

## Message from the CEO

I have been meeting with a number of leaders in the Indian eye care sector, and a common strand that emerged was the championing role for the eye care sector that a few ophthalmologists have played in the last two decades. Their work has placed this sector in a better and more prominent position nationally. They articulated the concern well, built systems and processes, worked with the government, and within their individual organisations to achieve this.

I can see the same impact for primary eye care, including Optometry, in the not-too-distant future. Several champions are working tirelessly for this sector's growth, and the fruits of their efforts will be evident in the years to come. I salute all those who are involved in this endeavour, and urge all stakeholders to focus on the cause, and look at the benefit it will bring to the country. The late Prof Brien Holden's vision of strengthening the three pillars, i.e. political, education and regulation, for the long term future of Indian optometry is still important for us, and I am both delighted and encouraged that the National Commission for Allied

and Healthcare Professions Bill has passed the Rajya Sabha.

Resmeet, our planned research conference for April 23, 2021 where leading researchers and close colleagues of late Prof Brien Holden will be participating has been very popular. Please do register for the event if you have not done so already. The IVI team has been very busy conducting a number of programs of relevance to the eye care fraternity, details of which you can read in the newsletter. We are also happy that our vision screening programs have recommenced, of course adhering to Covid guidelines. In the past two months, we have screened some 7,100 people and over 4,200 free spectacles have been provided to those in need.

Myopia is becoming a huge concern globally, including India. IVI has always focused on this area including through continuing education programs on managing myopia, awareness programs and our vision screening outreach programs. Our second Annual conference, September 10-11, will have this as one



of the focus areas. We look forward to expanding our efforts in this area and working closely with eye care colleagues to assist India deal with this concern.

A huge thanks to our media partners for taking the eye care message across the country, donors for making it happen, trustees and advisors for your leadership, encouragement and handholding.

- Vinod Daniel

## Resmeet 2021 Research Symposium on 23 April

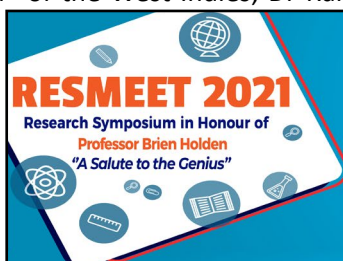
India Vision Institute invites you to a virtual research symposium on 23 April in honor of late Professor Brien Holden. The event scheduled from 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm IST will see stalwarts in eye care speak on research works through talks and panel discussions to benefit the quality of eye care services. The symposium will aim to create an informed pool of eye health professionals as well as inspire young minds to engage actively in research.

Speakers include Dr G N Rao, Founder Chair, LV Prasad Eye Institute; Prof Serge Resnikoff, Chair, International Myopia Institute Board, President of Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC), President, Thea Foundation, Chair, Brien Holden Vision Foundation, and Immediate Past Chair, International Coalition for Trachoma Control; Prof Kovin Naidoo, Senior Vice President, Social Impact: Africa & Latam and Advocacy, Essilor

International; Prof Jason Nichols, Associate Vice President, Research, Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Professor, School of Optometry; Dr Ravi Bakaraju, Founder Chairman, Associate Professor (Conjoint), University of New South Wales; Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Director, Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences, Scientist, Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad; Dr Jameel Rizwana H, Lecturer, Optometry Unit, Department of Surgical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies; Dr Ramesh S Ve, As-

sociate Professor and Head, Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE); Dr Premnandhini Satgunam, Scientist, Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Science, L V Prasad Eye Institute; and Dr Priya Morjaria, Assistant Professor, International Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Head of Global Programs, Peek Vision.

For more details, click <https://www.indiavisioninstitute.org/upcoming-programs-view/62>



## IVI-VisionPlus Panel Discussion Glaucoma - The Silent Killer

Often called the “silent thief of sight,” Glaucoma slowly damages the eyes and can cause irreparable harm even before there is any vision loss. The disease is a “silent killer” in more ways than one. The damage caused by Glaucoma can't be reversed, but treatment and regular checkups can help slow or prevent vision loss, especially if you catch the disease in its early stages. It is estimated that millions of people in India and around the world have some form of Glaucoma. Taking comprehensive eye examinations to more people and adequately skilling primary eye care professionals in all parts of the country, especially in remote areas, to detect Glaucoma will help to mitigate many of the threats this disease poses to public health.

