It was a delight for me to spend a couple of days at the Optometry Young Leaders workshop in Chennai. The kind of interactions and the enthusiasm of these participants to do something for the country makes me feel very secure about the future of Indian Optometry. I have no doubt that these 20 participants from the fourth and fifth batches of India Vision Institute’s flagship program, along with 30 others from previous batches, would contribute to positioning India as one of the major global influencers in eye care in the next few decades.

Our vision screening programs have been beneficial for underprivileged children and adults in several parts of India, all thanks to the many generous supporters enabling us to touch the lives of over a hundred thousand Indian children and adults through vision screenings and provision of free pair of glasses. We want to double this over the next 12 months and I look forward to your continued support in making this possible. A big thanks to all our corporate and individual supporters, as well as screening and referral partners. One aspect that is getting clearer is the pressing need for refractive error correction in rural India. The solution requires a comprehensive approach, including trained human resources for accurate diagnosis and further managements, public awareness to assist rural people to understand the problem as treatable, and a retail infrastructure where people can go and buy a pair of spectacles. I strongly believe a comprehensive strategy and approach is what will work. I am delighted that inroads are already being made encompassing this multi pronged approach.

The Second WCO Conference (11-13 September) that we are co-hosting with WCO and APCO is just around the corner. Log on to the conference website (www.worldcongressofoptometry.org) for a glimpse of the level of participation and representation from the profession. If you have not registered yet, please do it as soon as possible. An opportunity like this is not to be missed.

- Vinod Daniel

IVI Summer Internship 2017

The fourth batch of interns commenced internship at IVI Hyderabad and Chennai from 15 June – 15 July and 1 July – 31 July, respectively.

• Md. Faizan - UP University of Medical Sciences, Saifai
• PVN Suharsha - University of Hyderabad
• Mohammed Shahreyar Salim - NSHM, Kolkata
• J Shiva Karthick - Sri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Chennai

The internship will give students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of working on IVI projects to promote Optometry in India. This would comprise support in program planning and implementation, surveys and drafting reports, assisting in community vision screening programs, and research documentation.

Offered yearly, the summer program aims to give students field experience beyond the usual clinics.

Initiated in 2014, so far 12 students have gained work experience under the program.
The fifth and final batch of the IVI Young Leaders Program (YLP 2017-18) was launched in Chennai on 17 June with a two-day workshop for a group of 11 young leaders from Optometry institutions across India.

The occasion was also time to bid farewell to the fourth batch of YLP. Participants got the opportunity to network with professionals from 10 states.

Participation in the program affords the Young Leaders an opportunity to build networks, observe the process of profession recognition, and voice their viewpoints with peers. They also gain a deeper understanding of conflicts and issues in their respective workplaces, learn how experts and leaders deal with these problems, and develop their own perspectives.

Since its launch in 2013, 50 Optometry professionals from 30 Institutions have been a part of the program, participating in group and individual projects. With the completion of the fifth batch, 43 professionals from 17 states will have been trained.

The 2017 group comprises the following young leaders:
1. Anirban Dey – Faculty, NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata
2. Gaurav Dubey – Faculty, UP UMS, Saifai
3. Harish Kumar – Senior Program Manager, Operation Eyesight Universal, Hyderabad
4. Kitchwa Dkhar – Optometrist, Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences, Shillong
5. Mosaib Omaer – Assistant Professor / In charge, C L Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad
6. Paras Desai – Assistant Professor, Hariyot College of Optometry, Navsari
7. Pawan Kumar – OT Grade I, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
8. Rahul Roy – Lecturer, Thiruvallur School of Optometry, Bangalore
9. Salai Dhavamathi – Assistant Professor, Amity Medical School, Manesar
10. Shaik Faheemuddin – Key Accounts Manager, GKB Rx Lens Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad
11. Unnati Vaish – Assistant Professor, Teerthanker Mahaveer University, Moradabad

As a part of IVI’s Eye See & I Learn initiative, during May and June, 347 children from orphanages and child development centers in and around Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur districts of Greater Chennai were screened.

26 children diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles.

The vision screening programs were conducted at Gold Heart Foundation, Korukkupet Slum, Chennai; SOS Orphanage, East Tambaram, Kanchipuram district; and Sri Perumal ITI Child Development Centre, Periyapalayam, Thiruvallur district.

IVI acknowledges the support of CooperVision and Optometry Giving Sight.

