eye care fraternity to come together over two days virtually. With four keynotes, several panel discussions with international leaders, a scientific program spanning all major aspects of optometry and vision care and over 100 virtual exhibition booths, it will be a flagship event in the eye care calendar.

We congratulate Jogendra Rathor, Chief Optometrist, Clear Vision Eye Hospital, Ahmedabad, and Ms Shakti Pradheepa P of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research, Chennai, who won the IVI Essilor Optometry Wizard 2020 and IVI Essilor Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy, respectively.

IVI also assisted with COVID-19 related outreach activities, including an awareness campaign as well as donating PPE kits and sanitizers to frontline workers (thanks to the support of Essilor Vision Foundation). Prior to the lockdown, we undertook several vision screening projects in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

We are thankful to our current program partners, including Sightsavers, Essilor India Pvt. Ltd., Essilor Vision Foundation, 2.5 NVG, Fred Hollows Foundation, L&T Construction, Australian Consulate-General, Kolkata, and VisionSpring.

IVI is also delighted to welcome new partners, including the Luxottica Group and Carl Zeiss India Pvt. Ltd. Thanks for supporting the cause to enable access of a pair of spectacles to every Indian.

- Vinod Daniel

**Message from the CEO**

**Present and Future of Indian Optical Industry**

India Vision Institute, on 4 July, led an industry panel discussion involving Amitava Mendonca, Director, Lawrence & Mayo, Sanjeev Madan, General Secretary, All India Optical Federation, Ashutosh Vaidya, Managing Director, Safilo India Pvt Ltd, Akash Goyle, Country Manager and Managing Director, Luxottica India, Ramachandran P, Eyecare Sector Management Consultant & Honorary Advisor, India Vision Institute, and Milind Jhadav, Senior Director, Inclusive Business & Philanthropy, Essilor, South Asia. The participants discussed the status of the Indian Optical Industry and the roadmap ahead for the future. The panel reinforced that the optical industry is a necessary business at the very core, and that strategically places the sector in a better place under the current scenario. The program attracted 4000 views on social media and 100 online participants.

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**IVI is a member of Asia Pacific Council of Optometry and VISION 2020**
Eye Health in a Changing World is the first virtual international conference hosted by India Vision Institute and aims to be a landmark event in the eye health calendar over the years. The conference is planned from 2 to 4 October 2020. The virtual conference will be one of the first events to incorporate every aspect of a physical conference. The Conference will provide optometrists, vision scientists, educators, researchers, students and other eye health professionals with an exciting program.

The program will encompass plenary and parallel sessions, with keynote addresses, panel discussions, oral and poster presentations, and pre-conference focus talks. The program will try to address the recent developments and will also discuss on the future direction of the eyecare sector in the light of changing world and healthcare needs around us. Offering over 40 hours of interactive and live sessions, as an added attraction, the conference will include a trade fair showcasing the products, services, innovations by industries, corporates and institutions.

The conference comprises exciting activities including quizzes, contents for photos, videos, posters, slogans, creative writing and much more.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DAY 1

Dr GN Rao
Founder-Chair
LV Prasad Eye Institute

Dr Alarcos Cieza
University of Vicencia, Colombia

DAY 2

Dr Maria Liu
Founder and Chief Medical Director
LV Prasad Eye Institute

Dr Thulasiraj Ravilla
Chairman-Operations
Aravind Eye Care System

Scientific Committee

- Dr Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, HOD - Binocular vision/ Vision therapy clinic, Sankara Nethralaya; Assistant Professor- Elite School of Optometry, Units of Medical Research Foundation, Chennai, India
- Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Director & Scientist, Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, LVPEI
- Dr Luigi Bilotto, International Optometric Consultant
- Dr Suit May Ho, Optometry & Primary Care Adviser, Knowledge & Innovation, The Fred Hollows Foundation
- Prof Monica Chaudary, Director, Ansal University
- Jissa James, General Manager, Professional Development, India Vision Institute
- Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani, Network Head, Tele-Ophthalmology, LV Prasad Eye Institute

Communications Committee

- Sachidananda Murthy, Editor, Malayala Manorama and The Week
- Amer Ali Khan, Editor, The Siasat Daily
- Somasekhar M, former Associate Editor & Chief of Bureau, The Hindu Business Line
- Shekhar Nambiar, General Manager, Communications, India Vision Institute

Association Partners

- Optometry Council of India
- Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
- Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, India
- Optometric Association of Tamil Nadu
**Independent Optometry Practice**

A talk by Kumaran R of Trinity Optics and Founder General Secretary, OATN, on 17 April focused on “Independent Optometry Practice”. The session highlighted the opportunities and challenges of becoming an entrepreneur, the struggles involved and how the journey, as a whole, is a good learning curve. A Q & A session followed the lecture. Online participation: 100.