At the India Vision Institute-VisionPlus Magazine hosted ‘Glaucoma - The Silent Killer’ panel discussion on January 22, panelists shed light on the proverbial darkness that shrouds this silent pallbearer of gloom and exchanged ideas on best practices and public health strategies to combat Glaucoma. Moderated by IVI CEO Vinod Daniel, the panel at the discussion comprised



Dr Mani Baskaran, Senior Consultant, Glaucoma Services, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Ramesh S Ve, Associate Professor and Head Department of Optometry Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and Dr Vijaya K Gothwal, Scientist, Brien Holden Eye Research Centre & Faculty, Meera and LB Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement, Institute for Vision Rehabilitation, L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Hyderabad.

Visit <https://visionplusmag.com/eye-care/optometry/glaucoma-the-silent-killer/> for the full article.

## IVI YLP 2020 session

IVI’s YLP 2020 session concluded with 13 young leaders in the eye health sector receiving certificates for successful completion of the six-month course. The session comprised participants drawn from eye hospitals and practice, industry, retail, and education.

**IVI Young Leaders Program**  
Batch 2020-21  
Congratulations

|   |   |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <br>Abhik Bandyopadhyay<br>Senior Consultant, IGC   | <br>Aditya Tripathi<br>Senior Consultant, IGC | <br>Anamika Bisht<br>Senior Consultant, IGC      | <br>Anhika Kushwaha<br>Senior Consultant, IGC | <br>Manish Kumar Gupta<br>Senior Consultant, IGC |
| <br>Moumita Sarkar<br>Senior Consultant, IGC        | <br>Pooja Sarbajna<br>Senior Consultant, IGC  | <br>Sainath Raj Bonala<br>Senior Consultant, IGC | <br>Shiva Ram<br>Senior Consultant, IGC       | <br>Syed Saif Ahmad<br>Senior Consultant, IGC    |
| <br>Mohd Tausif Raza Khan<br>Senior Consultant, IGC | <br>Varsha Jain<br>Senior Consultant, IGC     | <br>Vibha Kumari<br>Senior Consultant, IGC       |   |  |

## IVI Talks Impact Sightsavers want to create over 2021-25: RN Mohanty



Partnerships and collaborations successfully bring about the best out of an organisation and help us attain change and desired outcomes.

The CEO of Sightsavers India, RN Mohanty, was the guest speaker at India Vision Institute-hosted ‘IVI Talks’ on January 23. Among other issues, he outlined his organisation’s plans for the next five years.

For full story, click <https://fb.watch/4ltyL83X5s/>

**2nd ANNUAL EYE HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD**  
International Conference & Trade Fair  
10 & 11 SEPTEMBER, 2021

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**WATCH OUT**  
IVI's second annual conference

**WHAT'S IN THE CONFERENCE**

- A FULL PRE-CONFERENCE DAY OF WORKSHOP SESSIONS
- FOCUS AREAS INCLUDE; MANAGING MYOPIA, TECHNOLOGY & SERVICE DELIVERY, STANDARDISATION AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS
- ORAL AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS
- A TRADE FAIR WITH ENGAGING ACTIVITIES FOR DELEGATES

Watch this space for updates.

## IVI is a member of

World Council of Optometry

World Council of Optometry

Asia Pacific Council of Optometry

IAPB

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

VISION 2020 THE RIGHT TO SIGHT INDIA

Vision 2020 India



## Eye Health & Eye Safety Awareness Campaigns

IVI and Optician India magazine have joined hands during February and March to mark Valentine's Day Week and Holi, stressing the importance of eye safe-



ty and vision health. Campaigns for the two festivals are being undertaken across platforms by both for maximum impact.

A panel discussion organised on February 6 highlighted the importance of regular eye-checks to protect and prevent serious eye ailments. The discussion was led by Padma Shri Vikas Mahatme, Hon. Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Dr Vijaya K Gothwal of LVPEI, Ramachandran Parthasarathy, Eye Care Business Consultant, and Vinod Daniel. Madhur Gupta, Editor, Optician India, moderated the discussion.

### Presenting Well Online



JP Singh, Business and Executive Coach at Just Plain and Simple Consulting and a Trust member on IVI's Board, spoke on what it takes to deliver a good online presentation, to an audience of students and working professionals. The session, which saw participation from some 100 participants online, discussed presentation styles, online etiquettes and suggestions to keep the audience engaged.

