



INCLUSIVE EYE CARE SERVICES



MGM EYE INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE REPORT

3rd & 4th June, 2017

MGM Eye Institute
Raipur, Chhattisgarh

In Association





CONFERENCE REPORT

Inclusive Eye Care Services

MGM Eye Institute | Raipur | 3 & 4 June 2017

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SUMMARY

The 13th annual conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA titled - **Inclusive Eye Care Services** - was convened on 3 & 4 June, 2017. MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, Chhattisgarh hosted the two-day conference.

The national conference offered the delegates a unique opportunity of learning and sharing knowledge in community ophthalmology that is generally not available in the more commonly held CMEs. All session topics largely focused on strategies and measures to realise the objective of eliminating avoidable blindness in India and to equip all department in an organisation to achieve it. The emphasise was on quality and delivery aspects that involve all the departments in an eye hospital.

The conference brought together over 500 participants from across the country. It featured senior officials from the Centre and State health ministries, WHO, eminent ophthalmologists from three centres of excellence in eyecare in India and premier eye care institute as speakers. Delegates were policy makers, heads of eye hospitals, allied organisations, ophthalmologists, optometrists, hospital managers and other important cadre who are the backbone of an eye hospital.

The two-day programme broadly incorporates the scientific programme, the conference common session, presentation of awards, and trade. It is a place where along with the scientific programme, meetings held, network established; experiences shared - a place that exudes an atmosphere of bonhomie where work and pleasure share a mixed platform.

The conference featured 24 dynamic sessions across four parallel tracks. In a novel approach, the sessions were designed to be a combination of talks, panel discussions and courses to make the conference participatory with more space for discussion and sharing of ideas.

“Very well managed scientific conference – best ever effort by VISION 2020 – INDIA team” Dr Praveen Vashist, Dr RP Centre, AIIMS

The conferences’ common session profiles speakers of national and international repute to reflect on an overarching global or national issue centred on eye health. Two distinguished speakers shared their experience this year. Dr GP Pokharel, senior ophthalmologist from Nepal on ‘Four decades of eye care development in Nepal’ and Dr Patanajali Dev Nayar, Regional Advisor, Disability and Rehabilitation, WHO, SEARO on ‘Assistive Technology: a boon for visually disabled’.

A panel discussion was part of the common session with Dr GP Pokharel, senior ophthalmologist, Nepal; Dr Patanajali Dev Nayar, Regional Advisor, Disability and Rehabilitation, WHO, SEARO and Dr Promila Gupta, DDG (O), NPCB discussing the use of assistive technology for the visually disabled. Mr Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO ably facilitated the discussion.



The Chhattisgarh Ophthalmological Society associated for the conference, had a strong presence and participation, and shared their rich experience and perspective. We are thankful to the President and Secretary of the Society to grace the conference.

INTRODUCTION

The annual conference is the flagship event of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight - INDIA. It was established as a platform for sharing experiences and networking and continues to grow in that direction.

The broad aim of the conference is:

- increasing the capacity of eye care fraternity towards meeting the goal of reducing visual impairment
- creating networking opportunities and overall atmosphere of upgrading knowledge and technology use
- Share experiences and good practices in the area of eye health for better planning and implementation of eye care services

The tracks for this year were:

- Organisational Development**
- Eye Care Delivery to the Unreached**
- Improving the Patient Outcomes in Cataract Surgery**
- Skill Enhancement for Optometrist/ Ophthalmic Assistants**

“Congratulations for having organized a valuable and productive meeting. The meeting sessions were topical and – best of all- most sessions were contained within the time allocated!”

