A well-attended ‘Walk in the Dark’ awareness campaign and launch of a large-scale screening program in Mizoram was a major highlight for India Vision Institute in June. Some 10,000 underprivileged children in two remote districts - Serchhip and Lunglei - of this North Eastern state of India will be able to get their vision tested and free glasses will be provided to those who are identified with refractive errors. A pilot study in the state by IVI last year estimated the incidence of refractive error to be over 18% among school children and many of them have never undergone an eye health screening before. This initiative will hopefully be the first step in enabling them to see better, study well and serve their families and community better. This would have not been possible without having a good local partner in Zoram Entu Pawl (ZEP) and support from Essilor India Pvt Ltd and Essilor Vision Foundation.

There are several millions of children all over India who would need similar intervention especially due to lack of awareness or access. I very much look forward to working with more partners to make this possible for them to get access to a pair of spectacles.

We had the opportunity of hosting four interns, M. Rakesh and P. Gouri Pravalitha from the University of Hyderabad; and Sheryl N and Jenifer G from Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Chennai. Their enthusiasm, positive approach and knowledge speak well for the Optometry student community in looking after India’s future eye care needs.

We continue to work closely with 2.5 NVG in assisting with professional development of ophthalmic officers and with LVPEI in delivering on the Alcon-supported Diabetic Retinopathy workshops. I am also delighted that through five years of the Young Leaders Program, we have been able to build a core group of forty four young optometry leaders who are already making a positive difference to Indian Optometry.

We have several new projects to implement and the need in the country is huge. However, to make our vision a reality we need additional partners, especially financial supporters. We look forward to hearing back from you on partnering with us on any of our initiatives.

The presence of the late Prof Brien Holden and Dr G N Rao will continue to guide us and we are grateful for the ongoing base support from L V Prasad Eye Institute and the Brien Holden Vision Institute. Jai Hind.

Vinod Daniel

Message from the CEO

A Walk in the Dark organized in Mizoram’s capital Aizawl drew an enthusiastic response from over 300 blind and visually impaired children, as well as school-going children and prominent citizens.

The walk was flagged off by Mizoram Government’s Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Dr Lalnunthara, at the city’s Vanapa Hall. Indian professional footballers Jeje Lalpekhlua and Zohmingliana Ralte, IVI CEO Vinod Daniel, Essilor India’s Consumer Activation Manager Ridhima Pandey, Essilor Vision Foundation (EVF) India Head Dharmaprasad and ZEP’s Secretary & Director, Rev. Fr. S Lawrence Kennedy, were among those who joined the walk.

Co-hosted by Essilor India’s ‘think about your eyes’ campaign with the support of Zoram Entu Pawl (ZEP), a not-for-profit charity working in the social development sector, the Walk is the eighth such event since 2014. It also marked the launch of a vision screening project for 10,000 children from remote districts of Mizoram - Serchhip and Lunglei - by IVI with support from EVF.
The fifth batch of the IVI Young Leaders Program (YLP 2017-18) concluded with a workshop on May 5 and 6. Participants included Salai Dhavamathi, Unnati Vaish, Paras Desai, Mosaib Omaer, Pawan Kumar, Gaurav Dubey, Rahul Roy, Shaik Faheemuddin and Harish Kumar. In addition, Venkatesh, Riswan Rasheed and Ramesh Kumar Shukla (from the YLP IV batch) also completed the program with the bridging opportunity provided.

The fifth YLP batch undertook two group projects in leadership, communication skills and personality development training program among optometry students in India. Participants also took part in individual projects.

The IVI leadership initiative has created a pool of 44 young leaders in Optometry and eye care since its launch in 2013. The program has provided participants an unmatched opportunity for building networks among the Indian Optometry community along with giving them a deeper understanding about their role in eye care in India.

IVI Vision Centre serves the needy

Since its launch on May 10 this year, India Vision Institute’s vision centre in Chennai is providing access to free spectacles to underprivileged communities across the city.

The centre serves as a walk-in facility for people to have their vision screened and receive a pair of spectacles if needed. The centre is also a one-point processing unit for all spectacles that gets distributed as part of its outreach activities.