## IVI Monthly Case Discussion Series

As part of IVI's efforts to provide continuing education for Optometry students and practitioners, we launched a monthly cases discussion series in February.

A theme that fits with the month's eye care observance will be selected with a call for applications. The best case study, each from the student and practitioner categories, will be selected and given an opportunity to present to a larger audience.

'Management of Low Vision Patients' was the theme for February and the event saw good participation. Solanki Lala, a student of Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital Delhi, and Helly Shah, a faculty member from Nagar School of Optometry, Ahmedabad, presented their case reports to Dr Deepak Bagga, Optometrist, Meera and LB Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement, Institute for Vision Reha-

bilitation, L V Prasad Eye Institute, and Samrat Sarkar, Senior Program Manager, India Vision Institute, who were the moderators, and to an audience of over 1,100. The selected candidates will get their abstract included in IVI's OptDistList, an



e-magazine that features interesting developments in eye care, and will also receive an e-certificate.

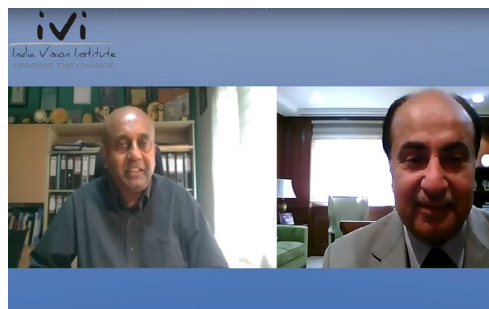
'Management of Digital Eye Strain' is the theme for March. Interested candidates may please visit <https://www.indiavisioninstitute.org/upcoming-programs-view/59> for more details.

### Prescribing Contact Lenses for Children



A session on the art of contact lens fitting for the pediatric population was facilitated by Preetam Kumar, Associate Optometrist, LVPEI, on 28 January. He spoke on the basic to advance fitting modalities of contact lenses in pediatrics along with a few case studies. The session saw participation from 1,400 people online including on Facebook.

Watch 'In Conversation with Vinod Daniel' video series only on [www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute](http://www.youtube.com/indiavisioninstitute)



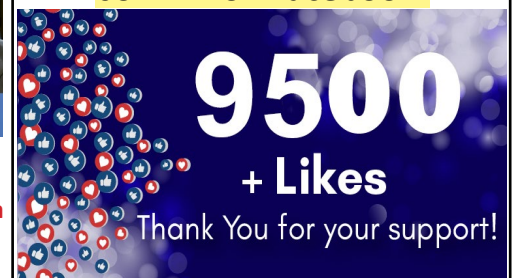
**Padmashree Vipin Buckshey**  
Official Optometrist to the President of India  
Sole Proprietor, Visual Aids Centre

### Volunteer for IVI

We are looking for volunteers (Optometrists/Optomety students) who can support us in screening underprivileged children and adults in the community.

Email us at [ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org](mailto:ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org)  
or call us on **91-44-24515353**

### Join IVI on Facebook



### Support IVI Programs

To DONATE ONLINE and for additional information, please visit

[www.indiavisioninstitute.org](http://www.indiavisioninstitute.org)

All donations shall qualify for deductions u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961

## Talks during Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month

We hosted four invited talks to commemorate Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Low Vision Awareness Month in February.



The first talk was by Sujoy Mukherjee, Associate Optometrist, LVPEI, Bhubaneswar, on the 'Diagnostic Imaging Modalities of ARMD - An optometrist's Perspective'. He talked about the diagnostic tools required for the detection of ARMD and the role of Optometrists in conducting diagnostic procedures and interpreting reports. He emphasized the OCT Angiography procedure to diagnose ARMD.

Dr Ahalya Subramaian, Senior Lecturer and Divisional Lead Optometry, City University of London, gave a talk on 'Quality of Life in Age-Related Macular Degeneration'. She discussed the available questionnaires to measure the quality of life in ARMD, the importance of history-taking while examining people



with Low Vision, basic to advanced optical and non-optical devices for ARMD patients, and important mobile applications available for people with Low Vision.



In another talk, Dr Alex Bowers, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School and Associate Scientist, Schepens Eye Institute, Massachusetts Eye and Ear, spoke on 'Driving with Age-Related Macular Degeneration'. Reduction of contrast sensitivity is more responsible for problems with driving in ARMD patients than a reduction of visual acuity.