Dr. Patanjali Dev Nayar, WHO. Regional Office, SEARO

The five member scientific committee comprising of: Dr RD Ravindran, Aravind Eye Care System; Dr Praveen Vashist, Dr RP Centre, AIIMS; Dr Umang Mathur, Dr Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital; Dr Sandeep Buttan, Sightsavers India and Dr Samrat Chatterjee, MGM Eye Institute, had their task cut out for them as they had to meet the expectations and also blend the latest developments and the requirement of the sector. The designed sessions took into consideration the constructive feedback received from the previous annual conferences. We thank the scientific committee for designing the programme.

We were able to support the travel of four students to the conference. This is thanks to Dr G N Rao, Chairman, LV Prasad Eye Institute, who gave a grant for initiating a Travel Fellowship to sponsor students to attend the conference.

We are also grateful to Seva Foundation for sponsoring six of the delegates to attend the conference.



CONFERENCE INAUGURATION

The conference was formally inaugurated on the evening of 3rd June 2017 in a well-organised programme at hotel Babylon International, Raipur. The chief guest for the inaugural was the Minister for State, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste. Guests of honour for the evening were, Speaker of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Shri Gauri Shankar Agrawal and Dr Promila Gupta, Deputy Director General, National Programme for Control of Blindness, Government of India.

The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Shri J P Nadda was unable to attend the inaugural. In a gracious gesture, he sent a video message that was played at the inaugural.



Inaugurating the conference, chief guest for the conference, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister for State, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India emphasised on quality in eye care. A Lok Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Kulaste said, "When we talk of eye care, quality management should be an integral part of it. If we are a little lax about quality, infection can occur. Hence quality is a vital aspect for all organisations to focus on". The minister urged all government, NGOs and private sector to all work together to successfully achieve this mission.



Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Minister for State, Health and Family Welfare, Government of India addressing the conference delegates.



Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Shri Gauri Shankar Agrawal delivering his speech.

Delivering his address, Speaker, Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly, Shri Gauri Shankar Agrawal shared that it was a proud moment for Chhattisgarh to host a conference of national stature. Talking on the mission of VISION 2020 – INDIA towards eliminating avoidable blindness, Shri Agrawal pointed that in Chhattisgarh around 80 – 85 % of the population resides in rural areas and the challenge is to reach them. However, he was hopeful that like Tuberculosis, which a huge challenge for the state but a

olution was found, likewise, for avoidable blindness too solution would be found.

Dr Promila Gupta, Deputy Director General, NPCB, Government of India addressing the august gathering congratulated VISION 2020 – INDIA and the MGM Eye Institute for a successful conference. Dr Gupta said she could identify with the theme of the conference ‘Inclusive eye care services’ as it was the basic theme for NPCB – a government programme that has been running successfully to reduce avoidable blindness and also in providing comprehensive, affordable and accessible eye care to all in the country. Dr Gupta further said that the task was enormous and the involvement of NGOs as a strategy has been there from the beginning of the programme.



Dr Promila Gupta, Deputy Director General, NPCB, spoke of the involvement of NGOs with the government

Earlier, Dr Deepshikha Agrawal, Director, MGM Eye Institute welcomed the delegates to the conference. In her inaugural address, Dr Deepshikha said that avoidable blindness, especially in Chhattisgarh remained a challenge and a greater public awareness would help in tackling the problem.

The other dignitaries who graced the dais were Dr T P Das, Regional Chair, south Asia, IAPB; Dr R D Ravindran, Chairman Scientific Committee; Dr Subash Mishra, SPO, Chhattisgarh.

AWARD PRESENTATION

VISIONARY AWARDS

Every two years, VISION 2020- INDIA, confers the Visionary Award to recognise the yeoman service and contribution of an individual towards reducing the burden of blindness in the country, particularly among the weaker sections of society.

The award presents a citation outlining the achievement of the individual and a memento.



Dr R R Sudhir, senior consultant, Sankara Nethralaya receiving the Visionary award on behalf of Dr S S Badrinath

For 2017, the Visionary award was presented to Dr S S Badrinath, Founder & Chairman Emeritus, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai - a humanitarian doctor, doyen of ophthalmology and pioneer in eye care delivery in the country.

