

## Message from the CEO

It has been another fruitful quarter for us as we work towards enabling access to a pair of spectacles for every Indian. I am delighted that over the past 10 years we have taken a holistic approach for primary eye care in India, through including outreach, education, awareness and advocacy.

As I write this message, the IVI team in collaboration with VisionSpring and Sightsavers India is working towards a major Vision and Road Safety conference, VARS2022, February 10-11. The landmark conference will enable organisations working in this area to share best practice approaches, suggest ways to strengthen government policies, and work towards minimising barriers for commercial vehicle drivers in accessing refractive care services. The statistics in this target group are alarming. Over 50% accessed spectacles for the first time and 1% of commercial drivers on the roads were severely myopic.

Similar challenges are faced by other underprivileged communities, including weavers, daily wage earners and agricultural workers. Children are particularly vulnerable to uncorrected refractive error. As much as 7% of school kids need glasses to see the board clearly and millions of school children from underprivileged communities fail in school because of lack of access to a pair of spectacles. It is vital for the primary eye care sector to focus on providing access to a pair of spectacles with a standardised level of quality, and develop effective and practical ways to reach out to rural India.

IVI also conducted several education programs, managed the 24-hour global 'Eyes Around the World' education conference, hosted a conference exclusively for Optometry students, and started an excellence in vision science lecture series. Over 50,000 underprivileged people benefited directly during the quarter from vision screenings



by IVI optometrists. A huge thanks once again to all our sponsors, supporters, trustees and advisors.

I look forward to continuing to work together with all of you. Please reach out to us if you can partner with us, support us, work with us, or have any innovative ideas that we can work together to realize our vision of augmenting the primary eye care capacity in India.

- Vinod Daniel

## WCO's Eyes Around the World Conference



**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 24 hours global event covering 3 time zones
- Talks by over 25 speakers from 12 countries targeting practicing clinicians and optometric educators
- Several COPE & CET approved lectures

A 24-hour global 'Eyes Around the World' conference spanning different world time zones was held on November 20 by the World Council of Optometry (WCO) and managed by India Vision Institute. The online conference saw some 980 eye health professionals, including practicing clinicians and optometric educators, participate and 30 speakers from 12 countries make presentations.

Over the course of the day, the 21-hour presentations covered clinically relevant topics such as diabetes, dry eye management, myopia management, navigating the changing world of online clinical and

didactic teaching, as well as specialty contact lenses.



**COPE & CET Approved Lectures**

OCT/OCTA: IT'S SIMPLE BUT ACTUALLY NOT SO SIMPLE Dr. Andrew Lam	ASSESSMENT OF VISUAL INFORMATION PROCESSING SKILLS AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN Prof. Tawani A. Rasengane	MYOPIA CONTROL AND CONTACT LENSES Prof. Monica Chaudhry
INTEGRATING BINOCULAR VISION INTO A PRIMARY EYE CARE PRACTICE Dr. Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen	INTEGRATING LOW VISION INTO YOUR PRACTICE Dr. Yazan Gammeh	DIAGNOSING AND MANAGING DRY EYE Prof. James Wolffsohn
CONTACT LENSES FOR PRESBYOPIA Dr. Raquel Gil-Cazorla	THE ROLE OF OPTOMETRY IN DIABETES Dr. Raymond Mabaso	THE TEAR FILM: A SUPERHERO IN ALL OF US Dr. Richard Maharaj

## IVI is a member of



World Council of Optometry



Asia Pacific Council of Optometry



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness



Vision 2020 India

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## STUDOMETRY 2022

STUDOMETRY'22 conference (7 & 8 January) helped optometry students to learn new concepts and techniques to make them work-ready professionals. Over two days, the online event saw subject experts deliver case-based lectures on clinical topics – Binocular Vision, Contact Lenses, Spectacle Dispensing, Ocular Diagnostics, and Advancements in Optometry. It also had an array of discussions involving leaders in various sectors – hospital-based practice, retail, corporate industry, education, and research – speak on their journey in the field, prerequisites to kickstart a career and future prospects in each sector.



'Reorient, Re-design, Re-invent (RRR) for Limitless Growth' and 'Do's & Don'ts of Resume Building' were other talks at STUDOMETRY that were well received.