The fourth talk was by Dr Arun Kumar Krishnan, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania, on 'Research Update: Retinal Degeneration and Low Vision'. He gave an overview on the ongoing research to improve the visual functions of people with ARMD.



## IVI Talks Optometry - Positioning for the Future Prof Peter Hendicott



IVI hosted Professor Peter Hendicott, President-elect, World Council of Optometry (WCO), at 'IVI Talks' on 10 February. He gave a talk on 'Optometry - Positioning for the Future'.

Professor Hendicott said there is a big demand for optometrists in eye care delivery services given the worldwide population growth. Since optometrists play a significant role in preventing blindness, it is recommended that they should actively engage in public health activities.

Artificial intelligence could become an important tool for conducting mass vision screenings in the future.

He suggested maximizing the scope of optometry practice by collaborating as a team with all eye care practitioners (Ophthalmologists, Ophthalmic Assistants), as well as with other healthcare professionals.

## IVI -VisionPlus Panel Discussion ARMD - Sight Threat to Elderly

Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) is a progressive central retinal disorder and the third major cause of vision loss globally. With early detection, diagnosis, and advanced treatment methods, it is possible not just to prevent further vision loss but also to maintain the residual vision required for daily living activities. The use of modern technology and devices, making appropriate low vision rehabilitation services available, and improving communication between patients, families, and vision care professionals, can also contribute significantly towards mitigating the disease's effects on quality of life.

As we marked Age-Related Macular Degeneration Awareness Month, panelists at the India Vision Institute (IVI)-VisionPlus Magazine hosted 'Age Related Macular Degeneration – Sight Threat to Elderly' panel discussion on February 17 shared their knowledge, ideas, and experiences in an engaging talk on a vision health challenge that adversely impacts quality of life for the elderly. Moderated by Mr Daniel, the panel at the discussion

comprised Dr Manisha Agarwal, Head, Vitreoretina Services, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Dr Beula Christy, Associate



Director/Head of Services, Institute of Vision Rehabilitation LV Prasad Eye Institute, Ms Sarika Gopalakrishnan, Senior Optometrist/Head, Low Vision Care Clinic, Sankara Nethralaya, and Ms Soniya Srivastava, Senior Faculty/ Optometrist



Incharge, Vision Enhancement Center & Clinical Training, Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital.

In his introductory remarks, Mr Daniel observed that ARMD is the third largest cause of vision loss globally and that worldwide, approximately 8.1 million people have lost vision due to ARMD. Citing WHO data, Ms Sarika Gopalakrishnan said there are 39 million blind people worldwide, with 8 million in India. "ARMD accounts for 8.7% of total blindness globally," she noted.

For the full article, <https://visionplusmag.com/events/happenings/age-related-macular-degeneration-sight-threat-to-elderly/>

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## Eye See & I Work

IVI vision screened 1,317 underprivileged daily wage workers in Chennai's Dhobi Kanna, Srinivasapuram, Perumbakkam, Tiruvottiyur, Palavakkam, Injambakkam, Kannagi Nagar, Chemmenchery, Kodam-



bakkam and Mylapore – of which 646 wagers diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles.

About 210 people were screened at Vedal, Melkadhirpur, Ottankaranai, Labbadikandigai, Purasai and Kuthirampakkam of Kanchipuram, of which 124 diagnosed with vision difficulties will be receiving spectacles shortly

Another 3,872 were screened in Tiruchengode, Edappadi, Salem and Namakkal - 2,528 were diagnosed with refractive errors, who will receive spectacles.

*IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles. We also acknowledge the Optometry students of SRM Medical College Hospital and Research Centre, Potheri for volunteering in the vision screening programs.*

## Republic Day screening in Chennai

IVI organised an eye care program on Republic Day in association with Karam Foundation for marginalised daily wagers at Pallikarnai, Chennai. About 156 were screened; 67 diagnosed with refractive errors will be given spectacles.



Some 26 people were diagnosed with cataract and were referred to hospital for comprehensive eye examinations.

*IVI acknowledges the support from Essilor Vision Foundation in providing free spectacles for the program.*

## Free access to vision screening, corrective spectacles at Bommayapalayam

IVI joined hands with Auroville Village Action Group, Yantra Studio, an architecture firm, and Temple Tree Retreat, in bringing the gift of good eyesight and a life of renewed hope to Bommayapalayam village in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, near Auroville.

