

# **NEWSLETTER**

**JULY** 2021

Hope you are all safe and doing well.

Businesses are getting back on track with a reduction in COVID-19 cases reported in the country, which has been positive news for the ophthalmic industry. We need to be cautious, though, as we are still not over the pandemic and strictly adhere to all safety advisories.

I am delighted to say that IVI, amidst all With strict adherence to safety protocols, these uncertainties, has been up and running throughout the pandemic with a range of activities.

Myopia', a Virtual Leadership Lecture Series supported by Hoya Lens Pvt Ltd, with weekly invited talks by global leaders and experts in Myopia over two months, July-August. The lecture series sought to update eye care professionals on Myopia control and management strategies with a view to helping them include those in their practice. The 'Indian Vision Science Symposium', supported by Carl Zeiss India Pvt Ltd on 24 and 25 July, brought together leading vision science researchers for discussion on latest research and innovation, as well as showcase the interdisciplinary nature of vision science.

# Message from the CEO

The 2nd IVI International Optometry Conference - Eye Health in a Changing World, supported by EssilorLuxottica, is scheduled for 9-11 September 2021. Following last year's trend, the event will offer a complete package of preconference day sessions, keynote lectures by world eye health leaders, invited talks and panel discussions.

our vision screening programs have resumed, prioritizing health and safety of all staff and the screening population.

Significant activities include: 'Unraveling We have been facilitating a regular Indian ophthalmic industry meeting and, as an outcome from the discussions, a joint industry submission on the Medical Devices (Amendment) Rules 2020 was made to the government in April for consideration. It is gratifying that the Drug Controller General of India decided on August 11 to remove Spectacles, Lenses and Frames from Medical Devices. This is great news for the industry as a whole. The Taskforce on Vision and Road Safety is continuing to work with the objective to reduce the alarmingly high number of road traffic accidents reported in the country due to poor vision. A Vision



Science Research Taskforce has been recently established to work towards advancing primary eye care research in

As part of IAPB's World Sight Day 2021 #LoveYourEyes campaign, IVI is pledging to vision screen 40,000 adults.

A huge thanks to our media partners for helping disseminate news about our activities, to trustees and advisors for their insights and continuous support in helping IVI grow, and Industry partners for assisting us in working towards making our vision to enable access to a pair of glasses for every Indian a reality.

- Vinod Daniel

# Unraveling Myopia – A Virtual Leadership Lecture Series powered by Hoya

growing eye health problem of Myopia, and the need for continuing education among eve health practitioners to tackle the issue, IVI's weekly lecture series through talks by world leaders on the subject, July-August, sought to educate and update professionals on control and management strategies, and encourage them to include those in their practices.

Supported by Hoya Lens India, the 30-minute lectures had experts address issues in Myopia and its management. Experts included Dr Thomas A Aller, Owner, Dr. Thomas Aller Optometrist, Inc.; Visiting Scholar, University of California, Berkeley, Prof Padmaja Sankaridurg, Head, Myopia; Head, Intellectual

of Optometry and Vision Science, Univer-







sity of New South Wales; Advisory Board Member, International Myopia Institute, Prof Earl L. Smith III, Professor Emeritus, University of Houston, College of Optometry, Prof James Wolffsohn, Professor of

Understanding the magnitude of the Property BHVI; Conjoint Professor, School Optometry & Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor, Aston University, Dr Monica Jong, Executive Director, International Myopia Institute: Assistant Professor, University of Canberra and Prof Lyndon Jones, Director, Centre for Ocular Research &





Education; University Research Chair, Professor, School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo.

To know more, visit <a href="https://www.in-">https://www.in-</a> diavisioninstitute.org/upcoming-programs-view/66

# **2nd IVI International Optometry Conference** Eye Health in a Changing World, powered by EssilorLuxottica

2<sup>nd</sup> IVI INTERNATIONAL **OPTOMETRY CONFERENCE** 

Eye Health in a Changing World

SEPTEMBER

Powered By:



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**BAUSCH+LOMB** See better. Live better.