Our vision centre has so far served 320 walk-in underprivileged adults and children, as well as provided 140 spectacles and assisted 1350 underprivileged individuals via the outreach programs, and processed over 900 free spectacles.
IVI Career Counseling 2018 – Session I

Fifth series of IVI Online Career Counseling

Dr Ramesh S Ve, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Optometry, School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, conducted the first session of the series on June 29. Dr Ramesh provided a perspective on employability skills in optometry, especially in the areas of academics, clinical practice, research and technology entrepreneurship.

Attended by over 160 students from six Optometry institutions across India, the session wrapped up with a discussion on ideas and concerns about a range of career and educational choices.

IVI Career Counseling 2018 – Session I

The second session of this series is being facilitated by Kunal Shah, CEO & Founder, Eye Savers, on July 13. He will counsel students on the optical industry, private practise and entrepreneurship.

IVI - 2.5 NVG workshop at Dharamshala

A comprehensive capacity building workshop at Dharamshala from June 17-19, organized by IVI jointly with 2.5 New Vision Generation (NVG), benefited 50 vision care professionals. Attended by over 160 students from six Optometry institutions across India, the session wrapped up with a discussion on ideas and concerns about a range of career and educational choices.

Covering a range of topics including essentials of refraction, ophthalmic dispensing, ocular emergencies, soft skills and entrepreneurship development, the workshop comprised both technical and practical sessions.

IVI’s Revanth Reddy and M Chandra Shekher facilitated the workshop, which was the thirteenth in the series organized by IVI following an agreement with 2.5 New Vision Generation India Pvt. Ltd to hold capacity building workshops for members of the National Ophthalmic Association.

Offered yearly, the summer internship program aims to provide students field experience beyond the usual clinics. Initiated in 2014, 16 students have gained working experience so far under the program.

Eye See & I Learn (May – June 2018)

As part of its Eye See & I Learn initiative, IVI screened 1,103 underprivileged children from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Manavalankuruchi, Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district. Eighty-one children diagnosed with refractive errors were given free spectacles.

IVI acknowledges the support of 2.5 New Vision Generation India Pvt. Ltd for funding the program.

IVI also acknowledges the support of the ‘Allergan International Foundation’ for funding the program.

IVI photo wins contest ‘Eye Care for All’ at Vision 2020 14th annual conference

A picture paints a thousand words

Students of Adi - Dravidar Welfare Govt High School, Palavakkam, Chennai.

IVI is a member of World Council of Optometry, Asia Pacific Council of Optometry and VISION 2020
Under IVI’s Eye See & I Work campaign, 2,492 underprivileged community workers were screened at Injambakkam, Veetuvangani, Kundrathur, Iyyapanthangal, Tharapakkam, Kolathur, Thandalam, Palavakkam, Amjikarai, Kotivakkam, Chinn Neelangarai, and 1,592 workers diagnosed with refractive error will receive free spectacles.

IVI screened the vision of 409 underprivileged community workers from Injambakkam, Palkalai Nagar, Palavakkam, and Kundrathur and distributed 267 free spectacles to those diagnosed with refractive errors.

“The Walk in the Dark organised in Aizawl on June 23 drew an enthusiastic response from all and I have no doubt that it will have contributed to raising awareness about avoidable blindness. We are also pleased to join IVI in the campaign for vision screening children in Mizoram’s Serchhip and Lunglei districts. These are remote districts where the initiative is most needed.” - Rev. Fr. S Lawrence Kennedy, Secretary & Director, Zoram Entu Pawl (ZEP).

“The association with IVI in the schools screening campaign in Mizoram is in line with the Essilor Vision Foundation’s commitment to eliminating poor vision and its lifelong consequences, and to providing underprivileged people the opportunity to live a better life through better sight.” - Dharmaprasada Rai A, Head, Essilor Vision Foundation.

“The online session by Dr. Ramesh was very informative and engaging. A lot of information on career opportunities after graduation was shared. Also, the session covered in detail research opportunities and how to go about it. And I feel it was equally useful for all students, whether in the final or first year. I would like to congratulate and thank IVI and Dr.Ramesh.” - Mosaib Omaer, Faculty, CLGEI, Moradabad.

“It was a great learning experience at the YLP. I got the opportunity to interact with and learn from industry leaders. The workshop has helped me to understand the successful traits of a leader and has inspired me to excel in my own profession.” - Dr Harish Kumar, Program Manager, Operation Eyesight Universal.