

Optometry DisList

Instance 2015: 15
Thursday, 17 September 2015

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From: India Vision Institute (ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: **IVI Excellence Award**

IVI is pleased to announce IVI Excellence Award, celebrating excellence in Optometry and eye care in India.

The Annual Award recognises demonstrated contribution made by an Indian citizen or an organization in one or more areas, including Awareness & promotion; Education and research; Capacity Building; Rural outreach; and Innovative business models with sustainable solutions.

An organization or a professional from the wider Optometry and eye care community including, practitioners, educators, entrepreneurs, public eye health professionals and researchers can be nominated. Self-nominations are also welcome.

The award comprises a trophy, a certificate and a cash prize of Rs 10,000

For further information about the award and the nomination process, please visit: www.indiavisioninstitute.org

Deadline for Nominations: **Saturday, 10 October 2015**

Date: Wednesday, 26 August 2015
From: Chandan Shettigar (chandan.s@manipal.edu)
Subject: **Opternative launches online refraction service**

Opternative announced Monday that its online refractive eye exam service that provides users with prescriptions for glasses and contact lenses has been launched in 27 states.

The exam consists of a user taking vision tests on their own computer screen and recording answers on their smartphone, which takes about 25 minutes, Opternative said in a press release. Users receive their prescription, which is both issued and signed by an ophthalmologist in the user's state, within 24 hours.

The exam is currently available to people between the ages of 18 and 40 years and costs \$40 for one prescription or \$60 for both a glasses and contact lenses prescription. Opternative stated that the exams are not a replacement for a comprehensive eye exam and that the company has put safeguards into place such as refusing tests to users with specific symptoms.

The [American Optometric Association](#) took a stand against remotely and patient-administered eye exams at Optometry's Meeting in June.

Article Source: <http://www.healio.com/optometry/contact-lenses-eye-wear/news/online/%7Be9bbb384-5983-43c7-84ad-f0296293fddf%7D/opternative-launches-online-refraction-service>

Date: Saturday, 29 August 2015

From: Arpita (arpitanikita3@gmail.com)

Subject: **International insights and innovation APX: Novel device for pupil expansion**

Small pupil is a major challenge in intraocular surgery, mainly cataract surgery that may lead to severe complications. In recent years, IFIS (intraoperative floppy iris syndrome) has become a common cause of intraoperative constricted pupil with the increasing use of alpha-1A adrenergic blockers for benign prostatic hypertrophy in men at the cataract age. There are several strategies to dilate the constricted pupil, including mechanical stretching, sphincterotomies, iris hooks, and intraocular pupillary rings, with the Malyugin ring (MicroSurgical Technology, Redmond, Wash.) being the most popular option currently. However, all of these procedures are cumbersome and time consuming and usually require excessive intraocular iris manipulations during insertion and removal.

The APX (Assia Pupil Expander, APX Ophthalmology Ltd., Haifa, Israel) is a novel device for pupil dilation, based on a concept different from any other device on the market. Pupil expansion is achieved by using two devices. Each device looks like a miniature blunt scissors with a spring. A designated forceps is used to close the device during insertion and positioning. The distal curved tips are inserted behind the iris through the pupil, and releasing of the forceps results in a smooth opening of the device. No intraocular manipulations are needed for the insertion, positioning, or removal of the APX devices.

The stainless steel APX-100 is cleared for clinical use by the FDA. Surgeries were done in a variety of cases including pseudoexfoliation, uveitic cataract, post filtration surgery, mature

and hypermature dense nuclear cataract, patients with clinical IFIS, and for secondary implantation of PC-IOLs in aphakic eyes previously operated on for congenital cataract. In one case surgery included pars plana vitrectomy for removal of the dislocated crystalline lens followed by "glue fixation" of a posterior chamber IOL to the scleral wall. In all cases the operations were successfully performed with effective pupil dilation throughout surgery, and no intraoperative or postoperative device-related complications were noted.

For full article, please visit: <http://www.eyeworld.org/article-apx--novel-device-for-pupil-expansion>

Date: Monday, 31 August 2015

From: Mounika V (mounikav30@gmail.com)

Subject: **Microglia May Be a Potential Therapeutic Target for Blinding Eye Disease**

Spider-like cells inside the brain, spinal cord and eye hunt for invaders, capturing and then devouring them. These cells, called microglia, often play a beneficial role by helping to clear trash and protect the central nervous system against infection. But a new study by researchers at the National Eye Institute (NEI) shows that they also accelerate damage wrought by blinding eye disorders, such as retinitis pigmentosa.