The vision screening program, on 23 and 24 January, benefited over 300 underprivileged people, including women and the aged, in the village. IVI provided 184 pairs of spectacles free of cost to those found with uncorrected refractive error in the village. Sixty-two individuals have been given referrals for further hospital consultation.

AVAG's Project Director, Jerald Morris, said there was wide appreciation of the



services provided by IVI during the two days of the screening campaign.

*IVI acknowledges the support from Essilor Vision Foundation in providing free spectacles for the program.*

## IVI and partners bring good vision to Kolkata

IVI collaborated with NSHM Knowledge Campus, Durgapur, Kolkata and Bhawaniyubo Sangathan to undertake a vision campaign on 28 and 29 January.



With Covid protocols in place, some 500 people were screened at the NSHM Knowledge Campus, and around 250 identified with refractive error were provided free pairs of spectacles.

The campaign marked the resumption of IVI's vision screenings in eastern India, including a proposed campaign in Nagaland. Earlier programs in the region have covered activities in Kolkata, Assam, Mizoram and Meghalaya.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with India Vision Institute in the screenings at Durgapur. Our organizations have worked together in the past, and we look to partnering again in the future," said Soumendra Nath Ghosh, Head of Optometry and Vision Sciences, NHSM Knowledge Campus.

*IVI acknowledges the support from Essilor Vision Foundation in providing free spectacles for the program.*

## India Vision Institute Vision Centre



IVI Vision Centre's screenings have helped the underprivileged in localities across Chennai. On the occasion of Pongal festival this year, some 40 people got their vision checked and received free spectacles.

## Vision Screening at Avadi

IVI screened some 843 daily wage workers at six locations of Avadi, 1-5 February, of which 563 diagnosed with refractive errors will be receiving spectacles shortly.



*IVI acknowledges the support of the Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles. We also acknowledge the Ma Foi Foundation and Lions Club of Avadi for supporting the program.*

## Truck Drivers Screening at Salem

IVI resumed the screening of truck drivers at Salem, thanks to the support of Sightsavers. Some 1,733 truckers were screened at 27 camp locations. A total of 672 truckers diagnosed with refractive errors received spectacles.



IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.

We also acknowledge the Optometry students of Vinayaka Mission Institute of Medical Sciences, Salem for volunteering in our vision screening programs.

## What they say about IVI

"I thank IVI for organizing the eye screening camp in Bommayapalayam village. The camp was very useful to the villagers. The people who have received spectacles from IVI have expressed their gratitude to your team. Our staff and village volunteers are appreciative of the sincere and dedicated work your team put in. Please convey our appreciation to them - **Jerald Moris, Project Director, AVAG, Auroville**

Way to go. Congratulations on the Panel Discussion on Glaucoma - The Silent Killer on 23 January. -**Lalita Srichandan**

"It gives me great pleasure to thank the IVI team for such an enlightening YLP-2020. The six-month journey was a learning experience, and the course has transformed me from an optometrist to an optometry leader. All sessions were motivating and informative. I had a lot of take-home messages and am happy

to apply them in my career and workplace. I look forward to being associated with IVI and the YLP Alumni Group for further development of Optometry in India." - **Moumita Sarkar, Infigo Eyecare Hospital, Virar, Maharashtra**

"Thank you for the opportunity to me to participate in the IVI panel discussion on 'ARMD - Sight Threat to Elderly'. It was very well coordinated. I wish to continue my support to spread awareness on low vision services." - **Sarika Gopalakrishnan Senior Optometrist, HOD, Low Vision Care Services, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai**

I found it impossible to see small objects and have work done. Moreover, I couldn't afford a pair of glasses. Thanks to IVI for the free eye test and glasses, I am now able to see better." - **Dhanam, Tailor, Chennai**

"My distance vision is much better than before and I can see clearly now. Thank you IVI for helping me to see better and drive safely." - **Srinivasan, Truck driver, Rasipuram Lorry owners association**

### IVI Vision Screening Programs

|                        | Children | Community | Total    |
|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| No of programs         | 676      | 353       | 1029     |
| Individuals screened   | 2,84,011 | 78,591    | 3,62,602 |
| Spectacles distributed | 27,979   | 30,759    | 58,738   |

**Activities listed in this issue are for January-February.**

### Current project supporters



**Barbara Kipper (Chicago, USA)**

**Lions Club, Padur**

**Equitas Development Initiatives Trust**

### INDIA VISION INSTITUTE

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