

IVI Activity Report

October 2011 to June 2015



IVI Board of Trustees



L-R: Brien Holden, Lakshmi Shinde, G N Rao, Vinod Daniel

- ❖ Dr G N Rao, Founder & Chairman, L V Prasad Eye Institute (Co-Chair)
- ❖ Prof Brien Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute (Co-Chair)
- ❖ Ms Lakshmi Shinde (Trustee)
- ❖ Mr Vinod Daniel (CEO and Managing Trustee)

VISION

India Vision Institute (IVI) is an initiative of Brien Holden Vision Institute (Sydney, Australia) and LV Prasad Eye Institute (Hyderabad, India) and is focused on supporting research, education and technological development to advance Indian capacity in vision correction, eye disease and blindness prevention.

IVI is a registered not for profit charitable trust registered under section 12 A(a) and 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 with Director of Income Tax (Exemptions), Chennai, India.

India Vision Institute will act as a catalyst to help India achieve socially responsible, high quality vision care and an industry that can support:

- excellent eye care available to all
- state of the art Indian optometry
- excellent eye care education
- international leadership in cutting-edge vision care research and development
- viable Indian vision and optical industry, playing a substantial part in global eye care

Launch of IVI



Distinguished guests at the launch of IVI

The launch of the India Vision Institute (IVI) on 18 October 2011 in Hyderabad marked the beginning of a vision to develop excellence in vision care in India.

The IVI was jointly launched by Dr Daggubati Purandeswari, former Union Minister of State for Human Resource Development, Government of India and Mr David Holly, Australian Consul General for South India.

The launch was attended by over 150 dignitaries including Ms Katherine Dhanani, American Consul General; Dr G N Rao, Founder & Chairman, L V Prasad Eye Institute & Co Chair IVI, Prof Brien A Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute & Co Chair- IVI and Ms Lakshmi Shinde, Trustee- IVI .

EXCERPTS FROM THE LAUNCH...

"The Ministry would work with the Institute & Brien Holden Vision Institute to make relevant changes in the national human resource programs in order to increase the number of Optometrists. While the ratio of Optometrist & population in the West was 1:10,000, it is 1:6 lakhs in India. It is much worst in villages where there is only one Optometrist for every 10 lakh people".

Dr Daggubati Purandeswari, former Union Minister of State for HRD, Govt of India.

"50 million pairs of spectacles are imported from China each year and billions of dollars worth optical equipments are brought in from overseas. India has the knowledge and potential to be the leader in this sector like IT. We want to generate business, develop products and make this a self-sustaining industry".

Prof Brien Holden, Co Chair, IVI

"We would like to enhance the standard of Optometry schools, training programs for ophthalmologists and for opticians and create new programs where necessary through a variety of approaches. It will be a fairly aggressive program to make a difference in our country".

Dr G N Rao, Co Chair, IVI

Launch of AKSAUHINI, the IVI Business Plan

The India Vision Institute celebrated its first anniversary with the launch of *Aksauhini*, a 20-year all India strategic plan for ensuring excellence in eye care, at a function in Hyderabad on 16 September 2012.



Aksauhini sets out a framework to improve eye care in India by providing excellent and equitable eyecare solutions, assist in eliminating visual impairment and avoidable blindness, ensure optometry is a vibrant and recognized profession and assist the development of the Indian eyecare industry to become a world leader.

Distinguished guests lighting the lamp during the launch of Aksauhini

Launch of IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators

The IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators was launched on the occasion of the first anniversary of IVI by Mr David Holly, Australian Consul General for South India.

The proposed academy will be a resource centre to create an excellent educational resource in optometry education in India by upgrading the skills of existing educators and developing a larger pool of highly qualified educators.

The Academy will play a significant role in improving the quality of eye care education in India, leading to excellence in eyecare services available to all Indians.

Capacity Building programs

Seminar Series

- ❖ Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Scientist – Visual Optics Laboratory, Associate Director of Optometry from LVPEI delivered the inaugural IVI lecture on ***New Innovative Approach for Measuring Refractive Errors*** at IVI on 20 August 2011. Over 75 students from various optometry schools in Hyderabad attended the lecture.

- ❖ Prof Brien Holden, Co-Chair, IVI, addressed optometry students on ***Future of eye care and opportunities and challenges for Optometry*** at IVI on 20 October 2011. Over 45 students from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry & the University of Hyderabad attended the lecture.
- ❖ On 11 January 2012, IVI hosted a seminar on ***Making a Difference*** by eminent educator, Mr Larry Hulbert, consultant from University of New South Wales. Over 35 optometry students from Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Hyderabad attended the interactive seminar.
- ❖ Dr G N Rao, Founder & Chairman, LVPEI, and Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO, IVI, provided a snapshot on the ***Needs in uncorrected refractive error in India*** at a get-together hosted by the IVI for a delegation of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) on 21 February 2012. Subsequently IVI also hosted a 30 member delegation of the ARLP on 18 February 2013.
- ❖ Dr P Sarita Soni, Vice Provost for Research, Indiana University USA, delivered a lecture on ***Fitting Children with Contact Lenses*** on 19 May, 2012 at IVI. Over 50 optometric professionals benefited from the lecture.
- ❖ Mr Abhishek Kalbarga, Sr Program Manager, IVI, delivered a lecture on ***“Progressive lenses”*** at Sri Ramchandra University, in Chennai on 25 July 2012.
- ❖ Ms Priya Gupta, Program Manager made a presentation on ***Scleral lenses*** for the students of Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry in Chennai on 25 July 2012.
- ❖ Mr Abhishek Kalbarga, Senior Program Manager, IVI gave a talk on ***Progressive lenses*** at the Pushpagiri Eye Institute, Hyderabad on 25 January 2013 for over 30 Optometry students.
- ❖ IVI hosted a presentation on ***myeyes® Dispensing Sales Software*** by Mr Jim Papas, Managing Director, NWO Group on 15 March 2013. Developed by Jim Papas, myeyes® automates the selling of eyewear for sales staff. More than 15 optometry professionals attended the presentation. As identified in *Aksauhini*, this is a part of IVI’s initiative of providing resources to retail sector improving the quality and to limit significant errors that occur in fitting and service.
- ❖ **Seminar on Ophthalmic opportunities in India** by Sylvie Franz, the then CEO, Brien Holden Vision Pty Ltd was held at IVI on 22 June 2013. The seminar introduced the participants to existing eyecare needs, opportunities in vision research and development and latest optical market trends in India. It was attended by 20 optometry professionals.
- ❖ IVI, in association with the Bharati Vidyapeeth, organized a national **Seminar on Ophthalmic Lenses & Frames** on 18 August 2012 at Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, School of Optometry, Pune. Over 150 Optometric professionals attended the seminar presented by distinguished speakers including Mr Rajesh Wadhwa, Mr Yeshwant Saoji and Mr, Nilesh Thite, among others.

- ❖ The IVI Online Seminar Series was launched on 16 August 2013 with a seminar on **Everyday challenges in contact lens clinical practice**, delivered through the Cisco Webex platform reaching a large optometry academic community.

The inaugural seminar delivered by Dr Kalika Bandamwar, Manager, Brien Holden Vision Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad received an overwhelming response. Over 200 students pursuing bachelors and masters in optometry from ten optometry institutes across India participated in the seminar. The session was very interactive and the participants particularly appreciated the opportunity of discussing the specialized subject with the resource person sitting miles away at the IVI office in Hyderabad.

- ❖ The second seminar in the IVI Online Seminar Series for optometry students on “**Scope of Optometry in Public Health**” was presented by Ms Sethu Sheeladevi, Associate Public Health Specialist, LVPEI, Hyderabad. Over 250 students pursuing bachelors and masters in Optometry from across 12 optometry institutions participated in the seminar held on 27 September 2013.
- ❖ The third seminar in the IVI Online Seminar Series for optometry students was held on 18 October 2013. The topic “**Binocular Vision – Are two eyes better than one?**” was presented by Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Scientist – Visual Optics Laboratory, Associate Director of Optometry, LVPEI. The talk included the advantages of having binocular vision and its disadvantages, how are the different stages of binocular vision achieved and implications of abnormal binocular vision for perception. About 200 Students pursuing bachelors and masters in Optometry from across 10 optometry institutions participated in this seminar.
- ❖ The fourth in the IVI Online Seminar Series for optometry students was held on 29 November 2013. The seminar was on **Low Vision Orientation** and presented by Prof Monica Chaudhry, Head of the Department of Optometry and Vision Science, Amity Medical School, Gurgaon. The talk included the discussions on what is low vision, low vision assessment, different types of low vision devices and prescribing aspects. About 800 Students pursuing bachelors and masters in Optometry from across 18 optometry institutions participated in this seminar.

❖ **World Sight Day Seminar - 2013**

IVI supported the ‘Universal Eye Health’ program commemorating the World Sight Day organised by the Optometry & Vision Science, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad on 10 October. The program began with eye screening at the University Health Centre, followed by a series of lectures presented by specialists. More than 100 optometry students and professionals participated in the program.

Ms Sailakshmi Sridharan, Program Officer, IVI made a presentation on Optometry in India. Quiz and poster sessions were also organised; and the program concluded with a cultural show presented by the students.

- ❖ The fifth seminar in the IVI Online Seminar Series was held on 31 January 2014. The talk on “**Stem Cells in Ocular Regeneration**” by Dr Charanya Ramachandran, Associate Research Optometrist, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad received an outstanding response from the



audience. The focus of the seminar was on introduction to the types of stem cells, application of stem cells in regenerative medicine, cellular therapy, gene therapy, limbal stem cell transplantation etc. Approximately 400 students pursuing bachelors and masters in optometry from 15 optometry institutes participated in the session.

- ❖ An online seminar on **“Towards Professionalism”** was presented by Mrs Pamela Suresh, Principal, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology and Research, on 14 February 2014. Sixth in the IVI Online Seminar Series, the session focused on expecting the unexpected, familiarity with oneself, dealing with competition at work, physical, social and spiritual self-management. Nearly 300 students from 10 optometry institutions across India gained perspective on approach towards professionalism, being a leader and achieving success.
- ❖ IVI organized a student seminar at Pusphagiri Eye Institute on 21 Feb on **“Choosing the right glasses for your patient”**. The seminar received a tremendous response as more than 25 students were benefited from this seminar facilitated by Ms Sailakshmi Sridharan of IVI.
- ❖ An online seminar on **Practical Dispensing** was presented by Ms Anitha Arvind, ASCO Regional Representative (Madhya Pradesh) and faculty at Amity Medical School, Amity University, Gurgaon.

The first session focused on the fine art of spectacle dispensing, lens forms & base curve, spectacle fitting, prescription analysis etc. Case studies presented by Ms Arvind to provide a better understanding of the topic were well received by the students.

The second session of the seminar was presented on 13 March 2014. It focused on how to dispense complex prescriptions, need of selecting right frame, advantages of various lenses and dispensing solutions.

The third and concluding session held on 28 March 2014 focused on spectacle frame considerations like crest height, frontal angle and measurements. The presenter also discussed special features of frame for children, ideal frame shapes and facial measurements while dispensing for paediatric population. Several useful visuals were shared during the presentation for the benefit of the students.

Seventh in the IVI Online Seminar Series, the seminar received outstanding response from over 350 students and faculty from 14 Optometry institutions across India.

❖ **Online session on Career Counseling**

Recognizing the need for career guidance for outgoing final year optometry students, IVI organized an online seminar on Career Counseling. Conducted on 25 April, the session provided to the students a good perspective on career opportunities in Optometry. The interactive and informative session introduced the students to many aspects in optometry field varying from the scope of undertaking a fellowship, pursuing a doctorate, being an entrepreneur and working for



multinationals, among others. The students gained insights into the job profile of an optometrist in an optical set up as well as in a hospital set up. The counselors also spoke on current trends and drifts in specialization in optometry.

A new initiative from IVI, the counseling session was attended by seventy students from six optometry schools who participated in the online seminar.

The counseling expert panel comprised four optometry professionals from various back grounds:

- Academic and Institutional expert: Prof Monica Chaudhry, Head, Department of Optometry, Amity University
- Clinical and Research expert: Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Associate Director of Optometry, LVPEI
- Optical Industry expert: Mr Damanjot Singh, Product Consultant & National Lead Trainer, Transitions
- Entrepreneurship expert: Mr Kunal Shah, CEO, Eye Savers & Owner, Hubli Optics Plus

❖ Seminar on ocular surface and contact lens

IVI organized a one day seminar on Ocular Surface and Contact Lens in Hyderabad on 12 July.