“These findings are important because they suggest that microglia may provide a target for entirely new therapeutic strategies aimed at halting blinding eye diseases of the retina,” said NEI Director, Paul A. Sieving, M.D. “New targets create untapped opportunities for preventing disease-related damage to the eye, and preserving vision for as long as possible.” The findings were published in the journal *EMBO Molecular Medicine*.

Lead investigator, Wai T. Wong M.D., Ph.D., chief of the Unit on Neuron-Glia Interactions in Retinal Disease at NEI, and his team studied mice with a mutation in a gene that can also cause retinitis pigmentosa in people. The researchers observed in these mice that very early in the disease process, the microglia infiltrate a layer of the retina near the photoreceptors, called the outer nuclear layer, where they don’t usually venture. The microglia then creates a cup-like structure over a single photoreceptor, surrounding it to ingest it in a process called phagocytosis. Wong and his team caught this dynamic process on video. The whole feast, including digestion, takes about an hour.

Phagocytosis is a normal process in healthy tissues and is a key way of clearing away dead cells and cellular debris. However, in retinitis pigmentosa the researchers found that the microglia target damaged but living photoreceptors, in addition to dead ones. To confirm that microglia contribute to the degeneration process, the researchers genetically eliminated the microglia, which slowed the rate of rod photoreceptor death and the loss of visual function in the mice.

“These findings suggest that therapeutic strategies that inhibit microglial activation may help decelerate the rate of rod photoreceptor degeneration and preserve vision,” Wong said.

Other potential treatments for retinitis pigmentosa, such as gene therapy, are progressing, but are not without challenges. Gene therapy requires replacing defective genes with functional genes, yet more than 50 distinct genes have been linked to the disease in different families, so there’s no one-size-fits-all gene therapy. A therapy targeting microglia might complement gene therapy because it’s an approach that’s independent of the specific genetic cause of retinitis pigmentosa, said Wong.

For Full Article, please visit: <http://neurosciencenews.com/microglia-retinitis-pigmentosa-2188/>

Original Article Source:

<http://embomolmed.embopress.org/content/early/2015/06/29/emmm.201505298>

Date: Wednesday, 2 September 2015

From: Shrikant Bhardwaj

Subject: **Optometrist (Job Opening)**

The L V Prasad Eye Institute is seeking applications from bright, young and enthusiastic optometrists for participating in the institute's corporate relationship endeavour. The Optometrist involved in this task will form the key liaison between the institute and its corporate clients. They will form an integral part of the corporate eye screening team and they will perform vision tests, analyse the results, diagnose refractive errors and eye pathology, promote eye health by counselling patients and deliver eye health awareness talks for corporates employees/schools (as and when needed). Post the screening, the optometrist will also be engaged in data entry and generating the screening report. The optometrist will also split their time between regular clinical activities and the aforementioned relationship activities.

Candidates with a 4-year Bachelors degree in Optometry from an ASCO recognized college/university will be considered for interview. The candidate must be strong in their academic knowledge and also possess excellent communication and inter-personnel skills. Candidates with post-graduate training in management or in mass communication are desirable but not necessary. Interested candidates may apply with their current CV and a cover letter to Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj at bharadwaj@lvpei.org and to Ms Neha at neha@lvpei.org

For further details please write to Shrikant Bharadwaj (bharadwaj@lvpei.org)

Date: Wednesday, 9 September 2015
From: Parinitha Shetty (sparinitha@visionexpress.in)
Subject: **Opportunity for Optometrists with Vision Express (Job Opening)**

Positions Vacant

We have requirements for the position of **Optometrist/Sr. Optometrist** in Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda

We also have requirement for **Cluster Optometrist** to be based in **Mumbai and Baroda**

About Vision Express

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Salary is not a constraint for the right fit.

Interested candidates can get in touch with me @9740803745 or e-mail their CVs to: sparinitha@visionexpress.in

For further details, please contact Parinitha Shetty (sparinitha@visionexpress.in)

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