Under the Eye See & I Work initiative, IVI screened 651 underprivileged people in RA Puram, East Tambaram, Srinivasapuram, Pattinampakkam, Kuil Thottam, Annaí Sathya Nagar, Chemmencery in Kanchipuram-Greater Chennai and in Periyapalayam, Thiruvallur district during May and June. 336 people diagnosed with refractive errors will be provided free spectacles.

IVI partnered with Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) in organising these community vision screening programs.

IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor Vision Foundation in providing the spectacles.
The fourth session of the IVI Online Career Counseling was conducted on 28 June 2017. Attended by over 300 participants from 10 optometry schools across the country, the one-hour session was facilitated by Dr Charanya Ramachandran, Scientist, Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

During her talk, Dr Ramachandran briefed made a presentation on the sling shot model of eye care delivery, conventional and un-conventional career opportunities, and demand and supply of Optometrists in the current Indian scenario. “The health of any profession is gauged in terms of its contribution to research and curriculum update. Our education and research agenda must be in alignment with our role in the eye care ecosystem,” she noted. The session wrapped up with Dr Ramachandran interacting with the participants.

IVI Vision Screening Programs

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>194</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals screened</td>
<td>73061</td>
<td>38426</td>
<td>111487</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spectacles distributed</td>
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Carved up to three segments – observation, clinical training and community screening, the fellowship aims to equip the trainees with required skill sets in screening and management of Diabetic Retinopathy. The program will train eight professionals.

As part of the fellowship, the two were actively involved in clinical training to plan, manage and evaluate a comprehensive diabetes eye care model.

IVI acknowledges the support of Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight.

DONATE ONLINE
Your contribution of INR 500/- will help to screen the vision of 10 underprivileged children and provide spectacles to those in need; or offer opportunity to an individual from the underprivileged community to work to their full potential through a pair of spectacles.

To DONATE ONLINE and for additional information, please visit www.indiavisioninstitute.org or call 044 - 24515353


Short Term Fellowship for Optometrists in Diabetic Retinopathy

The second round of ‘Short Term Fellowship for Optometrists in Diabetic Retinopathy’ at L V Prasad Eye Institute concluded on 8 July.

Mohd Alamgir and K. Bharath Kumar completed the program over the December 2016-July 2017 period, with the fellowship spanning a total of seven months. They were selected for the program following a rigorous entrance examination. Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani MS, FNB (Retina), Vitreo-Retina Consultant, LVPEI, Hyderabad distributed fellowship completion certificates to the fellows.

IVI acknowledges the support of Alcon Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight.

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Career Counseling: Session 4 – 2017

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Upcoming Programs and Registration Deadlines

<table>
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<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of the Program</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Workshop on Diabetic Retinopathy for Optometrists</td>
<td>Shree Bharatimaiya College of Optometry &amp; Physiotherapy, Surat, Gujarat</td>
<td>27 July 2017</td>
<td>23 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alcon - OGS Short Term Fellowship in Diabetic Retinopathy Batch IV</td>
<td>L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad</td>
<td>21 Aug 2017 to 21 Apr 2018</td>
<td>29 July 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Course on Managing Myopia in collaboration with BHVIA</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>14 Aug 2017 to 4 Sept 2017</td>
<td>19 Aug 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Selfie with Spectacles (Competition)</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>20 July to 20 Aug 2017</td>
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The Lane Cove Cricket Club Masters team is partnering with Optometry Giving Sight (OGS) and India Vision Institute (IVI) to screen the vision of 2000 children in Chennai. This is part of a broader initiative by OGS and IVI to develop a large partnership program for Australian entities to assist with vision screening programs in India.

Sheeba has joined IVI as Program Manager, she is responsible for developing and implementing IVI educational programs, vision screening and research programs. She is a graduate from Elite School of Optometry. Prior to joining IVI, she has worked as Senior Optometrist at Sankara Nethralaya. She also holds a Masters degree in Optometry from Elite School of Optometry.

Sheeba Swarna

Prof. Brian Layland and Dr. Susan Marthandan in conversation with Vinod Daniel

WATCH VIDEO: www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute

IVI Job Portal (www.eyecarejobs.in)

Launched in September 2014, IVI's sector specific job portal is available free of cost to both recruiters and job seekers. This industry and education support initiative has over 400 registered members.

Optometry professionals across India are invited to sign up.

Companies wishing to advertise a current job opening can forward details to murali.krishna@indiavisioninstitute.org or call +91 - 9703138588