

Letter from the President



Dear Esteemed Members,

It is my pleasure to welcome our Advisor to the Board - Mr Arun K Panda, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

Arun K Panda, Ph.D. IAS, has joined as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. I personally join the Board in welcoming Mr Panda and would request for continuous support from the government towards reaching our collective aim of eliminating avoidable blindness. I am also glad to share that Mr Panda has consented to be Advisor to the Board of VISION 2020 – India.

I Welcome the new CEO for VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India - **Phanindra Babu Nukella, Ph.D.**

Phanindra holds a Ph.D. in Population Sciences and is a post graduate in Statistics. He has been working in the area of health for the past 14 years in the not-for-profit sector at various progressive capacities. Prior to joining us, he was with Population Foundation of India (PFI), a national NGO, at the capacity of Program Director of "Health of the Urban Poor Programme" funded by the USAID. The HUP program provides technical assistance to the central government and eight state governments in designing and implementing urban health programmes.

I assure Mr Phanindra that he has all our support as we take VISION 2020 – India and its aim to the next level.



The 10th annual conference of VISION 2020 – India is just three months away. Titled '**Advancement in Comprehensive Eye Care: Clinical & Managerial**', the conference is slated to be on July 5 & 6 2014 at Cochin, Kerala. Institute of Ophthalmology, Little Flower Hospital & Research Centre, Angamaly has graciously agreed to host the conference.

For this year's conference, we have six tracks. The sessions are designed to benefit eye care program managers and cadres from all the departments of an eye hospital. Respecting popular demand, we have introduced a common session featuring some influential leaders in health care. I hope that an interaction with them will prove to be a source of inspiration to all.

It is my pleasure to invite all our members to VISION 2020 – India's 10th annual conference and request all to take advantage of this opportunity for networking and learning.

Best Regards

Col (retd) Dr M Deshpande
President

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VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India



5 & 6 July, 2014

Institute of Ophthalmology,
Little Flower Hospital & Research Centre,
Angamaly, Cochin, Kerala



We, at VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India, welcome all to our landmark 10th annual conference.

This year's conference is at the scenic land of swaying palms and fishing nets of rich cultural heritage of Kathakali and Kalaripayattu – Kerala.

Conference dates: 5 & 6 July, 2014

Venue: the Institute of Ophthalmology, Little Flower Hospital & Research Centre, Angamaly, Cochin, Kerala.

Titled '**Advancement in Comprehensive Eye Care: Clinical & Managerial**' this year's conference has 6 tracks.

Based on response received from the Bhopal conference, we have introduced a Common Session this year. This session features some eminent visionaries from the health sector, who will share their inspirational experiences.

We retain the ever popular Leadership track and have made all efforts to design the conference to include topics that are practical in nature to benefit eye care program managers and all departments of an eye hospital. It is our endeavour to invite the best in the respective fields and retain the uniqueness of this platform for sharing, learning and networking in the field of community ophthalmology.

The six tracks are:

- **Inspirational Leadership for achieving challenging goals**
- **Quality & excellence in OT, OPD and allied departments of an eye hospital**
- **Community outreach: towards equitable, accessible, affordable eyecare delivery**
- **Optometry & Optical Dispensing**
- **Project & Operation Management for effective hospital management**
- **Comprehensive approach and advancements in eyecare: practices, techniques & technology**

Please visit our website – www.vision2020india.org for registration forms and other details.

AWARDS

'Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery'

&

'Shri S. N. Shah Award for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children'

These awards are exclusively for our eligible members.

The last date for submitting your nomination is April 30, 2014.

Please visit our website for detailed information and forms.

ADVOCACY

Glaucoma Walk: a brisk walk of awareness in the winter sun

The entrance of pious Rajghat in the old part of Delhi on the morning of Sunday, 9th March saw a very different gathering assembled at its gate. The gathering of eye doctors, optometrists were preparing to launch a walk to create awareness on the occasion of 6th World Glaucoma Week that was observed worldwide from March 9 – 15.

The walk in Delhi organised by Glaucoma Society of India (GSI) and Delhi Ophthalmological Society was inaugurated by Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Law and Justice, Government of India, Mr Kapil Sibal. On the occasion, he released colourful balloons and interacted with the eye doctors present to under-

stand the magnitude of glaucoma. The minister also urged the public to get their eyes tested regularly.