Designed to benefit the wider Optometry community including practitioners, educators, researchers and students, the workshop covered a range of topics including Ocular surface discomfort with and without contact lenses, Osmolarity/osmolality importance in dry eye, Mechanism and clinical significance of corneal staining, Lid wiper epitheliopathy, Grading of meibomian gland dysfunction, Methods of diagnosis, evaluation, Management and treatment for MGD. Over 50 participants attended the workshop. Expert faculty from L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and Brien Holden Vision Pvt Ltd, Hyderabad facilitated the workshop.

❖ Optometry orientation seminar for students, Chennai

IVI organized an Optometry Orientation Program on 14 August 2014 for the first and second year students of optometry graduate program to assist them in understanding the broader landscape of optometry in India and the scope of the profession in terms of career development.

About 100 first and second year students of Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Chennai attended the optometry orientation seminar facilitated by Revanth Kumar of India Vision Institute.

❖ Making it Happen: YLP online seminar on Leadership

Complementing the face-to-face YLP workshop series, IVI organized an online leadership seminar on 'Leadership: Making it Happen' for the second group of the Young Leaders program on Wednesday, 27 August. Picking up the threads from the first workshop held at Hyderabad in April, Consultant Mr Ravi Shivram discussed a range of leadership issues including qualities of a leader, leadership mastery, style and communication; and relationship management.

❖ IVI Online Seminar Series - September 2014

- A seminar on **Corneal Nerves and Refractive Surgery** was presented by Dr P S Roopa Reddy, Assistant Professor, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad, on 13 September 2014 as

part of the IVI Online Seminar series. In her presentation, Dr Reddy focused on types of refractive surgeries, flap and surface techniques, pre and post-operative procedures, role of optometrist in refractive surgery, corneal innervation, corneal sensation and much more. Eighth in the IVI Online Seminar Series launched in August 2013, the seminar received outstanding response from over 200 students and faculty from seven Optometry institutions across India.

- The ninth seminar in IVI Online Seminar Series was presented on **Mini Scleral Lenses** by Dr Meena Kharat (MBBS, FIACLE) from Dr Parikshit Gogate's eye clinic, Pune. The session focused on the terminology used in scleral lenses, indications, zones of scleral lenses, fitting and judging, insertion and removal of lenses and much more. The session drew to a close with a summary and discussion among the participants. The participants witnessed an exquisite compilation of real OPD pictures along with case studies used as examples. About 300 students pursuing bachelors and masters in Optometry from across 7 optometry institutions participated in the seminar held on 26 September 2014.

❖ Optometry Orientation program for students, Pondicherry

IVI organized an Optometry Orientation Program for the first year optometry students to assist them in understanding the broader landscape of optometry in India and the scope of the profession in terms of career development.

About fifty first year optometry students of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Vinayaka Missions University, Pondicherry, attended the orientation program facilitated by Mr Sandeep Devan of IVI on 15 September.

❖ World Sight Day Talks - 2014

Through a range of events organized in partnership with several partners in New Delhi, IVI reiterated the World Sight Day message for hundreds of optometry students, educators and optometry and eye care practitioners.

Austrade: Dialogue over lunch with Professor Brien Holden

On the eve of the World Sight Day, a dialogue over lunch with Professor Brien Holden was organized in association with the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi on Wednesday, 8 October, as part of the Australian Innovation Showcase 2014. A number of optometry and eye care professionals participated in the dialogue with Professor Holden, focusing on prospects for advancing optometry in India.

Amity University: National World Sight Day Lecture

Professor Brien Holden delivered the World Sight Day lecture on the topic *Vision and Blindness Prevention: the impact and management of refractive errors* at the Amity University in Gurgaon on Thursday, 9 October. The lecture was webcast live nationally to nine optometry colleges.

Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital: World Sight Day Lecture

Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in New Delhi hosted the World Sight Day lecture delivered by Professor Brien Holden on Thursday, 9 October, in collaboration with IVI. Professor Holden spoke on



the topic *Vision and Blindness Prevention: the impact and management of refractive errors* and interacted with students and faculty.

❖ Online Seminar series for Institutional Development

Session 1

The IVI Online Series for Institutional Development was launched on 16 October 2014 with a session on “Optometry School Development- Global Perspective”, facilitated by internationally acclaimed eye care and public health leader, Professor Kovin Naidoo, (Board member and Director of Global Programs, Brien Holden Vision Institute: Public Health Division).

The course aims to create awareness among head of optometry institutions on the strategic areas of optometry school development and understand the perspective of ‘holistic development’ to build up the institution.

Professor Naidoo, reinforced the need for public health to be considered as an important entity in optometry curriculum. He also advocated the importance of socially committed research within an academic set up. Academic heads from 12 optometry schools across the country participated in the inaugural seminar.

Session 2

Focusing on the importance of following uniform optometry curriculum in institutions across the country, the second session in the IVI Online Series for Institutional Development was conducted on 29 January 2015. Facilitated by Dr Luigi Bilotto, Director, Global Human Resource Development, Brien Holden Vision Institute, optometry school heads from eleven schools attended the session.

The major take away from the session was the need for uniform optometry curriculum in colleges across the country. The participants also learnt about ASCO’s Common Minimum Optometry Curriculum (CMOC) in relation to global standards.

❖ IVI Online Seminar Series

- An online seminar on ‘Evidence Based Glaucoma Practice-Role of Optometry’ was presented by Dr. Ramesh S.Ve, Associate Professor at School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal University. The seminar was offered in two sessions. The first session was conducted on 5 December focusing on understanding glaucoma, definitions and classification, comprehensive ophthalmic examination, epidemiology of glaucoma, and the ISGEO classification. The second session held on 9 December highlighted the importance of medical history, family history and ethnicity in glaucoma, various systemic diseases and glaucoma, screening techniques for PACS, techniques for ONH analysis, visual fields, and co-relation of disc and fundus findings with perimetry results during the presentation.
- The thirteenth seminar in IVI Online Seminar Series was presented by Uday K. Adepalli, Consultant Optometrist, VST Center for Glaucoma Services and Head of Optometry, GPR-ICARE, LVPEI on Friday, 23 January 2015. The topic of discussion was Gonioscopy. Attended by over 200 optometry students from 8 schools across the country, the session focused on the principle, types and methods of gonioscopy. Mr Uday also spoke about the various gonio lenses used in

clinical practice. The session drew to a close with screening of a short film on gonioscopy, followed by discussion.

❖ Seminar on Harness your soft contact lens skills

IVI, in association with Brien Holden Vision Pvt. Ltd., organized a one day seminar titled 'Harnessing your soft contact lens skills' on Tuesday, 24 February 2015. Focusing on enhancing clinical practice and improving dispensing of soft contact lenses, the seminar was designed to benefit optometry practitioners, educators and students alike.

Over 40 participants from Dr Rohatgi's Vision Eye Hospital; Usha Opticals, Kolkata; Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad; School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Hyderabad and SIHR & LC Karigiri Hospital, Vellore attended the seminar. A range of topics including spherical and toric soft contact lens selection and fitting, trouble shooting and product availability discussed at the seminar were widely appreciated. The panel of facilitators comprised Dr Nagaraju Konda, Dr Kalika Bandamwar, Ms Arifa Begum, Mr Rambabu Putta and Ms Aparna Vadlakonda from the Brien Holden Vision Pvt Ltd - India, and Mr Srikanth Dumpati from L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

❖ What after Optometry? an Online Career Counseling Session - Part I

The first part of the online Career Counseling Series 2015 was conducted on Monday, 20 April. Facilitated by Ms Sandhya Shekar of IVI, the one hour session was attended by over 90 optometry students and faculty from optometry institutions across the country. The session comprised options for future career prospects in Optometry in a range of fields including public health, academics, research, entrepreneurship and clinical practice.

The presentation was followed by an active discussion on potential career options following graduating in Optometry and prospects of pursuing Master's or research in Optometry. Ms Shekar also briefed the students about various scholarships available for pursuing higher education in Optometry.

Workshops

❖ ICEE EyeTeach© Workshops

- ICEE EyeTeach© workshop series was designed to address a range of subjects of interest to optometry educators including, makings of a worthwhile learning experience for students, different learning styles, teaching, constructive alignment and learning cycle, introduction and preparation for teaching techniques and ways to encourage research skills in students.

The Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation (formerly ICEE) in collaboration with IVI, held a two-day EyeTeach workshop led by Mr Larry Hulbert & Ms Nina Tahhan. Held on 18 – 19 October 2011, the workshop was attended by over twenty optometry educators.

The next in this series of workshop was held on 23-24 March 2012 at IVI. 28 educators from 18 optometric schools in India attended the workshop, led by Ms Helen Dalton & Mr Neilsen De Souza.

- A two-day intensive workshop on **ICCE EyeTeach® Research Methodology** was organized jointly by ICCE and IVI on 6-7 July 2012. 25 optometry professionals including educators and practitioners from 16 Optometric institutes in India attended the workshop led by Prof Kovin Naidoo and Ms Jyoti Jaggernath from African Vision Research Institute (AVRI).
- On 8 July 2012, IVI organized a one-day workshop on **Public Eye Health**. 32 optometry professionals from 18 optometry institutes in India attended the workshop led by Prof Kovin Naidoo and Ms Jyoti Jaggernath of AVRI; and Dr Srinivas Marmamula of LVPEI.
- IVI conducted two national workshops: **EyeTeach® Research Methodology and Public Eye Health** from 29-31 July 2013 at Amity University, Gurgaon. The workshops were led by internationally recognized public health leader Professor Kovin Naidoo, CEO, African Vision Research Institute, Durban and Dr Jyoti Jaggernath, Research Manager, AVRI along with Dr Praveen Vashist, Head of Community Ophthalmology Department, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Over 28 optometry educators, practitioners and researchers from 25 optometry organizations across India gained insight into the role of research in optometry and the solutions to combat causes of avoidable blindness and visual impairment, particularly focusing on uncorrected refractive error.

- The **EyeTeach** workshops were conducted during 22-23 October 2013 at Chennai and during 25-26 October 2013 at Amity Medical School, Gurgaon. While the first workshop was attended by 14 educators from across 9 optometry institutions, the second workshop was attended by 29 educators from across 11 optometry institutions. The workshops were facilitated by Helen Dalton and Michael Morton.



Participants at EyeTeach workshops at Gurgaon (L) and Chennai (R)

- A two-day intensive **Brien Holden Vision Institute Academy EyeTeach® Research Methodology** workshop was organized by IVI in collaboration with the African Research Vision Institute in Chennai on 14-15 April 2014. The workshop will strengthen research foundation in optometry targeting educators, practitioners, researchers and postgraduate students. 25 Optometry professionals including educators and practitioners from 16 Optometry institutes in India benefited from the workshop.

Facilitated by Professor Kovin Naidoo and Dr Jyoti Jaggernath from the African Vision Research Institute, Durban, the workshop covered a range of concepts including research designs and sampling, qualitative approaches, data collection and analysis, developing and writing a research

proposal, conducting a critical & relevant literature review, issues in eye care research, ethics and plagiarism.

- To upgrade optometry education through training of optometry educators, IVI organized 2 two-day intensive **Brien Holden Vision Institute Academy EyeTeach®: from Clinician to Educator** workshops in Coimbatore (25-26 June 2014) and Pune (28-29 June 2014). The workshops were facilitated by Ms Helen Dalton, Education Consultant and Ms Stephanie Looi, Global Service Development Manager, both from Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney. Helen is an expert in new and advanced teaching skills, while Stephanie has experience in the many facets of optometry including private practice, corporate optometry, practice ownership, teaching and project management. Over 30 optometry educators from a number of optometry institutes participated in the workshops.

Organised under the aegis of the IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators, adopting the 'train-the-trainer' model, EyeTeach workshops have trained over 120 optometry educators in India over a period of two years.

- IVI organized a three-day **Brien Holden Vision Institute Academy EyeTeach® Biostatistics and scientific writing workshop** in collaboration with the African Vision Research Institute (AVRI) during 29-31 October 2014. Mr Farai Chinanayi and Dr Jyoti Jaggernath from AVRI facilitated the workshop held at IVI Hyderabad.