Dr Sara Varughese, President, VISION 2020 – INDIA announced the award at the inaugural programme of the conference and read out the citation (read citation <http://bit.ly/2s0es0h>).



Dr Sara Varughese highlighted some of the key areas where VISION 2020 – INDIA progressed in the past one year. “We have made considerable progress in our aim to eliminate avoidable blindness. However it is not just one institute, but the joint effort with the government and other institutions”.

Referring to a presentation from the conference, Dr Sara was satisfied that India is well on its mark to achieve the goal of VISION 2020 - INDIA.

Some of the other progress she highlighted by Dr Sara were:

- Advocacy with NPCB in collaboration with RP Centre for changing the definition of blindness to be in line with global definition
- Significant relief for V2020 members with regard to DBCS pending amounts cleared by NPCB due to the persistent efforts of the V2020 Secretariat
- The successful development of the state plan of Arunachal Pradesh and its result oriented implementation
- Capacity building of smaller organisations

Drawing a parallel and inspiration from the musicians at the inaugural, who went to lengths to tune all their instruments to be able to render a perfect performance, Dr Sara wondered whether while working in the community organisations strove to achieve perfection and try to coordinate to deliver a well tuned performance. “We have the opportunity, expertise, knowledge to make best quality”. “It cannot be just a job for us, we have to strive to deliver with passion” she said.

AWARD Presentation

Each year, VISION 2020 – INDIA presents two awards for its member organisations: Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award for Outstanding High Quality High Volume Comprehensive Eye Care Service Delivery and Shri S. N. Shah Award for Equity: to provide comprehensive primary eye care screenings with a focus on women and children.

For this year, a new award was introduced: LOTUS Award for Holistic Development of an Organisation to Serve Community Better. We thank Shri Naveen Shah (Chairman and Managing Trustee, LOTUS Eye Hospital, Mumbai) for his generous contribution for instituting this award.

A three-member jury assessed the applications received for these awards.



Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman Award was presented to Gomabai Netralaya, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh. This award carries cash prize of Rs.100,000 and a memento.

The team from Gomabai Netralaya receiving the award.



LOTUS Award in its maiden year to Divyajyoti Trust, Mandavi, Gujarat. This award carries cash prize of Rs.50,000 and a memento.

The nine member strong team at the conference from to Divyajyoti Trust receiving the award.



Shri S. N. Shah Award for Equity to Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. This award carries cash prize of Rs.10,000 and a memento.

Felicitating the Board members

The term of the Board (2014 – 17) concluded in June 2017. The outgoing board members were felicitated for their contribution at the conference inaugural programme. Representatives of the zone: Central zone: Mr L C Janiyani; East zone: Mr Teckchand Pradhan; West zone : Col M Deshpande; Northeast zone: Dr Jennifer B Vaid; North zone: Mr A K Arora; industry representative on the board: Mr Ranjan Bhandary.

Glimpses of the Conference Inauguration



SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

Led by a stellar roster of renowned speakers, the two-day program of the 13th annual conference offered four tracks and the Common Session.

The sessions were a blend of panel discussion, course models and talks to share knowledge, learning on topics to benefit overall development of an organisation.

The galaxy of speakers for the sessions was included from our member organisations and invited speakers from relevant fields outside eye care fraternity.

Organisational Development

This track with 7 sessions dwelled on dimensions of an eye hospital that are peripheral yet vital. The topics ranged from ways to collaborate with corporate for Corporate Social Responsibility, to media management during a crisis; changes in laws governing NGOs to medico legal issue management. Sessions here discussed linking poverty and gender discrimination to eye health, addressed the critical shortage on allied health workers and strategies to pursue quality assurance in eye care delivery.