The second IVI International Optometry Conference is approaching fast. Supported by EssilorLuxottica, the conference dates are 9-11 September.

Interest in the conference from around the world has been encouraging. Some 2,000 delegates from over 35 countries are expected to participate in it virtually to listen to keynote lectures on Global Eye Health: Vision beyond 2020, Artificial Intelligence in Eye Care, Advocacy to Tackle Avoidable Blindness, Human Resources Challenges in Eye Care Delivery, Building Up Eye Care Practice, Very Low Vision: How to Measure and Why, Optometry and the Legislative Process: The Philippine Experience, Climate Change & Eye Health and Myopia Management Putting Research into Practice. Other discussions include a look at 'how will health news be covered in the changing media scene', role of industry, and NGOs in eye health care.

# OUR SPEAKERS INCLUDE



































Keynote speakers at the event include

- 1. Prof Matthew Burton, Director, International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- 2. Dr Anthony Vipin Das, Consultant Ophthalmologist, LV Prasad Eye Institute
- 3. Amanda Davis, Director for Strategic Initiatives, The Fred Hollows Foundation
- 4. Prof Kovin Naidoo, Senior Vice President Social Impact: Africa & Latam and Advocacy, Essilor International
- 5. Prof Ian Bailey, Professor Emeritus of Vision Science and Optometry, Berkeley School of Optometry
- 7. Dr Kate Gifford, Co-Founder and Lead Educator, Myopia Profile Pty Ltd
- 8. Bayani F Abesamis, Barrister and Solicitor, Abesamis

Law Office

- 9. Mitasha Yu, Co-chair, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
- 10. OB Malope, Brand Growth Specialist.
- 11. Dr Babar Qureshi, Director Inclusive Eye Health and Neglected Tropical Diseases, CBM

#### Abstracts for paper and poster

Following the call for abstracts, which was open until 31 July, we received 250 submissions.

#### **Pre-Conference Day**

On September 9, there will be multiple closed group discussions for the benefit of optometry students, practitioners, educators and other eye health professionals.

## Sessions will include:

Contact Lens Management of Keratoconus-New Developments by International Association of Contact Lens **Educators** 

- Orthokeratology for Myopia Control by BIPOK Masterclass Optometry
- Vision Rehabilitation for Children with Special Needs: Unmasking the Possibilities by LV Prasad Eye Institute
- **Sporting the Contact Lens for better performance:** Contact Lens in Sport & Speciality Driing Lenses - A **Promising Future by ASCO**
- Myopia in Africa by Global Ophthalmic Institute
- **Neuro-optometry**

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### **Indian Vision Science Symposium Powered by Zeiss**

IVI hosted the first-ever 'Indian Vision Science Symposium' on 24 and 25 July. Leading researchers working on developing cutting-edge innovations in vision science and academics participated in the symposium.

Supported by Carl Zeiss India, 22 scientists led sessions on Optics of the eye, Visual processing in the retina, Early visual pathways in the brain, Sensory processing of visual information, Higher level vision - Attention and Cognition, Oculomotor behaviour, and Applied vision science.

The symposium launched with opening remarks by Dr GN Rao, Founder-Chair, LVPEI, Yvonne Holden, wife of pioneer vision science luminary scientist the late Professor Brien Holden, and IVI's CEO Vinod Daniel.

Key speakers and moderators included Dr Aishwaryah Radhakrishnan, Dr Allison McKendrick, Dr Amithavikram Hathibelagal, Dr Ann Elsner, Dr Apurva Ratan Mur-Mohan.

The symposium was the result of a call by the IVI-initiated Resmeet 2021 in April 2021 to galvanise India Vision Science Research to better deliver eye health servic-

Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Scientist, Visual Optics and Psychophysics Laboratory, L V Prasad Eye Institute, played a significant role in developing the symposium in association with the IVI team.