The workshop strengthened research skills including data analysis, result interpretation and effective science communication of 19 optometry professionals including educators, students and practitioners from eight Optometry institutes who benefited from the workshop. The participants were from LV Prasad Eye Institute, Nethradhama Institute of Optometry, Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Sankara Eye Hospital, Little Flower Institute of Medical Science and Research, The Eye Foundation, Sri Ramachandra University, Government health and medical services and University of Hyderabad.

- IVI organized two **Brien Holden Vision Institute Academy EyeTeach®: from Clinician to Educators workshops** for Optometry educators in Kerala and Gujarat. 30 participants from 16 colleges participated in the two workshops held in Kochi on 9-10 November, 2014 and in Surat on 14-15 November, 2014.

Focusing on best practices in teaching and learning, the workshops were facilitated by Ms Helen Dalton, Education Consultant and Ms Salma Ismail, Global Education Officer, both from Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney. The workshops were organized under the aegis of the IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators working towards all-round faculty development.

❖ Forum on Refractive Errors

IVI hosted a one-day *Forum on Refractive Errors* on 19 December 2011. Over **65 Optometry professionals including practitioners, educators and students pursuing post-graduation in Optometry attended the forum addressed by:** Dr Padmaja Sankaridurg, Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney; Professor Deborah Sweeney, University of Western Sydney; Dr Shrikant Bhardwaj, LV Prasad Eye Institute; Ms Lakshmi Shinde, International Centre for Eyecare Education; Ms Prema

Chande, Lotus College of Optometry; Prof Monica Chaudhry, Amity University and Mr Nilesh Thite, BVP School of Optometry.

❖ **Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP)**

IVI, in association with LVPEI, organized the 27th **Low Vision Awareness Program** on 7 April 2012. The one-day orientation program provided the participants with a broad overview of low vision care and rehabilitation for visually impaired. The workshop was led by Dr Vijaya K Gothwal, Head, Meera & LB Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement.

The next series of Low Vision programs held on 21 September 2012, 12 April 2013, 20 September 2013, 11 April 2014 and 12 September 2014 at LVPEI were attended by over 360 Optometry professionals. To enable participation in LAP, IVI provided 145 registration scholarships to Optometric professionals from various educational institutes across India.

❖ **Workshop on Non Strabismic Binocular Vision Anomalies**

Workshop on Non Strabismic Binocular Vision Anomalies in Hyderabad saw participants from eight optometry schools deliberating on the role of optometry in treating perceptual disorders – an area that requires further exploring in India. It highlighted the importance of approaching the binocular vision anomalies holistically, working in collaboration with other medical streams like neurology.

The workshop was led by a team of experts from the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Sankara Eye Hospital and Drishtikone. International NGO, Optometry Giving Sight, supported the workshop and Sankara School of Optometry assisted with concept development.

❖ **Workshop on Biostatistics and Scientific writing**

IVI organized a three-day intensive workshop on **Biostatistics and Scientific writing** on 6-8 December 2012. 21 Optometric professionals including educators, practitioners and post graduate students from 12 Optometry institutes across India attended the workshop. Led by Mr Farai Chinanayi, Biostatistician and Dr Tom Okello, Social Scientist from the African Vision Research Institute (AVRI), Durban, South Africa, the workshop was very well received.

The workshop focused on several introductory topics in biostatistics which form the basis for further methods such as linear regression, logistic regression and survival analysis. The workshop helped eye health cadres and researchers develop skills in written communication to enable them to effectively share knowledge through scientific papers, reports and peer reviewed articles. The participants also received generic training on research skills.

❖ **Capacity building workshops in East India**

IVI organized a series of five-day workshops jointly with the *Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science* in Kolkata from 4 – 8 March; and with the *Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences* in Shillong from 7 - 11 March 2013. The two workshops received overwhelming response, with a request for taking the initiative forward.



Participants and faculty at the capacity building workshops in Shillong (L) and Kolkata (R)

First of its kind, the workshop marked a small step in the direction of enhancing the capacity of Optometry educators in eastern India, focusing on a number of specialized areas including dispensing optics; low vision; binocular vision; and teaching and learning methodology. The workshop was attended by over 24 optometric educators from 12 institutions in Kolkata; and 14 educators from five institutions in Shillong.

The workshops were led by a team of national and international experts, including Mr Aditya Goyal, Sankara College of Optometry, Bangalore; Ms Mithali Paranjape, Bharathi Vidyapeeth, Pune; Mr Kunal Shah, private practitioner, Hubli, and Ms Helen Dalton & Ms Jodi Martin, Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney.

❖ Optometry Professional Development Workshops: an ASCO - IVI initiative

ASCO and IVI jointly organized several continuing professional development workshops for Optometry practitioners and educators in different parts of the country facilitated by national optometry experts. Those are: at the Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science in Kolkata from 3–5 July.

ASCO – IVI Professional Development Workshop I: Held at Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science in Kolkata from 3–5 July, the workshop focused on specialized areas including binocular vision therapy basics, low vision basics and dispensing optics

ASCO – IVI Professional Development Workshop II: A one day workshop on ‘Refraction Techniques & Clinical Implications’ on 11 August 2013 at L V Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar Campus. The workshop included lectures on refraction, with intensive hands on session.

ASCO – IVI Professional Development Workshop III: A three day workshop during 4 - 6 September 2013 at Sri Ramachandra University and Research Institute, Chennai, the workshop covered a range of topics including Binocular Vision and Vision Therapy Basics, Low Vision Basics and Dispensing Optics.

ASCO – IVI Professional Development Workshop IV: A one day workshop on Refraction Techniques & Clinical Implications coinciding with the National Ophthalmic Association annual

conference was organized at Jaipur on 22 September, 2013. The workshop included sessions on refraction techniques and prescribing considerations for spectacles.

ASCO – IVI Professional Development Workshop V: A two day Professional Development Workshop on Binocular and Low Vision was organized at the Chitkara University in Chandigarh on 31 May and 1 June 2014. Nearly 40 optometry practitioners, educators and students participated in sessions for both the specializations: Binocular and Low vision including presentations on identification of binocular vision disorders, classification of binocular vision anomalies, introduction to low vision, evaluation of a low vision patient and prescription.

❖ **Conference on “Optometry in India: opportunities, challenges and way forward”**

A conference on “Optometry in India: opportunities, challenges and way forward” was organized at IVI Hyderabad on 3 October 2013 to mark IVI’s second anniversary. National and international leaders in optometry and eyecare including Dr GN Rao, Prof Brien Holden, Prof Kovin Naidoo, Dr Ramesh S Ve, Ms Lakshmi Shinde, Mr Vivek Mendonsa and Mr Arun Nagraj spoke at the conference. Broadcasted live through Webex, the conference was accessed by about 300 individuals including students from 10 optometry institutions from across the country.

❖ **Workshop on Vision and Occupation**

A two-day workshop on **Vision and Occupation** was organized at IVI, Hyderabad on 22 & 23 November. Dr. James Sheedy, who is widely recognized for his work in Vision ergonomics and currently the Director of the Vision Performance Institute and professor of optometry at Pacific University, facilitated the workshop. About 30 optometric educators, practitioners and researchers from 16 optometry institutes across India attended the workshop.

This workshop was designed to provide tools and knowledge to teach a course on the topic of Vision and Occupation. The workshop focused on a range of topics including eye injuries, sunglasses and laser protection, vision and computers and occupational task analysis, etc. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to apprise themselves of latest developments in Occupational Optometry.

❖ **Workshop on The Art and Science of Contact Lens Fitting**

India Vision Institute (IVI) in association with C L Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI) and Bausch+Lomb (B+L) organized a day long workshop on The Art and Science of Contact Lens Fitting on 8 December 2013 at CLGEI, Moradabad. Over 120 optometry professionals including from practitioners, educators and students from northern India benefited from the workshop.

Facilitated by renowned national experts, the workshop introduced contact lens fitting techniques, benefits and care-regime to the participants. They were shown live feed of soft contact lens fitting techniques with the help of high resolution slit lamp video projector. Additionally, role play activities demonstrated interaction between a patient and a practitioner in routine Optometry clinics.

❖ **Paedisight: Workshop on Paediatric Optometry**

IVI in collaboration with the Sankara Eye Hospital organised a workshop on Paediatric Optometry during 13 - 15 December 2013 at Bangalore. Facilitated by Mr Aditya Goyal of the Sankara Eye Hospital and Professor Marc Taub, Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, USA, the three-day workshop focused on binocular vision anomalies; vision therapy: principles & management for strabismic & non strabismic disorders; latest trends in amblyopia management and visual information processing disorders: diagnosis & management. Over 30 paediatric optometry practitioners and educators attended the workshop. Registration scholarships were awarded to 11 optometry professionals to attend the workshop:

❖ **IVI – NVG Capacity Building Workshops, Phase 1**

- A seven-day comprehensive hands-on Capacity Building Workshop was conducted from 16-22 December 2013 at Tilyar Tourist Resort, Rohtak, Haryana covering a range of topics including essentials of refraction, ophthalmic dispensing, soft skills and entrepreneurship development. Aiming to enhance the skill sets of vision care professionals to help them improve existing practice and support establishing new ones, the workshop was facilitated by Mr Srikanth M, Associate Optometrist, Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad and Mr Revanth Kumar, Program Manager, IVI, Chennai, for a group of 25 senior vision care professionals of National Ophthalmic Association (NOA). Funded by New Vision Generation India Pvt Ltd (NVG) the workshop is the first of the two pilot workshops planned by IVI & NVG between Dec 2013 & Feb 2014.
- The second workshop in the series was conducted for a group of 35 vision care professionals of the NOA at Trichi from 26 February to 2 March 2014. The workshop facilitated by Mr Revanth Kumar comprised theory and practical sessions on refraction and dispensing.

❖ **Workshop on refraction techniques and clinical implications**

India Vision Institute (IVI) organized a one-day workshop on Refraction techniques and Clinical Implications for the members of TamilNadu Government Ophthalmic Assistants Association (TNGOAA) and the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA) at Erode, Tamilnadu on 5 January 2014. A total of 40 senior vision care professionals participated in the workshop.

The workshop covered a range of topics including Basics of optics & refraction, clinical history taking in comprehensive eye examination, techniques of objective refraction, steps of subjective refraction & binocular balancing and Prescribing modalities for various age groups. A session on 'Responsibilities of an Optometrist in primary eye care' covered ways of achieving excellence in clinical practice while working at peripheral government hospitals. The role of eye care professionals as per the standards of the National Program for the Control of Blindness was discussed.

❖ **Resource platform launched**

IVI's online resource platform was launched on its website (www.indiavisioninstitute.org) by Mr Sean Kelly, Australian Consul General for South India on 5 February 2014. As mandated under Aksauhini, IVI's long-term strategic plan, the online resource will help strengthen optometry



education and research and will provide to the optometry community a one stop portal to global resources.

❖ **Workshop on Myopia – current research trends and treatment strategies**

IVI organized a one day workshop on Myopia – current research trends and treatment strategies on 24 January 2014 at Hyderabad. Exclusively designed to benefit the wider Optometry community including practitioners, educators, researchers and students alike, the workshop focused on the prevalence of myopia, structural and optical characteristics of myopic eyes, possible myopigenic and optogenic factors, progression aspects of myopia along with the current research areas and latest treatment techniques. A total of 65 participants attended the workshop.

❖ **Workshop on Geriatric Optometry: what the young minds should know**

A two-day workshop on Geriatric Optometry: what the young minds should know was organized at IVI Hyderabad on 27 & 28 February 2014. Dr PremNandhini Satgunam, Associate Research Optometrist, LVPEI, widely recognized for her work in in the area of paediatric and geriatric vision rehabilitation, visual development in children with vision impairment and binocular vision, facilitated the workshop. Dr Archana Bhargava, Consultant, LVPEI, gave a guest lecture on common diseases of old age.

