Optometry DisList

Instance 2015: 20
Tuesday, 29 December 2015

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Date: Tuesday, 8 December 2015
From: Sandhya Shekar (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: **A digital library for Blind students is helping them visualise a bright future**

Bengaluru based Samarthanam Trust for Disabled has 5,000 audio books to help students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. More are being added every day by an army of volunteers because the goal of the founder, Mahantesh, is to have the entire university syllabus available in audio format.

In a farsighted move, Mahantesh started the Samarthanam Trust for Disabled in 1997 in Bengaluru, which focuses on providing facilities, infrastructure, technology, and all possible need-based support to disabled and underprivileged students.

Keeping the woes of visually impaired students in mind, Mahantesh started a digital book library in May 2008 to reach out to print-disabled students (visually impaired, slow-learners and dyslexic children). The digital book library enables users to access books on their mobile phones in audio format.

A digital studio was set up with support from Philips and Tech Mahindra. Using software like JAWS (Jobs Access With Speech) and DAISY (Digital Access Information System), printed books are converted to audio format, enabling students to listen to them using MP3 players on their devices like mobile phones and laptops. The books mostly benefit students between the age of 15 and 35 years. Most of the books converted are from the prescribed syllabus by the state.

The audio books are available in English, Hindi and Kannada and can be accessed by contacting the Samarthanam team. If a particular book is not already available in the digital library, the team converts it for the user within a month's time.

The initiative, which was started six years ago, now has over 5,000 books in its library and has reached out to over 2,000 visually impaired people.

For full article, please visit: http://www.thebetterindia.com/38730/digital-library-helping-visually-impaired-students-excel-studies-samarthanam-mahantesh/

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Date: Thursday, 10 December 2015
From: Chandrashekher (m.chandrashekher@indiavisioninstitute.org)
Subject: **Microsoft updates smart headsets for visually impaired**

In collaboration with British charity Guide Dogs, Microsoft has updated its assistive technology, adding smart headsets and an app aimed to help those with vision impairments better navigate their surroundings using sound.

The first prototype of the technology was unveiled last year and used a series of constant clicking sounds to guide wearers in the correct direction. According to Microsoft, phase two of the technology includes a redesign which it said is more "descriptive rather than prescriptive".

Microsoft said the collaboration with Guide Dogs allows them to explore the potential the technology has to enable people living with sight loss to become independent and confident when outside.

"Guiding by sound in the same way a lighthouse guides by light, this technology demonstrator paints you a picture with sound," Microsoft said. "Placing spatially situated synthetic sounds around you -- both verbal and non-verbal -- it creates a 3D soundscape of the world in a language you can understand."

The new "Orientate" and "Look Ahead" features enable wearers to instantly find out what is immediately around them, as well as get more information about what is coming up, hearing it in distance order.

Two new experiences that have been added to the software allow users to use either their voice or a physical remote to ask for and hear additional information about landmarks around them. This works alongside navigation within the app that guides wearers to and around a destination using directional audio and sound prompts to help build a mental image.

Additionally, Microsoft developed an integrated application called "CityScribe" which enables people to tag obstacles in their city which most mapping services do not pick up including park benches, low jutting corners, bins, or street furniture.

The technology forms part of Microsoft's Cities Unlocked project, which is part of the government-backed Future Cities Catapult. The Microsoft initiative is one of seven launched by the UK's Technology Strategy Board, with the aim of developing world-leading innovations in specialist areas.

For full article, please visit: http://www.zdnet.com/article/microsoft-updates-smart-headsets-for-visually-impaired/

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Date: Saturday, 26 December 2015
From: T V Amarnath (amaropt@gmail.com)
Subject: **Smartphone based fundus camera designed in Coimbatore**

Smartphone has revolutionized the fundus imaging in recent past. Researchers have been successful in making Smartphone based cameras and devices with the ability to image limited area of fundus.

Three people from Coimbatore have designed a device with an imaging technique that can image regions of peripheral most retina such as ora serrata and even further till parsplana. Furthermore this newly designed technique does not require any app to be used.

Dr Ashish Sharma, MD, Lotus Eye Hospital and Institute Coimbatore, TN and his colleagues Guruvayoorappan K, B Tech along with S Saranya Devi, M Tech, and K I Ramachandran, PhD from Amrita School of Engineering have designed the device and the imaging technique. They have christened their device MII Ret Cam (Make In India Retinal Camera).

"In developing countries many retina practitioners and other comprehensive ophthalmology practitioners find it difficult to fund themselves to buy costly fundus cameras in the beginning of their practice. We hope this new innovation will be of help." Dr Ashish Sharma said.

There are Smartphone based fundus imaging device known in the art but none of them could demonstrate the ability to capture peripheral images.