**COVID-19 - Impact on Primary Eye Care and Optical Industry**

A “COVID-19 - Impact on Primary Eye Care and Optical Industry” Discussion Forum on 1 May helped the participants to understand how Primary Eye Care, the Optometry fraternity and Industry will adapt in the COVID-19 world. The forum featured participants from across sectors - academia, practice (hospital based and independent), the not-for-profit and corporate sector.

**Optometry Education Overseas**

“Optometry Education Overseas – An IVI Online Session for Optometry Students” discussion on 27 May, gave optometry students aspiring for an overseas post-graduation an opportunity to discuss issues about studying overseas. The forum aimed to help them to the pros and cons of such a learning experience as well as the professional scope after finishing their education.

The panelists answered a range of questions including the importance of a good mentor, gaining work experience and the need for determination, passion and patience while applying for Universities.

**Indian Optical Industry: Status and Career Opportunities**

A session on “Indian Optical Industry: Status and Career Opportunities” by Ramachandran P, Honorary Advisor, India Vision Institute & Eyecare Sector Management Consultant, on 22 April was the second among the IVI Online Seminar Series. Online participants: 80.
Practice Guidelines for Optometrists during COVID-19

A session on “Practice Guidelines for Optometrists amidst COVID-19” steered by Ms. Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, Optometry Council of India (OCI), evoked good response from the fraternity. Participants included Aditya Goyal, President, ASCO-India, and Snehal Turakhia, Managing Director, Turakhia Opticians. The session summarized the practice guidelines developed by OCI in consultation with other Optometry bodies and subject experts. The session took in questions from the participants and tried to bring clarity on safe practices at workplace ensuring safety of self, patients and peers. Online participants: 60, Social media views 320.

Change Management session for IVI Young Leaders Program Alumni

An online discussion session on 13 June was organized exclusively for the alumni of IVI Young Leaders Program on “Change Management” aimed to equip the participants on tackling change during times of uncertainty with a positive attitude and bring them back to ground realities. The alumni posed questions in regard to economic policies, sustainable practices, human resource management, strategic planning, adopting and adapting to new educational practices etc. Panelists were Steve Borgia, Managing Director, Indeco Hotels, Chandrashekhar G, Consultant Editor, Hindu Business Line, Dr Anuja R Singh, Vice Principal, The Sankara Nethralaya Academy. Social media views: 897.

COVID-19: Protective Kit Distributed

With support from Essilor Vision Foundation, IVI provided protective kit to the police, sanitary workers and a government hospital in Chennai. The kit included face masks, shields, PPE kit and sanitisers. We have also put up COVID-19 awareness billboards in Tamil and English in our locality in Chennai.

Optometry Education: Now and the Future

Panelists comprising Dr Ramesh S Ve, Associate Professor (Senior Scale) and Head, Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Aditya Goyal, Principal, Sankara College of Optometry & President, ASCO-India, Dr Krishna Kumar, Freelance Optometrist & Former Principal, Elite School of Optometry, Ms Jissa James, General Manager, Professional Development, India Vision Institute, and Dr Richa Verma, Principal Project Scientist, Human Brain Project, IIT-Madras & Education Consultant, LVPEI, Hyderabad, participated in a discussion forum on 2 July. They discussed the current status of Optometry education in India and what the future holds. Online participation: 100, Social media views: 4200.

Your Views on COVID-19 and its Impact Contest

IVI conducted a contest for Optometry students during the second and third week of May encouraging them to think and write about COVID-19 and its impact in their life. Students submitted a brief essay with a catchy slogan. Some 40 Optometry students participated and the winners are Hemkala Ghalley, Sharda University, Sweety Dsouza, Manipal College of Health Professions, Jeetesh Gurnani, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, Alekya K, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Vishakapatnam, and Rajkumar V, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Vishakapatnam.

COVID - 19 Awareness Quiz for Children

A COVID-19-related quiz conducted by IVI to raise awareness among school students across India on 22 May evoked a good response with 35 children participating in the contest. Sowjanya R from Shri B S Mootha Girls Senior Secondary School, Chennai, Shikha Singh from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Manauri, Allahabad and Akshay from Sri Narayana Mission Senior Secondary School, Chennai won the first three places.
IVI’s national quiz, Optometry Wizard of the Year with support from Essilor India Pvt Ltd, continued this year. It evoked a good response with more than 700 participants.