Designed to provide tools and knowledge to teach a course on the topic of Geriatric Optometry, the workshop focused on a range of topics including healthy aging concepts, biological aging, diseases of eye and aging, dementia, breaking the bad news and low vision aids for geriatric patients. The workshop also provided an opportunity for participants to apprise themselves of latest research in the field of geriatric optometry. The workshop was attended by over 50 optometry educators, practitioners, researchers and students

❖ **Capacity building program for optical counter sales personnel**

IVI conducted nine capacity building for the optical counter sales personnel of Eyegear Optics India Pvt Ltd (EOIPL) managed by Ben Franklin Opticians. The workshops were held in Vijayawada, Hyderabad (2), Ludhiana, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam (2), Nellore and Nagpur through March, April and May 2014.

Mr Srikanth M from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad and Mr Revanth Kumar, Ms Sailakshmi and Mr Abhishek Kalbarga from IVI facilitated the workshops covering a wide range of topics including understanding refractive errors, essentials of refraction, spectacle dispensing and soft skills for optical retail sales. The sessions were attended by over 230 participants.

The program series is aimed at enhancing the skill sets of optical counter sales personnel of EOIPL in ensuring effective and quality outcomes in customer satisfaction, technical knowledge and retail sales.

❖ **Workshop on Refraction Techniques & Clinical Implications**

A one day advanced training workshop on *Refraction Techniques & Clinical Implications* was done on 25 May 2014 at Ernakulam in Kerala. The workshop was organized by IVI in collaboration with the Indian Optometry Federation (IOF), Indian Optometrist Association (IOA) Kerala Chapter – Optometrist Society, Kerala; Kerala Government Optometrists Association (GOUK) and Rayhan College of Optometry.

Over 320 optometry professionals from across Kerala participated in the first-ever workshop of its kind conducted by IVI in Kerala. The workshop covered a range of aspects including basics of optics & refraction, clinical history taking in comprehensive eye examination, techniques of objective refraction, steps of subjective refraction, binocular balancing and prescribing modalities to various age groups.

❖ **Workshop on Essentials of spectacle dispensing**

IVI conducted two one-day workshops on *Essentials of Spectacle Dispensing* for Optical sales personnel in Chennai and Hyderabad on 6 July 2014. Facilitated by Abhishek Kalbarga and Revanth Kumar of India Vision Institute, the workshops covered a comprehensive range of topics including understanding refractive errors, spectacle prescriptions interpretation, advance lens and frame designs; technical skills and knowledge for dispensing spectacles; soft skills for effective interaction with customers, paving the way for a better optical retail practice and customer satisfaction.

Over 20 optical sales personnel participated in the Chennai workshop, while the Hyderabad workshop was attended by over 30 participants. The workshops were interactive with participants sharing their learning outcomes including approaches to dispensing and ways to channelize a mix of both technical knowledge and hands-on experience in improvising their retail practice to the satisfaction of their clients.

❖ **Workshop on The art of clinical refraction and dispensing**

IVI organized a two-day workshop on the art of clinical refraction and dispensing in collaboration with Choithram Netralaya, Indore, on 26-27 July 2014. The workshop covered various aspects of clinical refraction and dispensing, advanced spectacle lens types and designs, ideal spectacle frames for different face profiles, clinical case examples of various paediatric, geriatric refractions and relevant dispensing regimen; prescribing modalities to different age groups; presbyopia management and troubleshooting in dispensing of progressive lenses. The program was attended by about 50 participants from a number of eye care institutes.

❖ **Workshop on Essentials of Spectacle Dispensing**

Naidu Thota & Anaparthi

IVI conducted a one-day workshop on Essentials of Spectacle Dispensing for eye care professionals and paraprofessionals at Naidu Thota and Anaparthi in Andhra Pradesh on 19 - 21 August 2014. Over 45 participants attended the workshops facilitated by Abhishek Kalbarga from IVI.

Chennai

D Sandeep and Revanth Kumar from IVI facilitated a similar workshop for optical sales personnel in Chennai on 24 August 2014. Covering a wide range of topics, the workshop was attended by 16 optical sales personnel.

The interactive workshops provided opportunity for participants to share their learning outcomes in approaches to dispensing and ways to channelize a mix of both technical knowledge and hands-on experience in improving their retail practice to the satisfaction of their clients.

Kanyakumari

IVI conducted a one-day workshop on Essentials of spectacle dispensing for optical sales personnel at Helios Eye Hospital in Marthandam, Kanyakumari on 8 February 2015. Over 20 optical sales personnel participated in the IVI workshop organized in association with Lofty Optical Industries.

Coimbatore

A similar workshop was conducted for optical sales personnel in association with the Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research in Coimbatore on 22 February 2014.

Facilitated by Revanth Kumar from IVI, a wide range of topics were covered in the workshops including understanding refractive errors, spectacle prescription and interpretation, advance lens and frame designs; technical skills and knowledge for dispensing spectacles and soft skills for effective interaction with customers.

❖ IVI-NVG Capacity Building Workshops, Phase 2

- IVI organized a comprehensive hands-on capacity building workshop for a group of 40 vision care professionals of the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA) at Mundada Eye & ENT Care Center, Aurangabad from 28 to 31 August 2014. The workshop comprised theory and practical sessions on refraction and dispensing. Revanth Kumar and M Chandra Shekher from IVI facilitated the workshop covering a wide range of topics. This was the third workshop organized by IVI following an agreement between IVI and New Vision Generation India Pvt Ltd (NVG) to conduct capacity building workshops for ophthalmic assistants.
- The fourth workshop in the series was conducted for a group of 35 vision care professionals of the NOA at Patna from 18th to 21st September, 2014. The workshop comprised theory and practical sessions on refraction and dispensing and was facilitated by Mr Revanth Kumar and Mr M Chandra Shekher from IVI.
- The fifth workshop in the series was held on 1-4 December 2014 at Sankara Eye Hospital, Ludhiana. It workshop covered a range of topics including essentials of refraction, ophthalmic dispensing, soft skills and entrepreneurship development and hands-on practical sessions. It was attended by 35 vision care professionals of the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA). Mr Abhishek Kalbaraga and Mr M Chandra Shekher from IVI facilitated the workshop.
- Ms Sandhya Shekar and Mr M Chandra Shekher from IVI facilitated the sixth workshop at Rajahmundry on 11 to 14 December 2014 covering a range of topics including essentials of refraction, ophthalmic dispensing, ocular emergencies, soft skills and entrepreneurship development. The workshop comprised of both technical and practical sessions and was attended by 29 vision care professionals of the NOA.

- The seventh workshop in the series was organized at Tumkur (Karnataka) from 17th to 19th December 2014. A group of 50 vision care professionals of the NOA attended this workshop facilitated by Ms Sandhya Shekar and Mr M Chandra Shekher.
- IVI organized a comprehensive hands-on capacity building workshop on Refraction and Dispensing for a group of 24 vision care professionals of the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA) in Ranchi during 8-10 February. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Sandhya Shekar and Mr M Chandra Shekher.
- IVI organized the ninth comprehensive hands-on capacity building workshop on Refraction and Dispensing for a group of 25 vision care professionals of the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA) in Nanded during 30 May to 1 June 2015. Intended to build the technical skills, knowledge and soft skills required for refraction and optical dispensing, the workshop was facilitated by Ms Sandhya Shekar and Mr M Chandra Shekher from IVI.
- Ms Sandhya Shekar and Mr M Chandra Shekher facilitated the tenth workshop in the series on 19-21 June 2015 at Raipur which was attended by 20 vision care professionals

❖ **Workshop on Optometric Management of Glaucoma, Delhi**

IVI, in association with the Indian Optometry Association (IOA), organized a pre-conference Workshop on Optometric management of Glaucoma on 5 September in Agra, as part of the 36th All India Optometry Conference.

Facilitated by Mr Michael Yapp, Chief Optometrist, Centre for Eye Health, UNSW, Sydney, the workshop enhanced practitioner's ability to differentially diagnose glaucoma through a systematic approach. The workshops incorporated a combination of lectures, case studies and practical sessions including the assessment of narrow angle and secondary glaucoma. Over 50 delegates benefited from the workshop.

Mr Yapp also delivered two key note address at the conference 6 and 7 September, including detecting glaucomatous progression-clinical pearls; and Glaucoma diagnostics and role of optometrists-practice model abroad.

❖ **Workshop on Optometric Management of Glaucoma, Hyderabad**

IVI organized a two-day workshop on Optometric Management of Glaucoma in Hyderabad on 9-10 September, facilitated by Mr Michael Yapp, Chief Staff Optometrist at the Centre for Eye Health, University of South Wales, Sydney. Jointly facilitated by Mr Yapp and Mr Uday Kumar from LV Prasad Eye Institute, a discussion forum conducted as part of the workshop engaged participants in critically analysing the approach to glaucoma from an optometric perspective.

Incorporating a combination of lectures, case studies and practicals, the workshop enhanced the ability of practitioners to differentially diagnose glaucoma through a systematic approach. Around 15 Optometry educators and practitioners from across India participated in the workshop.

❖ **Change the game: Workshop on Sports Vision**

IVI organized two capacity building workshops on Sports Vision for optometry practitioners and educators. Facilitated by Prof Graham Erickson from Pacific College of Optometry, Oregon, USA, the workshops emphasized on the importance of visual performance assessment designed to meet the requirements of each sports and how optometrists can play an important role in improving the

visual capabilities of sports personnel. The workshops educated the participants on improving the visual abilities of an athlete including eye hand coordination, dynamic visual acuity, tracking and peripheral vision and much more.

Calcutta workshop

Organized at the NSHM-Knowledge Campus on 25-26 September 2014, the workshop was attended by over 35 participants from several institutes including Vidyasagar College of Optometry, Rotary Eye Hospital, Ramakrishna Mission, NSHM Knowledge Campus, Vasan Eye Care, Lions Hospital, RSEI, Radiant Eye Foundation, Ashram Biwaniwalla and Health & Opticare.

Delhi workshop

The workshop was organized at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital on 28-29 September 2014 and was attended by over 35 participants from a number of institutes including Amity University, Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Venu Eye Institute, K D Dalmiya Eye Hospital, GKB Opticals, UP Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Nirmal Ashram Eye Institute, Netra Mandir, Teerthankar Mahaveer University and Fortis Eye Hospital among others.

❖ Capacity Building Program for Vision Express

A capacity building program on soft skills and retail communication was conducted for the optical dispensers of Vision Express, a renowned optical chain, at IVI during 6-8 January, 2015. The pilot project was aimed at incorporating communication skills and retail selling techniques for Vision Express sales staff.

27 Dispensers from 17 branches of Vision Express in Hyderabad participated in the program over three days. The sessions focused on the communication aspects of the selling including dealing with complaints of customers, selling different lens designs, coating and sunglasses. The sessions also included role plays on active listening, case studies on product suggestions and retail showroom communication.

❖ Workshop on perfecting the art of spectacle dispensing

IVI organized a workshop on "Perfecting the art of spectacle dispensing" in collaboration with CL Gupta Eye Institute in Moradabad on 1 March 2015. The workshop covered topics including basics of optics and refraction, modalities of lenses, lens materials and coatings, advanced lens designs, frame types and measurements, types of bifocals and progressive lenses; dispensing techniques; PD measurements, how to handle trouble shooting aspects and relevant case studies on dispensing etc.

Facilitated by Sandhya Shekar from IVI and Mr Kulbhushan Singh, Senior Manager - Professional Services, Essilor India Pvt. Ltd, the workshop was attended by over 120 students including from the CL Gupta Eye Institute, Ram Ganga Health Institute, and TMU University in Moradabad; Raja Ram Memorial Hospital in Jaipur; Ram Ganga Health Institute and TMU University in Moradabad. Practitioners from Shroff Charity Eye Hospital in Delhi and faculty members and opticians from in and around Moradabad also participated.

❖ 33rd Low Vision Awareness Program



The 33rd Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP) was conducted by the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) in association with IVI on 3 April 2015.

Through live webcast, nearly 100 participants at the LVPEI KAR Campus in Hyderabad were joined by staff at other campuses including the GMRV Campus in Vishakhapatnam, BEI Campus in Bhubaneswar and KVC Campus in Vijayawada.