# ty, Dr Arijit Chakraborty, Dr Carla Abbott, Deepmala Mazumdar, Dr Jay Neitz, Dr Jaikishan Jayakumar, Dr Jeremy Wolfe, Dr Michael Webster, Neeraj Singh, Dr Pavan Verkicharla, Dr Premnandhini Satgunam, Dr Rajkumar Raveendran, Dr Revathy Mani, Dr Richa Verma, Dr Shonraj Ballae Ganeshrao, Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Dr S P Arun, Dr Trichur Vidyasagar, and Dr Yamni

# **Moderators**

#### **Support IVI Programs**

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#### **Vision Science Task Force**

A taskforce initiated by IVI is looking at ways to assist India progress in vision science research.

A panel discussion on 'India on the Global Vision Research Map' at Resmeet-2021 earlier in the year recommended setting up the taskforce comprising Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj, Director, Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences; Scientist, Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, LVPEI, Dr Jameel Rizwana H, Honorary Consultant and Visiting Faculty, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Ramesh S Ve, Professor & Head, Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE, Dr Prema Chande, Faculty, Lotus College of Optometry, Dr Aishwaryah Radhakirishnan, Assistant Professor, Department of Optometry, SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Dr Anuradha N, Principal, Elite School of Optometry; Program In-charge, School Children Eye Health, Sankara Nethralaya, Dr Rashima Ashokan, Assistant Professor, Elite School of Optometry; Head, Occupational Optometry Services, Senior Optometrist & Researcher, Glaucoma Project, Medical & Vision Research Foundation, Sankara Nethralaya and Jayanta Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor & Principal Coordinator, Kolkata Vision Research Centre, Vidyasagar College of Optometry & Vision Science.

The group met on 23 June to discuss challenges and suggest solutions to several barriers that have been identified as coming in the way of India advancing in optometry research. The immediate needs are interdependence of research, clinical practice and education, lack of infrastructural need to set up research labs in institutions, qualified supervisors to mentor students and incorporating evidence-based practice in optometry schools and hospitals.

Going forward, the members will identify key areas that require immediate focus and work towards addressing them.

#### **Volunteer for IVI**

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

ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org

### **IVI Essilor Optometry Wizard 2021 winners**

Wizard of the Year – a national guiz for optometry students, practitioners and educators on 19 July, witnessed a keen contest. The winner, first and second runners up, were, respectively, Vigneshwar A Goppalakrishnan, Freelance Optometrist; Rathna Bharathi S, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research, and Amritha M, Freelance Optometrist.



They received cash prizes of INR 10,000, INR 7,000 and INR 5,000. Ritik Gurnani, Natasha Eye Care & Research Centre; Maimuna, Manipal College of Health Professions; and Mahesh Kumar R, Sankara Nethralaya were the other three finalists.

The finals of the IVI Essilor Optometry Special audience prizes went to Charies Coline, Vasan Eye Care Hospital; Nandhini R, Vasan Institute of Ophthalmology & Research; Shagoofta Khan, Goa Medical College; Ishani Biswas, Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science; and Poonam, Manipal Academy of Health Professions.

> Earlier on 28 and 29 May, the first and second rounds, respectively, saw a tightly fought contest. Round 1 was open to all and was announced on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Of 626 individuals who participated, 24 were shortlisted for Round 2 (semi-finals), which was a phone round that led to the selection of the six finalists.

> The top prize winners were felicitated at the IVI head office on 2 August.

> IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor India Pvt Ltd for the Optometry Wizard of the Year national quiz contest.

# **Solving India's Cataract Crisis**

Cataract is the second largest cause of vision loss worldwide. India faces a veritable cataract crisis that threatens to affect



a large segment of the country's population, especially the elderly, because of demographic factors. The pressing public health problem can be addressed by a combination of approaches, including the removal of barriers, capacity-building, raising awareness and ensuring that quality is prioritized in service delivery.