The competitors of the final round included: Ms Preetha Ramprasat, Associate Professor, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Chennai, Jogendra Rathor, Chief Optometrist at Clear Vision Eye Hospital, Ahmedabad, S. Saravanan, Clinical Optometrist at Accutha Eye Care, Erode, Tamil Nadu, and Vedalingam Ganesan, Clinical Optometrist, Aster DM Healthcare, Doha, Qatar.

Jogendra Rathor won the first prize and was awarded a cash prize of 10,000 INR. Ms Preetha Ramprasat, was declared the First Runner-Up followed by Mr S. Saravanan, who emerged as the Second Runner-Up. They received a cash prize of 5000 INR and 3000 INR respectively. All four finalists were given certificates. Six audience participants in the quiz also won prizes. They included Ramprasat Kanagaraj, Principal, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Chennai, Diksha Chaurasiya, BOptom Student, Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences, Etawah, Narash Kumar, Optometrist, Vision Express, Chennai, Seetha Lakshmi, Optometrist, Dr.Agarwals’s Eye Hospital, Chennai, Siva, M.Optom Student at Accutha Institute of Optometry, Erode, Monesh Kumar, Intern-Optometrist, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Salem.

IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor India Pvt. Ltd for funding the program.

IVI continued with the screening of truck drivers under Sightsavers RPG Netranjali project in Karnataka during the early weeks of March 2020. Some 651 truckers were screened at Chamrajpet, Kalasipalayam, Kengeri and Anand Rao Circle. Some 358 who were diagnosed with refractive error were provided with free spectacles.

Some 789 underprivileged workers from T.Nagar, Porur, Chintadripet, Urappakkam and K.K Nagar in Chennai and Yeshwanthpur, Karnataka got their vision screened during March 2020, of which 480 were diagnosed with refractive errors and received free spectacles.

IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles. We also acknowledge the Optometry students of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Potheri for volunteering in the vision screening programs.
Avadi Screening Continues
Continuing with our campaign at Avadi in Chennai’s outskirts, IVI screened 244 underprivileged daily wage workers at Thiruninravur on 15 March. Some 172 workers diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles.

IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles and also MLA, Avadi, Tamil Nadu Minister for Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture, K Panidirajan, for funding the program.

What people say about IVI

“It was a good session and thank you for the opportunity. Look forward to more such interactions.” - Akash Goyle, Country Manager and Managing Director, Luxottica India on Present and Future of Optical Industry panel discussion

“It was great to have such a program with eminent panelists talking about today’s situation and the future of our industry. It was as much informative as thought-provoking. Keep up the good work.” - Sanjeev Madan, General Secretary, AIOF on Present and Future of Optical Industry panel discussion

“It was an enjoyable experience and the interaction thought-provoking” - Amitava Mendonca, Director, Lawrence and Mayo on Present and Future of Optical Industry panel discussion

“That’s achievement number one in 2020, securing the runner-up place in the IVI Essilor Optometry Wizard of the Year competition. Had a good time participating in the quiz. Kept me on the edge. The online quiz conducted by IVI was the first and one of its kind. It was well organized. Thanks IVI and Essilor! A special word of appreciation to IVI for conducting so many useful activities for optometrists, students and children during the lockdown period.” – Preetha Ramprasat, Associate Professor, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology and Research, Chennai.

“It’s really good to hear from IVI. YLP gave me such a good platform that I will always be indebted for. The training was excellent and gave us good exposure. And it’s really good to hear about the six-month online course. A great idea, in fact.” - Poorna Singh, IVI YLP Alumni - 2015 batch

“Thank you, IVI and Sightsavers for conducting vision tests and for the free glasses for truck drivers. I am able see clearly and can read comfortably.” - Hulugappa, truck driver, Karnataka – on the truck drivers screening program.

Watch ‘In conversation with Vinod Daniel’ video series only on www.youtube.com/indiaVisionInstitute

Dr Monica Jong – Executive Director, International Myopia Institute; Assistant Professor, University of Canberra.

Mr Akash Goyle, Country Manager and Managing Director, Luxottica India

Mr Manuraj Sundaram, Lawyer – Madras High Court Chair; Australia India Youth Dialogue; National Media Spokesperson, DMK Party, Tamil Nadu

Current project supporters

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IVI Vision Screening Programs

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