The walk witnessed participation from some of the leading glaucoma specialists from the Capital including Dr JC Das, President, GSI and Dr Suneeta Dubey, Treasurer, GSI.



Beat Invisible Glaucoma was the global theme for this year's glaucoma awareness week



Union Minister, Mr Kapil Sibal participating in the awareness walk on the World Glaucoma Week in Delhi. Team VISION 2020 – India: Mahaveer, Mrinal and Sridevi also supported the cause by joining the two km walk (left) Members of GSI getting ready for the walk (right).

A glimpse of glaucoma awareness activities by our member organisations



MKCG Medical College, Beharampur, Odhisa (left)

MKCG medical college, Beharampur, Odhisa observed the week by organising a walk, interaction between doctors and the public and also conducting screening camps.

Bansara Eye Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya (right)

Screening, quiz contest, distribution of leaflets to the general public and interaction with the media were some of the activities conducted by Bansara Eye Centre, Shillong, Meghalaya to create awareness on glaucoma.



Arunodhya Deseret Eye Hospital (ADEH), Gurgaon, Haryana

ADEH distributed leaflets in the surrounding area of the hospital to create awareness on glaucoma; conducted 2 glaucoma awareness camps with a lecture given by Dr. Reena Sethi and over 350 patients were screened for glaucoma, during the week.

A glimpse of glaucoma awareness activities by our member organisations

Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH), Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, UP.

Doctors and staff from SCEH participated in the glaucoma walk at Rajghat, Delhi to launch the awareness week. The other activities during the week included free glaucoma screening camps and public awareness lectures at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital Daryaganj and the satellite centers of Gurgaon (Haryana) Alwar (Rajasthan), Rampur and Mohammadi (U.P.) by Drs. Suneeta Dubey, Monica Gandhi and Dr. Julie Pegu and the Glaucoma team.



Dr J C Das, President, Glaucoma Society of India inaugurating the awareness programme



Minister Kapil Sibal being presented a memento by Dr Shroff and Mr AK Arora

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

Patient Compliance: a vital component for effective treatment



A two day workshop on 'Patient Compliance' was organised by VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India on March 8 & 9, 2014 in collaboration with Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi. Ms Dhivya Ramasamy, faculty from LAICO designed the module of the workshop.

Over two days, the workshop focused on:

- Patient Compliance - Understanding the problem
- Improve compliance by empowering patients
- Enhancing Compliance through Better Service Design
- Strategies to Monitor Compliance

The workshop received an overwhelming response with a participation

of nearly 50 from north, west and central zone of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India. The workshop also saw participation from INGOs: Sightsavers, ORBIS International, OEU and CBM partners.

Inaugurating the two day workshop, Mr AK Arora, CEO, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital (SCEH), Delhi and zonal representative, north, VISION 2020 – India welcomed the participants. As SCEH is celebrating 100 years, he narrated the journey of SCEH.

Setting the context of the workshop, Dr Suneeta Dubey, Associate Medical Director & Head of Glaucoma Department, SCEH said that non-compliance was a major obstacle in the achievement of therapeutic goals and interventions need to be multifaceted,

Feedback on the workshop:

Dr. Partap Kumar Midha, Director & Trustee, Global Eye Hospital, Mt Abu said that the discussion at the workshop has now enthused him "to take time out to sit with the patients to understand their problems and definitely interact with them while they are being discharged"

Mr. Subeesh Kuyyadiyil, SNC, Chitrakoot: "SNC being a volume intensive hospital, patient compliance poses a big challenge. Learning from this workshop prompts me now to see how to have one to one focus"

Mr. D N Sharma, Rotary Eye Hospital, J & K: "This workshop has been an eye opener. It has given us an insight into a very crucial topic for effective treatment cycle. We will surely do our best to see how to implement the learning from this workshop"



simultaneous and tailored for each individual patient.

Three group works were held during the workshop to identify the barriers for patient non-compliance for cataract, pediatric blindness, refractive error and glaucoma.

Dr JC Das, President, Glaucoma Society of India and other participants at the workshop.

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India's technical session at 72nd AIOS

Equity or High tech ophthalmology, which is more important for elimination of avoidable blindness: a debate

February 7, 2014. 2:00 – 3:25 p.m.

Hall K, Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre, Agra



An interesting debate: 'Equity or High Tech Ophthalmology: which is more important for elimination of avoidable blindness' was the topic for VISION 2020 – India's annual technical session at the AIOS conference. The session was held on 7th February, 2014 at the Jaypee Palace Hotel and Convention Centre, Agra, the venue for the 72nd AIOS conference.