Panelists at the Discussion 'Solving India's Cataract Crisis', June 21, focused on the importance of Cataract as a public health issue. Read full article https://visionplus- Ananthalakshmi N, Head, Education &

mag.com/article/solving-indias-cataract-crisis/

#### **'UV Rays and Our Eyes'**

Eye health and safety encompass a lot more than dealing with refractive error and eye injuries caused by damaged spectacles. It includes protecting the eyes from UV rays. The panel discussion 'UV



Rays and Our Eyes,' July 16, focused attention on how long-term exposure to UV rays could lead to ocular pathologies such as Cataract and other conditions.

The participating experts explained the effects of UV radiation on our eyes and shared ideas and mitigation strategies to best deal with the challenge. Moderated by Vinod Daniel, the panel comprised

#### IVI-VisionPlus Panel **Discussions**

#### **Maintaining Sound Eyesight**

Maintaining sound vision is important because poor eyesight impairs an individual's quality of life, productivity and mental health. A country's overall health and well-being can be significantly affected if eyesight-related problems plague large segments of the population. The IVI-Vi-



sionPlus Magazine-hosted panel discussion, 'Maintaining Sound Eyesight,' May 21, discussed the importance of maintaining sound eyesight and the measures needed to facilitate better public eye health in a challenging environment. Read full article, <a href="https://visionplusmag.">https://visionplusmag.</a> com/happening/maintaining-sound-eyesight-a-panel-discussion/

Professional Services, Essilor India Pvt. Ltd., Rathindra K Dhar, Head of Training, Carl Zeiss India Pvt. Ltd., Reshma Shetty, Professional Services Manager, Hoya Lens India Pvt. Ltd., and Murtuza E Madraswala, Head, Professional Services Offline Stores, Lenskart.com. Read full article, https://visionplusmag.com/article/ uv-rays-and-our-eyes/

#### **Management & Prognosis of** 'Mucormycosis'

An awareness talk on Mucormycosis, by Dr Akshay Gopinathan Nair, Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon & Ocular Oncology con-

> sultant, Aditya Jyot Eye Hospital & Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Mumbai, on May 25 focused on the underlying cause, management and prognosis of the disease.

Dr Nair said both diabetics and non-diabetics with other co-morbidities are at risk of developing Mucormycosis post COVID-19.

The management of Mucormycosis involves a robust team of clinicians, where the ENT surgeon is the primary clinician and the Ophthalmologist is part of the team. Some 1,500 viewers watched the talk online, including on Facebook and Zoom. Click to view the session. https://fb.watch/7wuZ5pGwo3/

# Watch 'In Conversation with Vinod Daniel' video series only on

www.youtube.com/ indiavisioninstitute



Jayanth Bhuvaraghan Senior Adviser & Coach at EssilorLuxottica Former Chief Mission Officer, EssilorLuxottica



**Elizabeth Smith** Co-Founder & CEO, EYElliance



**Peter Holland Chief Executive Officer International Agency** for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)



**Rajeev Prasad Director, Visual Eyez Board Member, APCO** 



**Nidhi Mittal Bansal Chairperson at Lenskart Foundation** 

## IVI is a member of





Asia Pacific Council of Optometry



Agency for the Prevention of **Blindness** 



Vision 2020 India





#### India-Australia business & community award for IVI

India Vision Institute has received the IABCA Community Services Excellence Award (Organisation). IVI gets the award for achievements and initiatives empowering rural and remote underprivileged communities in India.

India Vision Institute has been conferred the India Australia Business & Community Award (IABCA). The award was announced at the IABCA Gala in Sydney on May 15. IVI wins the award for "achievements that have enhanced community spirit through initiatives empowering rural and remote underprivileged communities in India". IVI received compliments from Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne, and NSW Senator Kristina Keneally on being conferred the award. Visit https://www.indiavisioninstitute.org/ press-releases-view/176 to read the full article.



