Optometry DistList

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20 October 2017

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- Using neurostimulation to treat dry eye – Optometry Times
- IVI Student Research Grants 2017 -18 – Date of Submission Extended!

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Date: 4 October 2017
From: M.Chandrashekher (m.chandrashekher@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: Gaming for better vision – Optometry Today

A Slovakian research team has successfully used virtual reality to treat amblyopia. In a study published in BMC Ophthalmology, researchers used virtual reality Oculus Rift headset to play the computer game Vivid Vision, as a form of dichoptic training in 17 patients with anisometropic amblyopia.
They found that the best corrected visual acuity improved significantly in the patients who used virtual reality, with 47% of participants achieving a best corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or better after the training as compared to 30% before the training.

The average best corrected visual acuity in the amblyopic eye improved from a logMAR value of 0.58 ± 0.35 before training to a post-training value of 0.43 ± 0.38.

Patients visited the clinic twice each week to use the virtual reality headsets for between 30 and 60 minutes depending on their age and around 300 patients with amblyopia have received treatment for at least a month so far. The response rate to training with virtual reality was around 60% in adults and 85% in children under the age of eight.

For full text article, click here:
https://bmcophthalmol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12886-017-0501-8

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Date: 7 October 2017
From: Sivakamasundari Jeyavel (sivajeyavel.ivi@gmail.com)
Subject: Be My Eyes – Bringing Sight to the Blind and Visually Impaired

Be My Eyes is a FREE mobile app designed to bring sight to the blind and visually impaired. With the press of a button, the app establishes a live video connection between blind and visually

impaired users and sighted volunteers. Every day, volunteers are lending their eyes to solve challenges both big and small in the lives of the blind and visually impaired.

The app harnesses the power of generosity, technology and human connection to help blind and visually impaired individuals lead more independent lives.

How it works?

Blind Requests Assistance
A blind person requests assistance in the Be My Eyes app. The challenge that he/she needs help with can be anything from knowing the expiry date on the milk to navigating new surroundings.

Volunteer Receives Video and Describes
The volunteer helper receives a notification for help and a live video connection is established. From the live video the volunteer can help the blind person by answering the question they need answered.

Be a part of real change in people's lives. For more details, click here: http://bemyeyes.com/
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Date: 5 October 2017
From: Sunny Mannava (mannavas@operationeyesight.com)
Subject: OEU and SGBEH declared 5 villages as Avoidable blindness free

Operation Eyesight Universal (OEU) and St. Gregorious Balagram Eye Hospital (SGBEH) together have declared five villages at Kandukur mandal, Ranga Reddy district as Avoidable Blindness Free villages on 21 September 2017.

The concept of Avoidable Blindness Free Villages/ Communities is an integral part of Hospital Based Community Eye Health Program (HBCEHP). It is a blend of community outreach and community development. The process of elimination of avoidable blindness covers seven crucial steps: 1. Prioritisation of the village 2. Community mobilisation 3. Resurvey and validation 4. Screening by an Optometrist/Ophthalmologist 5. Behaviour change communication via 'Participatory Rural Appraisal' 6. Documentation 7. Declaration of villages as avoidable blindness free

The role of Optometrist and Ophthalmologist is crucial in validating and diagnosing the individuals with curable and incurable blindness.

Each village has a population between 500 and 1,000 people. The prevalence of blindness in the five villages was 1.04%. There is no one suffering with avoidable blindness in the village till date.

Declaration of these five villages takes the total tally of avoidable blindness free villages to over 391 in Operation Eyesight's intervention areas across 18 states and 57 partnering organisations in India.

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Date: 3 October 2017
From: Sandhya Sekhar (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: Gene therapy for reversing blindness

Inherited retinal degenerations like retinitis pigmentosa may result in blindness due to a progressive loss of photoreceptor cells. The remaining retinal nerve cells which are not light sensitive however remain in the eye.

Samantha de Silva et al., assessed sub-retinal delivery of human melanopsin using an adeno-associated viral vector to remaining retinal cells in a model of end-stage retinal degeneration. Human melanopsin, being already present in the eye, is unlikely to generate an immune response when introduced via gene therapy.

Furthermore, this method of delivery has been proven to be safe in clinical trials and may be more effective at delivering vector in primates than the alternative method of intravitreal injection. We demonstrate long-term vector expression and restoration of visual function, indicating that this therapy could be stable and efficacious in the treatment of patients with end-stage retinal degenerations.

For full text of the article, click here:
http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/09/26/1701589114.full?sid=3adbefe0-155e-4dda-a6e7-3b1b426573fd
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Date: 10 September 2017
From: Revanth Reddy (revanth.kumar@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: Using neurostimulation to treat dry eye – Optometry Times

Neurostimulation could be the “next big thing” in dry eye disease (DED). A new neurostimulation device called TrueTear (Allergan) is a patient-directed, non-pharmacologic option.
TrueTear is inserted into the nostril; two prongs contact the ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve. An electrical signal from the device signals the trigeminal nerve (5V1) and travels to cranial nerve VII, which stimulates the lacrimal glands. The nervous pathway, not reflect tears, ultimately drives secretion of basal tears.

Click the link for complete article.
http://optometrytimes.modernmedicine.com/optometrytimes/news/using-neurostimulation-treat-dry-eye

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Date: 12 October 2017
From: Sheeba Swarna (sheeba.swarna@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: IVI Student Research Grants 2017 -18 – Date of Submission Extended!

IVI is pleased to announce the IVI Student Research Grants for Undergraduate Optometry students in India for the year 2017-18.

The grant aims to develop research interest among Optometry students in India by providing financial assistance for their research projects initiated as part of their course requirement. The grant amount up to INR 6000 each will be provided to cover running cost of the project and expenses towards travel for field work.

Students pursuing bachelor's degree in optometry and currently working on a research project are eligible to apply for the grant

The last date of Application submission is extended till Wednesday, 8 November 2017

Applications are welcome!

For further details, please visit the link below: http://www.indiavisioninstitute.org/upcoming-programs-view.php?id=9

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