❖ **Workshop on ocular implications of systemic diseases**

IVI conducted a workshop on Ocular Implications of Systemic Diseases on 4 May 2015 at Hyderabad. The workshop was focused on addressing the importance of the role of systemic diseases in diagnosis and management of ocular conditions and vice versa. The program had 32 attendees comprising of students from Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry and Hyderabad Central University and also practitioners from Sharat Eye Institute, Guntur.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Archana Bhargava, Dr Nikitha Soni, Dr Nikhil Kumar, Dr Prashanthi Reddy, Dr Mufeez Rehman Khan (Physicians, Internal Medicine Department, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad), Dr Vijay Anand Reddy (Director and Senior Consultant, Apollo Cancer Institute, Hyderabad), Dr Jumana Hussain (Assistant Professor, Apollo Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Hyderabad), and Dr Akshay Badakere, Clinical Associate, Paediatric, Strabismus and Neuro Ophthalmology, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

The topics covered in the workshop included Systemic Diseases and Eye, Ophthalmic and Ocular Tumours and its implications on the eye, Connective tissue disorders and eye, Eye Involvement in AIDS, Tuberculosis and Eye, Diabetes and Eye, Hypertension and Eye, Multiple Sclerosis and Eye and Nutritional Deficiencies and Eye.

❖ **Workshop on Essentials of Spectacle Dispensing**

IVI conducted a one-day workshop on Essentials of Spectacle Dispensing for 40 members of the Puducherry Government Ophthalmic Technicians Association (PGOTA) and Puducherry Optometrists Federation (POF) at Puducherry on 13 June 2015, facilitated by Mr Revanth Kumar.

Faculty Support Program on Dispensing Optics

The inaugural round of the IVI Faculty Support Program in Dispensing Optics was hosted by Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Optometry, Pune (BVP) during 5-16 August 2013. The participants were Mr Chandan Jyoti Borah, Optometrist and Academic Counsellor, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Guwahati, Assam; and Md. Mosaib Omaer, Faculty and Consultant Optometrist, C L Gupta Eye Institute, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

The second round of the program was held from 30 September 2013 to 1 October 2013 with the participation of Ms Mary Lamching Phiamphu, Faculty & Consultant Optometrist, Bansara Eye Care Centre, Shillong, and Mr Subir Bhaumik, Faculty & Optometrist, VHAT Eye Hospital, Agartala.

The program comprised sessions on curriculum development, student evaluation and assessment patterns, effective lecture delivery methods and practical demonstrations involved in dispensing optics module for undergraduate programs in Optometry.

Faculty Support Program on Binocular Vision

The first round of the IVI Faculty Support Program (FSP) in Binocular Vision was successfully hosted by the School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal University, Manipal during 22 September-1 October 2014. Mr Sailesh Barve, Lecturer at MES College of optometry, Pune and Ms Dakarhipaya War, Lecturer, Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences, Shillong participated in the program.

Facilitated by Ms Jyothi Thomas, Ms Krithica S and Mr Avik Ray, the program comprised sessions on curriculum development, student evaluation and assessment patterns, effective lecture delivery methods and practical demonstrations involved in binocular vision module for undergraduate programs in Optometry.

Both the participants found the program to be useful having learnt new teaching techniques which they plan to implement in their institutions.

The second round of the IVI Faculty Support Program in Binocular Vision was effectively hosted by Department of Optometry, School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal University from 3-12 December 2014.

Four faculties from Narayan Nethralaya, Bangalore, Rayhan College of Optometry, Edappal and Kondotty and Laxmi College of Optometry, Panvel attended the ten day program.

IVI acknowledges the support of Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight in funding the program.

Scholarship Programs of IVI

❖ Higher Education Scholarships

IVI initiated the higher education scholarship program to stand as a platform in bringing eyecare in India to a world platform and to ensure India sees qualified eye care specialists in the future; who in turn will help in improving the quality of eyecare education.

Lawrence & Mayo and the JSW Foundation were among the first to support the scholarship program by providing corporate sponsorship. The scholarship program saw an encouraging beginning with 82 applications received in the inaugural round.

The grant for the year 2013-14 sponsored by JSW Foundation was awarded to Ms Jyothi Thomas of Manipal University for her research titled *"Development of a protocol for screening visual impairment in children aged 3 to 6 years"*

Higher Education Scholarship for 2014-15



Ms Valarmathi Arunachalam from Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, has been awarded the IVI Higher Education Scholarship for the year 2014-15 to pursue her PhD. The title of her research is *Efficacy of coloured filters on the environmental perception, social behaviour and reading ability of children with autism spectrum disorder*. The award is sponsored by Lawrence & Mayo.

❖ **BHVI Scholarship for International Agency for Prevention of Blindness 9th General Assembly (IAPB 9GA)**

Generous support from the Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI), Sydney, enabled 325 optometric professionals from India to attend the prestigious IAPB 9GA in Hyderabad during 17 – 20 September 2012. A panel of experts selected 325 applicants among 515 applications from over 25 states across India. 200 of the 325 successful applicants received additional grants to cover travel and accommodation.

The theme of the premier global event for discussion of public health issues related to blindness and visual impairment was *Eye Health: Everyone's Business*.

IVI hosted an open forum and induction session by Ms Christina Sanko, Mr Alessandro Di Capua and Mr Tejah Balantrapu from IAPB.

❖ **Student Grants**

- To attend the eleventh Dr E Vaithilingam Scientific Session at Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, IVI sponsored travel grants to 10 students including from Bausch & Lomb School of Optometry, Lotus College of Optometry, NSHM Knowledge Campus, AIIMS, & Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences. The session was organized by the Elite School of Optometry, Chennai on 18 March 2012.
- IVI provided travel grants to seven students from Lotus College of Optometry and ITM Institute of Health Sciences to attend CME on Refractive Errors organized by L V Prasad Eye Institute on 3 June 2012.

❖ **Student Research Grants**

In September **2013** IVI announced the successful recipients of IVI student research grants. Aiming to support creative and innovative research, grants worth INR 8000 each will enable seven successful Bachelors and Masters students to undertake research projects in Optometry and eyecare.

- **Avinash V Prabhu**, M Optom, Manipal University. Project title: *Validation of Plusoptix in the VARES study model among the school going children of Udupi Taluk*
- **Swetha M**, M Optom, Manipal University. Project title: *To Develop and Validate semi-automated computerised Amsler Grid (E-Amsler) For Screening Sight Threatening Eye (Macular) Diseases*
- **Namratha**, M Optom, Manipal University. Project title: *Impact of Non-Strabismic Binocular Vision Anomalies on Academic Performance in a Primary school children at Udupi*

- **K N Rakesh**, M Optom, University of Hyderabad. Project title: *Effect of visual acuity on eye fixation and performance in tasks like shooting*
- **Santosh J**, B Optom, Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry. Project title: *Problems with the application and translation of prism adaptation in clinical treatment of spatial neglect*
- **Yogesh R Vaghela**, M Optom, Nagar School of Optometry. Project title: *Ophthalmic Anthropometry for designing of spectacles*
- **Priyanka Beniwal**, M Optom, Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre. Project title: *Correlation between central corneal thickness and intra ocular pressure measurement by Goldmann applanation tonometer among normal healthy northern Indians*

The following students received the IVI Student Research Grants for the year **2014** to undertake research projects in Optometry and eye care:

- **Md. Nazma Begum**, M.Sc Optometry, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad. Project title: *The Effect of motorcycle riding on the tear film and the ocular comfort*
- **Shruthi Reddy**, B Optom, Bausch and Lomb school of Optometry, Hyderabad. Project title: *Compliance to spectacle use in a Urban vision center in Hyderabad*
- **Krishna Lalwani**, B Optom, Venu Eye Institute and Research Centre, New Delhi. Project title: *Correlative analysis of accommodative lag as recorded with Monocular estimation method (M.E.M Objective) and flippers Subjective*
- **Jennifer Francis**, B Optom, Lotus College of Optometry, Mumbai. Project title: *To determine association between blood group and colour vision deficiency*
- **Prateek Kakkar**, B Optom, Lotus College of Optometry, Mumbai. Project title: *Visual Fields and Retinal Nerve Fibre Layer changes in Normals and hyperthyroids*
- **Monika B Patel**, B Optom, Shree Bharatimaiya College of Optometry, Surat. Project title: *Study on the effect of biometric factors on the refraction*
- **Suragani Sathish Kumar**, B Optom, Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad. Project title: *Trends followed by Eye care practitioners of Hyderabad in the spectacle correction of presbyopia*
- **Keya A Thakkar**, B Optom, Nagar School of Optometry, Ahmedabad. Project title: *Normative data for fusional vergence at intermediate distance for young adults*

Registration scholarship for attending Workshop on Paediatric Optometry

IVI with the support of Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight offered registration scholarship worth INR 7500 each to the following optometry educators and practitioners to enable participation in the paediatric optometry workshop held at Sankara Eye Hospital Bangalore during 13 – 15 December 2013:

- Anupam Kundu, Sight Saviour Eye Clinic, Kolkata, West Bengal
- Moumita Mitra, Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science, Kolkata, West Bengal
- Moumita Sarkar, MRCC College of Technical Education, Midnapore, West Bengal
- Ankit Varshney, Shree Bharatimaiya College of Optometry, Surat, Gujarat

- Sankar Das, Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore, Karnataka
- P. Sandhya Rani, Swarup eye centre, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- Harjeet Singh, Directorate of Health Services, Bathinda, Punjab
- Swaathi, Sankara Netralaya, Chennai, Tamilnadu
- Pooja Sarbajna, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- Mumtaz Firoz Ahmed Qazi, Lotus College of Optometry, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Kshama A Shah, Shroff Eye Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra

❖ **Registration scholarship for attending Low Vision Awareness Program**

Between April 2012 and September 2014, IVI has provided registration scholarships to a total of 145 Optometry professionals during five Low Vision Awareness Programs organized by LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

❖ **Summer internship program**

IVI organized a one month summer internship program for undergraduate optometry students in the month of May. After scrutinizing several applications four students were selected for this year's summer internship program. Of the selected students, Mr Husain Patanwala from Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune and Mr Eshwar Fani from University of Hyderabad were posted in IVI Hyderabad office. Ms Martina Jennifer and Mr Venkatraman from Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Chennai were posted in IVI Chennai Office.

The students worked on a number of projects and utilized their vacation fruitfully. They did projects related to optical industry, outreach activities, Indian optometry statistics, low vision scenario in India to name a few. It was a new learning experience for the students at IVI and we are confident that it will help them greatly in their imminent classes.

❖ **IVI Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy 2014**

Hemanth Reddy from Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry, Hyderabad, was adjudged as the best young optometry researcher on the basis of his project, *"SMARTstereo: a novel tablet PC based application for measuring stereoacuity in the clinic"*, at the symposium for undergraduate optometry students held at IVI Hyderabad on 30 October 2014.

Organized as part of the IVI Young Optometry Researcher Rolling Trophy initiative to promote research among optometry students in India, the symposium provided a platform for six shortlisted students from optometry institutions across India to present their research proposals.

The selections were made by a panel of experts comprising of Dr Jyoti Jaggernath and Mr Farai Chinanayi from the African Vision Research Institute and Dr Nagaraju Konda from Brien Holden Vision India Pvt. Ltd. Along with a certificate, Hemanth received a travel grant of INR 5000. His institute, the Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry, received the rolling trophy for the year 2014. The other five shortlisted students received participation certificates and a memento.

Strategic Programs of IVI

❖ Young Leaders Program

The IVI Young Leaders Program (IVI YLP) initiated by the India Vision Institute (IVI) endeavours to inspire and train youngsters to take up a leadership role in achieving excellence in eyecare. The



The participants and faculty at IVI YLP

program provides a holistic view of the eyecare scenario in India and worldwide to the participants, help develop their leadership skills, enhance career prospects, provide mentorship and networking opportunities; thus equipping them with necessary skills and enthusiasm to make a difference in the Indian vision care scenario.

An IVI initiative to motivate and train young eyecare professionals to take up a leadership role in progressing optometry, the year-long *IVI Young Leaders Program* was launched with a two-day workshop at Hyderabad on 27-28 April 2013. This was followed by two more workshops held during 27-28 July 2013 and 2-3 October 2013. The ten-member Young Leaders group, selected for the first round of the program on a competitive basis, comprises eyecare practitioners, educators, researchers and eyecare service managers from across India: **Abhishek Kalbarga**, Professional Services Manager, Ben Franklin Opticians, Hyderabad; **Akash Deep Rastogi**, Consultant Optometrist, Dr Om Prakash Eye Institute, Amritsar; **Jissa James**, Program Manager, IVI; **Dr Kalika Bandamwar**, Consultant, Brien Holden Vision Institute, Hyderabad; **Priya Gupta**, Program Manager, IVI; **Dr Rishi Bhardwaj**, Vice-Principal, Nethradhama School of Optometry, Bangalore; **Runa Talukdar**, Lecturer, Vidyasagar College of Optometry & Vision Science, Kolkata; **Dr Rupinder Sahota**, Administrative Manager, Rotary Eye Care Centre, New Delhi; **Uday Kumar Addepalli**, Consultant Optometrist, Glaucoma Department, LVPEI, Hyderabad; and **Vidyt Rajhans**, Principal, MES College of Optometry, Pune.