Eye Care Delivery to the Unreached

The session topics under this track dealt with topics relevant to deliver eye care to the unreached. It focussed on cataract and beyond. The maiden session under this track outlined, the strategies and interventions required to achieve a cataract backlog free India. On understanding different approaches to establish vision centres, equip and sustain it. Four experts with experience of diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma work in the community discussed how approach could start at the community level. The industry representatives gave an insight on future innovations for eye health while the opening session on day two discussed how to overcome challenges in outreach programme management. The vital topic on refractive error discussed the school screening update and the outcome of a study on environment and eye health was educative.



Improving Patient Outcomes in Cataract Surgery

The track's session, more clinical in nature and aimed at ophthalmologists, were focussed on quality in cataract surgery and care. The courses highlighted the journey from SICS to phaco in a scientific and supervised manner. Quality measures for safe systems, role of communications and use of technology and how good protocols can minimize the risk after intraocular surgery. An interesting round robin course presented hands – on some of the most critical steps in quality surgical outcomes. A lively debate session highlighted some of the controversies in ophthalmology.



Skill Enhancement for Optometrists & Ophthalmic Assistants

A dedicated track on optometry was designed with six parallel courses to offer a blend of practical and theory: **Biometry Techniques | Special Contact lens fitting | Low vision aids | OPD potpourri & Binocular vision therapy | Ocular & Facial prosthesis | OR Etiquettes & sterilization techniques.**

A quiz concluded the session here with attractive prizes for the winners.



Sharing knowledge repository: towards organisation's sustainability & growth (ORAL PRESENTATIONS)

The response to submission of abstracts has been very encouraging and has grown over years. 92 abstracts were submitted. 48 were selected for oral presentations. Slotted in four sessions, the topics were largely on diabetic retinopathy, paediatric projects, outreach camps, low vision and eye bank.

In each of the four session had one best paper selected by a two-member panel sat throughout the session.

Forty-two posters were presented. Three best papers were selected by veteran ophthalmologists: Dr P K Mukherjee and Prof Shukla.



CONFERENCE COMMON SESSION

The conference session held on 4th June, the 2nd day of the conference had two eminent speakers sharing their experience and thoughts and a panel discussion.

Dr G P Pokharel, who is currently the Founder Chairman– Mechi Eye Hospital, Jhapa, Nepal was invited to share his experience of his dedicated work of nearly four decades in community ophthalmology in Nepal to make it a sustainable model. And what can India learn from it.

Dr Patanjali Dev Nayar was the second speaker at the session. He is the Regional Adviser, Disability, Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation, NCED, WHO, SEARO. Dr Nayar spoke on how assistive technology available has the potential to transform the quality of life of visually disabled. He urged the ophthalmologists to guide the visually disabled and open the doors of opportunity for them.

A panel discussion followed the two talks with Dr Promila Gupta, DDG (O), NPCB, Dr Pokharel and Dr Patanjali Dev Nayar as the panellists. Mr Thulasiraj Ravilla, Executive Director, LAICO facilitated the discussion, which centred on assistive technology and key learnings from Nepal experience.

Dr Promila Gupta said that there was a lack of report in the government surveys until now and that the government will have come up with some strategy to reach out to the blind in the population to be able to assist them with the available technology.

Dr Patanjali Nayar advocated the need to be proactive from reactive, to include more discussions about the topic in conferences and increase course on low vision and rehabilitation.



THANKS

The conference would not have been possible without the able support of: The scientific committee: to give their precious time for meetings and coordination and brainstorming to design the programme.

MGM Eye Institute: Dr Deepshikha Agrawal, Dr Samrat Chatterjee and Dr Anupam Sahu and the dedicated team of volunteers who worked round the clock to ensure that all went without a hitch.

We thank AIOS, NPCB, Speakers, Chhattisgarh State Ophthalmology Society speakers and not to forget the Chair/Co-Chair and Moderators and all other participants who made the conference vibrant place for learning and sharing of ideas.

We would also like to thank the Jury for selecting the awards.

Thank you all.

ANNEXES

Press clippings