For full article, please visit: http://www.covaipost.com/local/smartphone-based-fundus-camera-designed-in-coimbatore/#.VoDXTvl96M8

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Date: Monday, 28 December 2015
From: Vijayalakshmi C (vijichid@gmail.com)
Subject: **Optical devices have high rate of usage in patients with AMD**

Patients with age-related macular degeneration found prescribed optical low vision devices to be useful, and they used the devices consistently over a 3-month period, according to a study published in *Optometry and Vision Science*.

A prospective cohort study of 199 patients with AMD were examined at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation.

Approximately 48% of participants had received an injection of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) antagonist in at least one eye, but the use of anti-VEGF therapy does not eliminate the need for low vision rehabilitation, according to the study.

Stand magnifiers, handheld magnifiers, near spectacles and hands-free magnifiers were prescribed, with most participants receiving more than one device, depending on the doctor's recommendation. DeCarlo said the four main factors for deciding which device is most appropriate for a patient are a "combination of the characteristics of the

pathology, the patient's needs and goals, the patient's acuity and his or her contrast sensitivity."

The hand and stand magnifiers were used more often than the others. Magnifiers were reported to be moderately to extremely useful by more than 80% of participants at all time points except the 1-month follow-up for hand magnifiers (75%). The most reported usage for the device was leisure reading, followed by managing bills, according to the study.

Future studies will focus on reading speed, print size, reading acuity, scotoma size and location as well as acuity reserve on device use in patients with vision impairment due to AMD, according to the authors.

For full article, please visit: http://www.healio.com/optometry/low-vision-geriatrics/news/print/primary-care-optometry-news/%7B02fdb1b8-3ad3-4c07-af6a-1bb3f4c676bc%7D/optical-devices-have-high-rate-of-usage-in-patients-with-amd

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From: Debdutta Ray (hr@greaterlions.org)
Subject**: Senior Optometrist – Training Division (Job opening)**

Organization Name: Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital, 2nd Mile, Sevoke Road, Behind Vishal Cinema Hall, Siliguri, 734001

Job Description / Responsibilities:

Under the direction and control of the Medical Director, Clinical Administeation the incumbent will be responsible for the following:

- Coordinate all training programs including Optometry Courses affiliated by West Bengal State Medical Faculty, Vision Technician course, OT Technician Course, Ophthalmic Assistant Course, and Certificate course in contact lens fitting
- Generate a co-operative team environment and provide assistance and support for hospital staff
- Perform routine refraction, as and when required, in consultation with In-charge Clinical Services.
- Managing dispensing opticians and vision technicians;
- Provide induction of newly recruited optometrists/vision technicians.
- Co-ordinate regular training of junior staff in consultation with Medical Director.
- Training & orientation of school teachers, community volunteers and vision technician staff of various projects
- Responsible for other duties as designated by the Medical Director

Desired profile of the candidate

Qualifications: Master/ Bachelor in Optometry from a recognized institute with experience in conducting Training programme & also clinical services in reputed organization in same capacity.

Personal attributes: Ability to learn; ability to work as part of a team, but be capable of using initiative and working alone; Flexible; be able to adapt quickly to a changing environment; ability to work under pressure; take responsibility for own work; reliability; ability to multitask; flexible working hours; commitment; positive demeanor; common sense; passion; professional image; assertive; empathetic and Tenacious.

Language: Proficiency of oral & written communication in English, Bengali, Hindi/Nepali

Functional area: Clinical Optometry

Desired work experience (in complete years): **Minimum:** 03 years, **Maximum**: 05 years in hospital or health care industry/NGO.

Compensation Offered: Remuneration offered for this position will be the best as per industry standards.

Location of posting: Siliguri, West Bengal

For further information, please contact: Debdutta Ray (hr@greaterlions.org)

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From: Shivam Maini (drshivam@gmail.com)
Subject: **Clinical Optometrist (Job opening)**

J L Rohatgi Hospital is seeking Optometrists to assist at the school of Optometry and in upgrading Optometrists working at the hospital. Remuneration offered will be 15,000 - 20,000. Recent graduates are also encouraged to apply.

Name of the Hospital: J L Rohatgi Hospital

Location: Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

Vacant Positions: 2

For further information, please contact Shivam Maini (drshivam@gmail.com)

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From: Maheswari S (maheswaris2003@yahoo.co.nz)
Subject: **Clinical Optometrist (Job opening)**

Company: David Thomas Contact Lenses (Menicon Group) Business Partner-RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION, business partner of David Thomas Contact Lenses (Menicon Group) for North India, South India, focussing on treating keratoconus patients & improving quality of life.

Job Description: Creating awareness of therapy for keratoconus & promotion of Rose K Lenses. Referral practice to start for CoE's to do locum work.

Requirement: Candidates with 4-year Bachelor's degree course in optometry from a 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 experience of fitting RGP lenses would be given preference. Interested candidates may apply with their current CV and a cover letter to resolutionpoi@gmail.com.

For more information, please contact Varun Arora (resolutionpoi@gmail.com)

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