The names of 11 successful candidates for the Young Leaders Program (YLP) 2014 were announced at a reception to host a delegation of Australian rural leaders on 18 February 2014. The inaugural workshop for the second round, scheduled for 12-13 April 2014, will coincide with the concluding workshop for the previous round.

The successful candidates for YLP 2014 are : **Anitha Arvind**, ASCO Rep for MP; FASCO dispensing optics mentor, Gwalior; **Jaya Sowjanya Siddireddy**, Research Optometrist, BHV Pvt Ltd., Hyderabad; **Vijaynadh Reddy**, Optometrist, ESIC Govt Hospital, Gulbarga; **Mannava Sunny**, Faculty, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad; **Kamal Pant**, Associate Professor, UPRIMS, Etawah, UP; **Seema Banerjee**, Consultant Optometrist, LVPEI, Hyderabad; **Sheetal Pai**, Optometrist & Academic in-charge, Nethradhama School of Optometry, Bangalore; **Khemraj Nackwal**, Manager - professional services, B & L Pvt Ltd., Delhi; **G. Ravi Kumar**, Assistant Optometrist, LVPEI, Hyderabad; **Sailakshmi Sridharan**, Program Manager, IVI; and **Revanth Kumar**, Program Manager, IVI.

YLP II (2014-15): The second IVI Young leaders Program (YLP 2014) was launched with a two-day workshop at IVI Hyderabad on 12-13 April. The launch coincided with the concluding workshop of the inaugural YLP (2013-14), providing an opportunity for the participants of the two groups to interact. An IVI leadership initiative, YLP aims to shape and mentor future leaders to advance optometry and eyecare delivery in India.

A panel of distinguished national and international experts provided a comprehensive overview of the eyecare scenario in India and worldwide, optometry education and research, and generating resources. Speakers included Dr G N Rao, Dr G Chandrasekhar, Prof D Balasubramanian and Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj from the L V Prasad Eye Institute and Prof Kovin Naidoo from the African Vision Research Institute, Durban. Additionally, leadership experts facilitated sessions on core leadership issues including why lead, creative thinking, team dynamics, assessing personal strengths and weaknesses and decision-making. The program also included a visit to the LV Prasad eye Institute for the participants to experience a real life example of excellence in eye care delivery.

Workshop II (2014-15): The second workshop of the three series Young Leaders Program for YLP group II (2014) was held in Chennai on 11-12 October 2014. Focusing on real life case studies of leadership in practice, role of effective communication and leadership in public health, public diplomacy and soft skills, the participants found the workshop to be very motivating and rewarding.

The workshop provided participants an opportunity to learn from and interact with leaders from various fields including Ms Pamela Suresh, Principal, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology and Research, Coimbatore; Dr Vijay Gopichandran, communications and public health expert; , Mr Madhav Das, entrepreneur; Mr Ravi Shivram- Corporate Trainer and the IVI CEO.

Workshop III (2014-15): The second batch of IVI Young Leaders (YLP) Program concluded with the final workshop for young optometry professionals held in Hyderabad on 11-12 April. An IVI leadership initiative, 20 potential leaders have so far been mentored through the YLP to take up a leadership role in promoting optometry and eye care services in India. The third YLP batch is scheduled to be launched in June with yet another group of nine young leaders announced recently. In a series of three workshops held in Hyderabad and Chennai over a one year period, a panel of national and international experts provided a comprehensive overview of the eye care scenario in India and worldwide, public health, optometry education and research, advocacy, social enterprise, effective communication and marketing. Participants were also introduced to core leadership issues. As part of YLP, the participants successfully undertook two group projects to put into practice learning from the YLP.

YLP 2015-16: Workshop I

IVI launched the third batch of YLP with a two-day workshop in Hyderabad on 13-14 June, comprising 9 young Optometry professionals. With the YLP II (2014-15) concluding in April 2015, the IVI leadership initiative has created a pool of 20 young leaders in Optometry and eye care since its launch in 2013. The group undertook to work on two group projects focusing on creating awareness about eye care and generating support for IVI outreach initiatives. Additionally, individual projects will also be undertaken by the participants.

The successful candidates selected for YLP (Round III) are:

1. Aloe Gupta, Senior Lecturer, Nagar School of Optometry, Ahmedabad
2. Anand Kumar, Associate Optometrist, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Vishakhapatnam
3. Anton Decruse Waanbah, Consultant Optometrist, Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences, Shillong
4. Kiran Challa, Associate Optometrist, LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad
5. M Chandrashekher, India Vision Institute, Hyderabad
6. Paula Mehta, Optometry Council of India, Bangalore
7. Pooja Singh, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
8. Prem Kumar Singh, Dr Shroff's Sharity Eye Hospital, New Delhi
9. Soumendra Nath Ghosh, NSHM Knowledge Campus, Kolkata

❖ Optometry Awareness Campaign

Opt for OPTOMETRY: Help Prevent 'Preventable' Blindness

As part of the mandate of *Aksauhini*, IVI launched an awareness campaign to promote Optometry as a rewarding and fulfilling career option at the Times Education Boutique (TEB) in Chennai on 4-5 May and in Kolkata on 11-12 May 2013. With sponsorship support from Essilor India Pvt. Ltd., and launched in partnership with ASCO, the campaign has contributed to increased student intake in optometry institutions in the two cities.

With the theme *Opt for OPTOMETRY, Help Prevent 'Preventable' Blindness*, IVI provided a platform for a number of Optometry institutions in Chennai and Kolkata to participate in the annual education and career exhibition. Representatives of participating optometry institutions interacted with prospective students, teachers and parents to discuss available options for pursuing study in optometry.

IVI at TEB 2014: IVI organized an Opt for Optometry stall at the TEB in Pune on 12-13 April 2014, Chennai on 3-4 May 2014 and Kolkata on 17-18 May 2014 to promote Optometry as a rewarding career option among students. The IVI stalls provided a platform for local optometry institutions to create awareness about courses offered by them.

Following the success from participation at the TEB last year, IVI participated in three cities this year, including in Pune, Chennai and Kolkata.

Better sight for 10 crore Indians says Ollie the optometrist



Wizard of Oz team has performed in Hyderabad and Chennai on 3rd and 7th October 2013 as part of India Vision Institute's optometry and eyecare awareness raising initiative. Ollie the Optometrist, IVI's new mascot of eyecare and optometry awareness has started an



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Ollie the Optometrist with IVI team members



eye care awareness campaign that will assist 10 Crore Indians in getting to enjoy life and be productive by just getting a pair of glasses. 85% of people worldwide needing eye care have preventable blindness, including about 10 crore Indians. For many, a pair of glasses will fix their problem and assist them continue working in a job or with their daily routine. This issue costs India nearly 260 crore rupees every year in lost productivity.

The Wizard of Oz Show, a popular Australian theatre group, has created a new character Ollie the Optometrist. Ollie serves as a mascot for Optometry and Eye Care awareness and was launched on 3 October 2013, by the Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr Patrick Suckling, in the presence of Mr David Holly, Australian Consul General for South India, Prof Brien Holden, CEO of Brien Holden Vision Institute, Dr G N Rao, Chairman of L V Prasad Eye Institute and Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of India Vision Institute.

National Optometry Awareness campaign launched by Australian Consul General for South India

IVI's "National Optometry Awareness Campaign" was launched by Mr Sean Kelly, Australian Consul General for South India, with the release of a short video featuring Ollie the Optometrist at IVI Hyderabad on 5 February 2014. Dr G N Rao, Chairman, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and Mr Daniel Holden, Managing Director, Brien Holden Vision, Australia were also present at the launch. A range of activities are planned during 2014 to raise awareness about eyecare and the important role played by optometrists in eyecare delivery. Several well received quiz and Q&A sessions are being conducted on the IVI Facebook page.

Walk in the Dark - an IVI initiative to eradicate preventable blindness

IVI is delighted at the huge support the "Walk in the Dark" elicited through the participation of over 400 children, adults, opinion makers and high-level dignitaries. Organized for the first time in Chennai on 9 November, the walk aimed to raise awareness about the need to take timely corrective action to avoid deterioration in vision which leads to decline in productivity or often to a life of poverty for many rural Indians.

Led by popular film star Khusboo Sundar, several prominent dignitaries including the acting Australian Consul General, Stuart Campbell; High Court Judge, B Rajendran; Post Master General, Mervin Alexander; Socialite, Ms Minnie Menon; former diplomat, Mr Amit Dasgupta; Councilor Viswanathan; and President, Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce, Mr Sarath Chandran joined the walk. Students from Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, MN College of Optometry, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology and Research, SRM Institute of Optometry and the Jayendra Saraswathi Institute of Medical Sciences also participated.



Glimpses from the Walk in the Dark

Marking the third anniversary of IVI, the “Walk in the Dark” initiative is part of IVI’s national public awareness campaign to eradicate ‘preventable’ blindness in India. IVI also launched an “Eye See & I Learn” campaign to raise funds to provide glasses to needy students.

Walk in the Dark, Hyderabad

IVI organized Walk in the Dark at Jalavihar, Necklace Road in Hyderabad on 12 April to raise awareness about the need to eradicate ‘preventable’ blindness. Popular actress Lakshmi Manchu, Chief Guest for the event, was joined by over 400 students, opinion makers and dignitaries walking ‘blindfolded’ guided by visually impaired children. The Walk focused on how vision correction with the help of a simple pair of spectacles can enable adults to get back to work and children to learn and perform better.

“Eye See & I Work”, an IVI initiative to restore and increase productivity of people from underprivileged communities by providing them a free pair of spectacles was also launched on the occasion.

Leading by example, a number of dignitaries joined the cause by walking blindfolded including Dr GN Rao, Chairman, LV Prasad Eye Institute; Dr G Chandra Shekar, Vice Chair, LV Prasad Eye Institute; Dr A Saibaba Goud, Chairman, Devnar Foundation for the Blind; and Ms Naina Jaiswal, celebrity sports personality, among others. They were joined by students from Devnar Foundation for the Blind, University of Hyderabad, Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry and Pushpagiri Eye Institute as well as several local optometry practitioners, opticians and representatives of the eye care industry. Twist ‘N’ Turns, a local dance group, presented a lively unique performance with blindfolds on, followed by an equally mesmerizing dance performance by five students from the Devnar Foundation for the Blind.

In conversation with Vinod Daniel – a series of IVI videos

Aimed at creating awareness, IVI developed five short videos under the series titled “In conversation with Vinod Daniel” with Prof D Balasubramanian, Director Research, LVPEI; Professor Kovin Naidoo,

Global Programs Director, Public Health Division, BHVI, Durban; Dr GN Rao, Chairman, LVPEI; Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Associate Director of Optometry, LVPEI and Mr Amit Dasgupta, Former Ambassador of India to Philippines; Prof Brien Holden, CEO, BHVI; Optom Rajesh Wadhwa, Former President, IOF; Dr GVS Murthy, Director, IIPH, Hyderabad; Ms Khusboo Sundar, Actress; His Excellency Mr. Patrick Suckling, Australian High Commissioner to India and Ms Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, OCI.

The videos can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/indiavisioninstitute>

❖ Outreach Initiatives

- As part of its outreach activities, IVI organized comprehensive eye examination for over 200 school children and over 80 people from the gypsy community in Chennai, with support from Optometry Giving Sight in October 2013. Screening was organized at two Government schools in Chennai: the Government Adi Dravida Welfare High School and A L Mudhaliar Matriculation School. 26 students from Government Adi Dravida Welfare High School and 12 students from A L Mudhaliar Matriculation School were presented with free spectacles on 4 and 9 October respectively.
- In October 2013 vision screening was also conducted at the Krupa Day Care Centre for the gypsy Community at Poonamallee, Chennai. Free spectacles were provided to 44 people from the community.
- IVI supported a vision screening program for economically disadvantaged community at Jafferkhanpet, a suburb of Chennai on 10 December 2013. Free spectacles were provided to 23 people aged between 30 - 70 years.