Dr N K Agarwal, Deputy Director General (Ophth), NPCB, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India gave the key note address.

Some of the eminent ophthalmologists either supported or spoke against six topics ranging from 1. Refractive error: spectacles are more important than refractive surgery; 2. Tertiary care institute raise the bar for all eye care; 3. Maintenance of surgical quality is more important than high volumes cataract surgery; 4. Vision centres are

better than camps for providing access; 5. Accessible primary eye care services will reduce burden of blindness to 6. High end equipment is the solution for quality eye care.

The debate was well received by the audience who thought it was stimulating.

VISION 2020—India stall at AIOS



VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – India was allotted a complimentary stall by AIOS in the trade area. This was an opportunity for us to disseminate information on the activities and also on the forthcoming annual conference. We received an encouraging number of delegates to the stall, seeking information about the organisation.



On the panel: Dr Agarwal, Dr Deshpande, Dr Grover & Dr Sara (above) Dr Sara making her presentation (right)



Round Table on action plan for awareness of Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy in India

A day long round table meeting towards formulating an action plan for awareness of Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy in India was held on 6 March, 2014 at Dr RP Centre, AIIMS. The workshop was jointly organised by VISION 2020 –

India, Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences and All India Ophthalmic Society.

India has more than 50 million people with T2DM and Diabetic Retinopathy is becoming an important

cause of visual impairment in India. Under the government's 12th five-year plan, priority has been given for diabetes and diabetic retinopathy services in the country. One of the foremost challenges for uptake of services is low awareness in the community about the diabetes, co morbidities including risk of visual impairment and also about the prevention and available services.

Round Table on DR awareness

It is in this backdrop that the round table with experts in eye care from across India was held. The aim of the workshop was to formulate an action plan on generating awareness of diabetes and diabetic retinopathy at the level of community as well as among the health care providers.

The action plan thus developed will dwell on areas for awareness generation, strategies, target groups, health care levels and estimated costs for different strategies suggested.

It is proposed that the action plan will be a working document for National Programme for Control of

National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and stroke, Government of India and other Non-governmental organisations for implementing such programmes with a broader goal to combat burden of diabetes and diabetes eye disease.

The task for the executive committee was to form the initial situational analysis of the current status on awareness about diabetes and diabetic retinopathy in relation to diseases and availability of services at different levels of health care.

The committee members identified the awareness generation strategies and will be submitting recommendations to government of India on the "National Action plan for awareness generation on diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy".

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Col Deshpande was invited to attend the '**National Consultation on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development Processes**'. The meeting held on 12th February, 2014 was organised by WHO SEARO and CBM to arrive at recommendations to facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes and schemes of the government.

BOARD MEETING



The Board meeting in progress (above)

Mr RN Mohanty launching the new—look VISION 2020—India website

The 41st Board meeting of VISION 2020 – India was held in conjunction with the 72nd AIOS conference on February 6, 2014.

On the occasion, Mr RN Mohanty, CEO, Sightsavers (India) launched the new—look website of VISION 2020—India.



Mr Mrinal Madhaw, Programme Manager, VISION 2020 – India attended a two week training programme for programme managers at LAICO, Madurai. The training programme focused on enhancing the skills of a Programme Manager for an eye hospital.

MEMBER BENEFIT

STRATEGIC PLANNING

A two day strategic planning exercise was held at Blind People Association, Bareja, Ahmedabad on January 25 & 26, 2014. Col Deshpande and Mrinal conducted the team building exercise.



FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

Workshop at Vizag: May 3 & 4, 2014: VISION 2020—India is organising a two day workshop on 'Operations Management' is being held at Sankar Foundation, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Training programme for glaucoma: May 4, 2014: VISION 2020 in collaboration with Eye Q Institute of Glaucoma, brings you 6 training programmes in glaucoma. The first training programme will be held on May 4th, 2014 at Surat, Gujarat.

For further details on the above programme, please contact: Mr Mrinal at VISION 2020—India office or write to: mrinal@vision2020india.org

This quarterly newsletter is brought out by
VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA
Room No.205A, Second Floor,
Enkay Tower B & B1,
Vanijya Nikunj, Udyog Vihar,
Phase V
Gurgaon,
Haryana 12201
India

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