IVI thanks Mendonsa Foundation/Lawrence & Mayo for their generous support for procurement of ophthalmic instruments.



f India's less privileged and the needy. It will protect livelihoods and fight the

es the #LoveYourEves World Sight Day campaign as a timely initiative ort global vision health in these challenging times. The cam on eye health issues worldwide and succeed in securing





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## Eye See & I Work

# Vision Screening underprivileged adults

IVI has resumed vision screening activities. In July 2021, over 446 underprivileged daily wage workers, fishermen and drivers were screened in Chennai, Taniyal, Tindivanam, Parindal, and Sembiyanmadevi villages of Tindivanam. Around 157 people diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles and another 109 individuals were referred to hospital for further intervention.



IVI acknowledges the support of Essilor Vision Foundation for providing free spectacles.

# Sunglasses for fishermen and protective glasses for stone workers

IVI brought the gift of protective eyewear and sunglasses for communities in Mahabalipuram in Kancheepuram district. Over



300 protective glasses for stone workers and 200 sunglasses for fishermen were distributed during July, which was also UV Safety month.

Sunglasses will offer protection to fishermen from harmful UV rays and protective glasses prevent stone splinters and particles enter the eyes of the stone workers.

IVI acknowledges the support of Vision Spring for providing the sunglasses and protective eyewear.

#### **Auto drivers' screenings**

A vision screening and free spectacles program was rolled out during July for 2,500 auto-rickshaw drivers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



Some 165 auto drivers were screened in Poonamalle, Chennai, and of which 64 auto drivers were provided with free spectacles. Some 76 auto drivers were screened in Villupuram, and 43 diagnosed with refractive errors were provided spectacles.

IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.

# What Others Say About IVI

"The eye wear provided by IVI at Mahabalipuram today will offer protection to stone sculptors from splinters and flying objects. The sunglasses will help fishermen from harmful UV rays."- Vishwanthan, DMK Mahabalipuram Chairman

# From Indian Vision Science Symposium

"I wish to thank IVI, Dr Shrikant and all moderators for a wonderful session over the last two day. Each session was more interesting than the other and, overall, showcased the spirit of good research potential in India. I hope we will see a healthy growth in the next five years

Really feeling privileged to be part of this group and looking forward to working on barriers" - Dr Ramesh S Ve, Professor and Head, Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal

"Thank you everyone for a wonderful meeting. It was great to listen to all the talks on both days. I hope we see a lot more people doing vision science in India in the coming years." - Dr SP Arun, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

# Industrial workers to benefit from vision screenings in Chennai

IVI has launched a major screening campaign for industrial workers in Chennai.

In addition to access to vision screening to underprivileged people, the program will provide free spectacles to those diagnosed with refractive errors. Through information brochures/ leaflets to the beneficiaries at screening sites, the program will ensure



people are provided guidance and awareness on the importance of eye care and how to take care of eye health. So far, as part of the program, IVI has screened 2,871 people in Injambakkam, Valluvarnagar, Velachery, New Perumbakkam, Chemmenchery, Thiruvanmiyur, Rootharpuram, Pallikaranai, and St.Thomas Mount in Chennai. Around 1,527 people were diagnosed with refractive errors and 398 people referred to hospital for further examination.

Screenings are being conducted as per strict Covid protocols and government guidelines including physical distancing and wearing of PPE kit by IVI staff.

IVI acknowledges Luxottica India for supporting the program.

#### Support IVI Programs

To DONATE ONLINE and for additional information, please vist

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# India@75 Pledge

**Independence Day Greetings!** 

To commemorate India's 75th Independence Day, India Vision Institute joins the nationwide celebrations with a resolve to work with renewed vigour to provide spectacles to all underprivileged people in need of a pair.

Indiae75 pledge: IVI will vision screen 5625 underprivileged people during August 15-21.

#### **IVI Vision Screening Programs**

	Children	Community	Total
No of programs	676	487	1029
Individuals screened	2,84,011	90,802	3,74,813
Spectacles distributed	27,979	39,002	66,981

Activities listed in this issue are for May - July 2021.

#### **Current project supporters**























Conquering Newer Horizons





















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