Glimpses of a school screening program conducted by IVI

- IVI conducted a vision screening camp in Kolathur, a Chennai suburb on 18 January 2014 as part of its outreach and awareness generation initiative. A total of 100 people were screened at the program. Free spectacles were distributed to 77 people identified with refractive errors. Six people were referred for comprehensive eye examination to a higher care facility.
- IVI organized a vision screening program for 130 children of Advent Christian Middle School, Neelankarai, Chennai. Free spectacles were distributed to 13 children identified with refractive errors and 6 others were referred for comprehensive eye examination on 20 March 2014. Representatives from the local community volunteered at the camp along with IVI staff.
- IVI conducted a vision screening camp in Kottamedu village in Thiruvallur district, Chennai, on 28 May 2014, in continuation of its outreach initiative. Amongst 100 people who were screened at

the camp, 70 required spectacle correction and 11 were referred for comprehensive eye examination.

- IVI conducted a vision screening camp in Government Adi Dravidar Welfare Higher Secondary School, Palavakkam, Chennai, on 7 November 2014, in continuation of its outreach initiative. Amongst 440 children who were screened at the camp, 60 of them required spectacle correction. 26 children were referred for comprehensive eye examination.
- IVI conducted a vision screening camp in Social Service League Primary School in Queen Mary's college campus, Chennai, on 17 November 2014, in continuation of its outreach initiative. Amongst 35 children who were screened at the camp, five of them required spectacle correction. Two children were referred for comprehensive eye examination. Australia's High Commissioner to India, Mr Patrick Suckling visited the Government Adi Dravidar Higher Secondary School to inspect the screening program for children which is funded by the Australian Consulate-General in Chennai and handed over free spectacles to the children.
- On 19 December 2014, IVI announced a new partnership with the Korean Association in Chennai to screen 1000 Children from disadvantaged communities in Chennai for visual impairment due to uncorrected refractive error and distribute 100 pairs of free spectacles. The announcement was made by Mr Taehyup Kim, Chairman of the Korean Association in Chennai and Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of the India Vision Institute during a vision screening camp at Adi Dravidar Welfare Primary School at Palavakkam, Chennai.
- IVI organized 6 vision screening programs during the month of January 2015. Five of these were conducted for the school children and one for people of disadvantaged communities.
 - **School screening:** Supported by the Australian Consulate General in Chennai, a total of 942 children of five schools were screened. Free spectacles were provided to 45 children after refraction and another 102 children were referred for higher care.
 - **Community screening:** Vision screening was conducted for 57 members of the Krupa Community Centre at Athanuar, Chennai on 24 January 2015. Free spectacles were provided to 19 persons and another 17 were referred for higher care.
- Continuing its outreach initiatives, IVI organized 5 vision screening programs for school children in February 2015.
 - IVI partnered with Helios Eye Hospital (HEO) to screen 160 and 480 children respectively at St Anthony's High School, Kappikadu and LMS Higher Secondary School, Marthandam in Kanyakumari on 6-7 February.
 - IVI, in partnership with Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research (VIOR), screened 612 and 187 children respectively at St Agnes Girls Middle School, Kottai and Government High School, Sundapalayam, Coimbatore on 23-24 February.
 - School screening was also conducted at AKTPMC Government high school, Vijayawada in collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute on 20-21 February . Among 825 children who were screened, 250 were referred for comprehensive eye examination.
- IVI conducted several vision screening programs for the socio economically disadvantaged children and communities during March and April 2015
 - **Pondicherry:** IVI, in partnership with PRIST University, Pondicherry, screened 501 and 160 children respectively at Thamizh Thendral Thiru Vi Ka High School and Chedilal Government High School, Abhishegapakkam, Puducherry on 12 March.
 - **Chennai:** 343 children of Dhanalakshmi Primary School at Tondiarpet were screened on 18 March, following which nine students were provided free spectacles.

- **Padappai, Chennai:** IVI conducted vision screening at Krupa Community Centre at Padappai, Chennai on 11 April commemorating International Women's Day. 37 out of 69 people screened were given free spectacles. Nine of them are referred for comprehensive eye examination.
- **Puzhal Central Prison, Chennai:** In continuation of its outreach initiative, India Vision Institute (IVI) conducted a vision screening program at Puzhal Central Prison in Chennai on 23 March, in collaboration with Krupa Charitable Trust. IVI CEO, Mr Vinod Daniel; Ms Grace Browning, Krupa Charitable Trust; Mr S Rajendran, DIG of Prisons; and Mr Ansar Basha, Additional Superintendent, Prison II, Puzhal Central, presented free spectacles to 146 of the over 400 inmates screened.
- An eye care awareness talk was presented by IVI officer, Sandhya Shekar highlighting general eye care, eye health and safety.
- IVI conducted vision screening for students from the socio economically disadvantaged communities at three Chennai schools in June 2015. 55 students among 767 screened were provided with free spectacles.
- IVI screened 120 inmates and provided free spectacles to 49 women at the Special Prison for Women at Puzhal in Chennai

❖ **IVI reaches out to Vishakhapatnam cyclone victims**

IVI, in partnership with LV Prasad Eye Institute, has launched an initiative to provide free spectacles to the victims of cyclone "Hudhud" that caused destruction in Vishakhapatnam in October 2014. Supported by the Australian Consulate General in Chennai, 3000 pairs of spectacles will be distributed through the GMRV campus of LVPEI in Vishakhapatnam.

❖ **www.eyecarejobs.in : exclusive website for jobs in Optometry and eye care**

IVI launched an exclusive job portal on 18 September 2014 to publicize all available job opportunities in the Optometry and associated professions. A sector specific portal, www.eyecarejobs.in is part of IVI's industry and educational support initiatives.

Supported by Essilor India Pvt Ltd the portal will -

- provide ease of finding all Optometry job openings in a single window for job seekers
- a platform for recruiters to list vacancies and reach the wider Optometry community
- help Optometry professionals to search and apply for suitable openings as per their aspirations to work with specific company
- help establish Optometry as a specialized profession

❖ **OptDistList**

IVI launched **OptDistList**, a new optometry information sharing platform, on 18 September 2014. OptDistList, a consolidated e-digest, will be emailed to all subscribers on a regular basis depending upon the volume of information received from the Optometry and eye care fraternity.

Awards and Visits

❖ **ACOIN award for Vinod Daniel, CEO IVI**

Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of India Vision institute was conferred with the inaugural HV Desai Golden Eye ACOIN Award 2012 for his contribution towards community eye-health care. The award was presented by His Excellency Governor of Odisha, Dr S C Jamir, at the 4th annual conference of the Association of Community Ophthalmologists of India held in Bhubaneswar on 10th November, 2013. The Golden Eye Award was instituted in 2012 to motivate eyehealth care professionals to work for the benefit of the community.

❖ **WCO conference strategy planning meeting**

IVI hosted a World Council of Optometry (WCO) conference planning meet with key Optometry professional bodies in Chennai on 20 January 2014. In attendance was Professor Kovin Naidoo (Global Programs Director – Brien Holden Vision Institute), Mr. Vinod Daniel (CEO - India Vision Institute), Mr. Ajeet Bhardwaj (President - Indian Optometry Federation), Mr. Gaurav Anand (President – Indian Optometry Association), Mr. Anil Tyagi (Vice President – Indian Optometry Association), Mr. Vivek Mendonsa (President – Association for schools and colleges of Optometry, India), Shrikant Bharadwaj (Scientist and Head, Optometry – L. V. Prasad Eye Institute) and Mrs. Lakshmi Shinde (CEO, Optometry Council of India)

❖ **Australian rural leaders visit India Vision Institute**

IVI hosted a reception to welcome a 35-member delegation of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) on Tuesday, 18 February. The delegation appreciated the opportunity to get an insight into challenges in eyecare delivery in India and IVI initiatives to remedy the situation.



The ARLP Delegation at IVI

The ARLP develops a strong network of rural leaders in a diverse array of industries, sectors, regions and communities, committed to responding to the challenges faced by rural, regional and remote Australia. The delegation found their India experience

comprising an intense program of meetings and field visits for a week

each in Delhi and Hyderabad, very rewarding and inspiring.

Ms Nicola Watkinson, Senior Australian Trade and Investment Commissioner for South Asia, and Mr Sean Kelly, Australian Consul General for South India along with Dr G Chandra Shekhar, Director, LP Prasad Eye Institute at Hyderabad spoke on the occasion.

❖ **BHVI's Education Meet**

Ms Jissa James, Senior Program Manager represented IVI at BHVI's Education Meet held in Sydney during 24-28 March. The meeting included BHVI offices from South Africa, Pakistan, India, Colombia, China and Australia

❖ **IVI bi-annual strategy planning session**

The entire team of IVI was at its Chennai office during 14 – 17 July 2014 for the bi-annual strategy planning session. Over three days, the team members discussed on the activities and achievements, dissected various strategic areas and formulated plans for the coming months. The team received valuable insight on several topics including research, advocacy and collaboration, current global thoughts on public health, creating local educational and human resources etc. from several national and global experts in the area of optometry.

❖ **Vinod Daniel meets the Secretary General of APCO**

Vinod Daniel, CEO IVI met with Prof George Woo, Secretary General APCO at the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry office in the School of Optometry, Hong Kong Polytechnic University in September 2014.

❖ **OCI accreditation for IVI**

IVI is now an accredited provider of Optometry Council of India. Optometry professionals registered with OCI can now earn credit points for each IVI capacity building program they attend.

❖ **Australia-India Youth Dialogue 2015**

IVI CEO Mr Vinod Daniel presented a session on "Soft Power and Public Diplomacy in the Australia India Relationship" at the The Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD) in Sydney on 27 January. A youth-led dialogue between the young leaders of Australia and India, AIYD hosts 15 of the best and brightest young minds from each country at an annual conference, held in India and Australia in alternate years. The other speakers in this session were Mr Michael Kasprovicz (Cricketer) and Mr Edmond Roy (ABC Television).

❖ **Prof Brien Holden at IVI**

Professor Brien Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute and IVI Co-Chair visited IVI on 12-13 February 2015 for a series of meetings and consultation. His talk on "The Growing Impact of Myopia on Vision, Vision Impairment, Blindness and Society: Can We Control It?" at the LV Prasad Eye Institute, on 13 February was attended by over 180 strong audience. Participants across the globe also viewed the live streaming of the session. Additionally, over 130 optometry professionals had the opportunity to interact with Professor Holden at a gathering at IVI.

Previously on 10 February, Professor Holden visited Manipal University and interacted with students and faculty at the department of Optometry.

❖ Prof Kovin Naidoo and Mr Daniel Holden at IVI

Professor Kovin Naidoo, Deputy CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Mr Daniel Holden, Managing Director, Brien Holden Vision Pty. Ltd. visited IVI on 16-17 February.

IVI in association with Shroff Charity Eye Hospital organized a talk by Professor Naidoo, on "Integrating Public health with eye care systems" at Shroff Charity Eye Hospital on 18 February 2015. Attended by over 70 professionals, the participants included Optometrists, Ophthalmologists, Community personals and administrators from the Institute. Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO of IVI presented an update on the various programs conducted by IVI during the session.

IVI organized another talk by Professor Naidoo on "Prospects of Optometrists in the field of Public Health" in association with Amity University on 19 February. The talk was attended by over 110 participants including students and faculty from Amity University.

❖ Australian Minister distributes spectacles to Chennai students

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Julie Bishop, distributed free spectacles to 31 students from three Chennai schools at an event at the Australian Consulate in Chennai organized by India Vision Institute on 15 April. The students received spectacles as part of the Australian Government Direct Aid Program (DAP) facilitated by the Australian Consulate in Chennai. Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr Patrick Suckling; Australian Consul General for South India, Mr Sean Kelly and IVI CEO, Mr Vinod Daniel, were present at the event. 9 Students from Dhanalakshmi Primary School (Tondiarpet), 3 students from Advent Christian Primary School (Chinnaneelankarai) and 19 students from Rural Service League Higher Secondary School, MCC (Tambaram) received free spectacles from the Minister.

Ms Bishop acknowledged the impact the IVI initiative has both in terms of a child's ability to see as well as learn. She announced further funding to extend the program to eleven more schools in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

Collaborations

❖ MoU in support of the establishment of IVI

To formalize the establishment and support for India Vision Institute, a MoU was signed between LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney, on 16 November 2011.

The MoU was signed by Prof Brien Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute and Dr G N Rao, Founder & Chairman, L V Prasad Eye Institute, at the Australian High Commission



Signing of MoU towards establishment of IVI

in New Delhi, in the presence of the NSW Premier, Mr Barry O'Farrell, Australian High Commissioner, Mr Peter Varghese; and Vice Chancellor, New South Wales University, Prof Fred Hillmer.

❖ **MoU with African Vision Research Institute (AVRI)**

IVI signed an MoU with AVRI, an affiliated research organization of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa on 8 July 2012 to facilitate collaboration in furthering optometry research in India.

❖ **MoU with Salus University, USA**

IVI signed an MoU with Salus University, Philadelphia, USA, on 26 July 2012, facilitating six scholarships for Indian optometric professionals to pursue Masters in Public Health through online platform at the prestigious Salus University. Salus University offers professional and graduate degree programs in Optometry, Public Health & Education, Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

❖ **IVI signs MoU with Operation Eyesight Universal**

IVI and Operation Eyesight Universal (OEU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 2 July 2013 to collaborate in developing targeted, sustainable and mutually beneficial vision care projects. This will include training programs and continuing professional development initiatives for OEU's partner institutions offering optometry courses.

❖ **IVI signs MoU with Bansara Eyecare Centre**

IVI and Bansara Eye Care Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 27 July 2013 to develop a strong optometry network for North Eastern India through a range of initiatives including creating awareness about optometry and continuous professional development for practitioners and educators.

❖ **MoU with New Vision Generation India Pvt Ltd**

IVI and New Vision Generation India Pvt Ltd (NVG) signed an agreement to collaborate in developing and conducting two pilot capacity building workshops for Ophthalmic Assistants and Technicians of the National Ophthalmic Association (NOA) in December 2013 and January 2014.

❖ **Agreement with Eyegear Optics India Pvt Ltd**

IVI entered into an agreement with Eyegear Optics India Pvt Ltd (EOIPL) to develop and conduct 21 capacity building programs for its optical counter sales personnel.

❖ **MoU with Amity University**

An MOU was signed on the occasion of World Sight Day between India Vision Institute (IVI), Amity University and the African Vision Research Institute (AVRI) on 9 October 2014, with all three partners

committing to secure good eye health practices through sound research and evidence generation leading to change in socially responsive eye health policies.

IVI Memberships

❖ VISION 2020 India

IVI joined Vision 2020 - The Right to Sight – India, as an institutional member and looks forward to working jointly with Vision 2020 to achieve the common objective of quality eye care practices and eliminating avoidable blindness in India.

❖ Asia Pacific Council of Optometry

IVI is now an Affiliate member of **Asia Pacific Council of Optometry** in enhancing and developing primary eye and vision care by optometrists in the Asia Pacific region.

❖ Indo Australian Association

IVI joined as a Member, **Indo Australian Association** in strengthening cultural linkages between India and Australia

❖ Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce

IVI joined as a Member, **Indo Australian Chamber of Commerce** in promoting business linkages between India and Australia

❖ World Council of Optometry

IVI is an Affiliate Member of the World Council of Optometry

IVI Team

Vinod Daniel CEO & Managing Trustee	Abhishek Kalbarga General Manager - Operations	Jissa James General Manager - Programs
Asha Lele Das Senior Program Manager (Part Time – 2 days per week)	Shubhra K Bhattacharya Senior Program Manager	Revanth Kumar Program Manager
Sandhya Shekar Program Manager	Dinesh Fernandes Program Manager	Apoorva Chauhan Program Officer
Sneha Anantha Krishnan Program Officer	M Chandra Shekher Program Officer	Archana Rajeshkumar Program Assistant
Murali Krishna S Manager – Operations (Hyderabad)	R Senthil Kumar Manager – Operations (Chennai)	Ravi Shivram Consultant

What People Say About IVI

IVI is overwhelmed by the words of encouragement received, to quote a few...

"Congratulations on all you have achieved – IVI is such a fine initiative."

- Peter Ackland, CEO, IAPB on IVI first anniversary celebrations.

"Really appreciate the efforts taken by India Vision Institute."

- Ramachandran P, COO - Essilor India Pvt. Ltd on Times Education Boutique 2013.

"I am delighted that IVI is undertaking this key "Young Leaders Program" for assisting Indian Optometry. My interaction with the ten participants of the inaugural young leaders program was very positive and I am pleased that they could visit my Centre."

- Padmashree Vipin Buckshey, Optometrist and Contact Lens Specialist on Young Leaders Program.

"We, teachers and students who participated in the programme reciprocate our thanks to IVI. Children had enjoyed each and every minute of the programme and it was a new experience both educative and entertainment. Our thanks to the team of Mr Brian Laul for training our children and to your team. It would really create a good impact in public about the role of optometry in preventing blindness"

- Lakshmi Ramachandran, Principal, The Ashram – ICSE, Chennai on the Wizard of OZ Workshop

"It was indeed a pleasure to work with you and your team. The attendees came very well-prepared and appeared to welcome and enjoy the proceedings. We share the common goal of improving the profession of optometry so that the visual needs of the Indian people can be better served. Perhaps we will find future ways in which we can work together"

- Prof James Sheedy, Director, Vision Performance Institute, College of Optometry, Pacific University, Oregon, USA on the workshop on Vision and Occupation

"A big thank you to IVI for organizing the "Eye Teach program" for the optometry faculty and making them better educators. The conversion of clinical skills to the students is a difficult path which was effectively trained to the participants. The resource team had engaged the participants and each one enjoyed the topics. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Such training will encourage and support faculty to achieve their goals of becoming good educators"

- Prof Monica Chaudhry, Prof and Head Department of Optometry and Vision Science, Amity Medical School, Amity University, Gurgaon on EyeTeach: From Clinician to Educator

"The response to the workshop was overwhelming and I must complement you on the professional standards of management and skills of the speakers. The workshop was a powerful statement on what professionally managed quality Eye Care Education should be"

- Dr Ashi Khurana, Vice Chairperson, C.L Gupta Eye Institute on The art and science of contact lens fitting workshop

"Capacity building workshop on Refraction Essentials & Ophthalmic Dispensing was very helpful to the

practicing optometrists to update themselves in the newer trends of eye care. Sessions on soft skills like communication & entrepreneurship development were beneficial to every participant. Such workshops designed by IVI – NVG would help make optometrists into eminent vision care practitioners and contribute towards prevention of curable blindness”

- Rajbir S Berwal, General Secretary, National Ophthalmic Association

“The workshop on "Myopia - current research trends and treatment strategies" by India Vision Institute was really great. Thank you for putting together such an incredible array of speakers. I never dreamed that I could have learned so much in so little time. The teleconference section on Orthokeratology was very informative”

- Riswan Rasheed, Intern Optometrist, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram on the Myopia workshop

“The Workshop on Refraction Techniques & Clinical Implications for Senior Ophthalmic Assistants working in Primary Health Centers, under National Blindness Control Program was much helpful to our members. Further it has improved their technical skills to provide quality eye care services to general public and school students. The facilitator has delivered the subject in easily understandable manner”

- K. Karthikeyan, Vice President, National Ophthalmic Association on the refraction techniques and clinical implications workshop

"The entire workshop was well prepared, organized, and executed to the fullest, including the materials provided. We thoroughly enjoyed the workshop. Even though the training was intense it is well worth its weight in gold and that is a direct reflection upon your leadership. We have fully utilized a lot of the techniques through this workshop. The instructor brought relevant, remarkable examples and made the presentation enjoyable”

- S. Sukumar, General Secretary, Tamil Nadu Government Ophthalmic Assistants Association on the refraction techniques and clinical implications workshop

“Congratulations. The video is extremely well taken and message very well communicated. Such public awareness campaigns are the need of the hour. Thanks a lot”

- P Ramachandran, Chief Operating Officer, Essilor India Ltd on the awareness video featuring Ollie the Optometrist

“I learned about helping aged people and give them an opportunity for better health in future”

- Sanjib Das, Optometrist, Dr Agarwal Eye Hospital, Chennai on the geriatric optometry workshop

“I thank IVI for organizing a specialized workshop for optometry practitioners in Kerala and hope that IVI continues to collaborate with Optometrist Society and other associations to strengthen optometry and eye care delivery in Kerala”

- KK John, President, Optometrist Society, Kerala on “Refraction techniques & clinical implications” workshop

“IVI-IOF Workshop was an excellent program. It exceeded my expectations! I not only learned the principles but also how to apply them to my profession to make an immediate impact & accurate diagnosis. I would

enthusiastically recommend this seminar to anyone who wants to acquire perfection in his/her professional life. Many thanks to the whole IVI team"

- Anwer Shakeeb, Principal, Rayhan College of Optometry, Mallapuram on "Refraction techniques & clinical implications" workshop

"Having been through the 'eye teach workshop' organized by IVI and Brien Holden Vision Institute, I am convinced that when we organize such workshops, we are educating teachers and helping build in them self-confidence, team spirit, perseverance, dedication, creativity, quality, finesse and many other such skill. No academic book or subject can teach all this in an enjoyable manner as your team facilitated it. Thank you for reaching out through us. We want to assure you that we will be more than happy to volunteer to share your vision"

- Pamela Suresh - Head, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, Coimbatore on Eyeteach program

"Congratulations to team IVI for coming up with this brilliant idea of hosting online session for YLP. Such sessions are good to keep up the spirit high and make way for future possibilities"

- Seema Banerjee, Consultant Optometrist, L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad on Making it Happen: YLP online seminar on leadership

"I thank IVI for conducting Optometry orientation program for the first and second year students in our institute. The program was very informative and has given them the understanding of the optometry education and career opportunities"

- Fouzia Khan, Course Administrator, Shri Prakash Institute of Optometry, Chennai on Optometry orientation seminar for students

"IVI and NVG conducted an excellent optometry capacity building workshop. Presentations, practical exercises and information provided were all very useful to ophthalmic officers and optometrists to make an immediate impact in their daily practice. It is a valuable investment in time, money and effort to make professional unification and development of optometry in India. I highly recommend this workshop to all professionals working under NPCB to achieve the goal of Right to Sight"

- Dr Kailash Baviskar, Joint Secretary, NOAI and State Coordinator, Govt. Ophthalmic Officers Association, Maharashtra on IVI – NVG Capacity Building Workshop

"Thank you for updating me on the achievements of India Vision Institute. This partnership illustrates how much can be accomplished when talented and dedicated Indian and Australian professionals work together. I recognize the important work your organization is doing to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss in India and I commend you for your passion in these efforts"

- Mike Baird MP, Premier of New South Wales, NSW Government, Australia

"This project where we provide opportunity for young southern Indian students to have their sight problems rectified is an indication of the growing friendship between Australia and Southern India. It's been a real experience this morning to provide glasses to the young students who got their eyes tested. Good vision means better learning outcomes. Better learning outcomes mean economic empowerment. I am delighted to have this opportunity to partner with India Vision Institute and provide more funding to reach about ten thousand children across eight cities through this project"

- Hon Julie Bishop MP, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs

"The event was a huge success, thanks mostly to your excellent team. Ms Bishop was clearly impressed by the

good work being done by the India Vision Institute (IVI), providing vision screening and spectacles to disadvantaged children in South India. IVI is an excellent example of how Australia-India collaboration and direct partnerships can be of benefit to both of our communities"

- Sean Kelly, Australian Consul General to South India on the program organized by IVI during the visit of Hon Julie Bishop MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Chennai

"Congratulations on the success of Walk in the Dark event. The event was well organized and has been appreciated by many"

- Nagesh Vuppala, President, Optometry Association of Telangana on the Walk in the Dark, Hyderabad

"All were very cooperative, service-minded and were very patient in dealing with people. Very good dedication to the work is seen. Excellent team-work. "

- Dr Arunmathi Devi, Assistant Surgeon, Special Prison for Women, Puzhal, Chennai on the vision screening program

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• The Australia-India Council	• Vision Express
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