The event, attended by over 375 optometry students, also hosted a career fair that saw participation from Rivoli Vision Group, Titan Eye Plus, Hoya Lens India, and Lenskart. Representatives interacted with the students on the job opportunities in their companies.



In a contest to express thoughts on 'How can the ophthalmic sector enable every villager to access a pair of spectacles?', which saw participation from over 25 optometry students across India, Sangeetha Nagarajan, Khaarthiyaa Lokanathan & Agatha K Saji of Elite School of Optometry, Chennai emerged winners. Indira Rengarajan and Roselin Kiruba were declared runner up.

An exciting quiz contest was also organised during STUDOMETRY'22 which saw enthusiastic participation. Shagufa Firdous of Dr DY Patil Institute of Optometry and Visual Science emerged as the winner and Yogesh S of Optometry College, SRM Medical College and Hospital was the runner up.

### Vision Deficits in Children with Down Syndrome

Visual function assessment and management in children is gaining importance and optometrists are playing a key role owing to the multidisciplinary approach involved. A talk on 'Vision Deficits in Children with Down Syndrome', on October 29 by Dr. Julie-Anne Little, Associate Professor, Department of Optometry and Vision Science, Ulster University, highlighted the considerations that need to be made with regard to vision in Down Syndrome and techniques on how to carry out a visual examination in a child with the disease. She also spoke about how research has contributed to increasing knowledge on vision deficits in Down Syndrome.



Click to view the session <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/209635797839232>

### Awareness Talk on Diabetic Retinopathy

In an awareness talk on Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) on World Diabetes Day, November 14, Dr. Rajiv Raman, Senior Consultant, Department of Vitreoretinal Services, Sankara Nethralaya, stressed on why DR matters, its prevalence in urban and rural India, the risk factors contributing towards DR, and much more. The session, attended by the general public along with eye health professionals, was an eye-opener on why a routine examination once every six months is important and how early diagnosis of DR plays a major role in preserving vision.



Among the diabetic population, 30% of patients who had DR, showed a progres-

sion in four years and 10% who did not have DR initially showed DR signs after four years. If control is brought within this population through intensive treatment plans, Dr. Raman said, a big difference can be made in reducing the prevalence of the sight-threatening disease. Among all the control techniques, the Indian population showed poor results in Glycemic control.

Eye health professionals who attended the online session got to know the screening model that needs to be followed and the newer modes or devices available for making vision screening easier. They were also educated on detailed treatment and management protocols that need to be considered for screening patients with diabetes.

### 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](mailto:ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org) or call us on 91-44-24515353

## IVI at International Optic Fair India 2021

IVI participated at the International Optics Fair India 2021, Noida-Delhi, November 27-29. IVI's booth at the fair evoked wide interest from participants and visitors. The fair was inaugurated by Shri Nand Gopal Gupta, Minister of Civil Aviation, Political



Pension, Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj in the UP Government, and Shri Pankaj Singh, MLA from Noida in the UP Assembly. CEO Vinod Daniel lit the traditional lamp with the VIPs and spoke at the function highlighting the need for addressing the problem of Uncorrected Refractive Error and of the need for improving vision care access and eye health services.

Among several senior heads and executives of companies and retail chains, Mr Daniel met with industry veterans Dayal Das Kalra (Dayal Opticals), Pradip Singh Thukral (Thukral Opticians) and Darshan Lal Madan (BonTon Opticians), who were felicitated by the fair organizers Optometry Association of India.

We congratulate the organisers, Shri Subash Bansal and his staff for an efficiently organised and managed trade fair.

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



Kumudha Thirunavukkarasu

Senior Manager- Community Programs, India Vision Institute



Dr. Juan Carlos Aragon

President, CooperVision Specialty EyeCare Division

## IVI-VisionPlus Panel Discussions

### Retinopathy of Prematurity: A Concern of Vision Impairment and Blindness in Preterm Infants

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is an eye disorder caused by abnormal blood vessel growth in the retina, the light-sensitive part of the eyes, in premature infants. Bleeding from these vessels may scar the retina and stress its attachment to the back of the eye, causing partial or complete retinal detachment and potential blindness. ROP can cause permanent vision problems or blindness, and it is estimated that large numbers of preterm



infants worldwide become blind or visually impaired because of ROP every year.

The theme of the discussion to commemorate World Prematurity Day, on November 17, was 'Retinopathy of Prematurity: A Concern of Vision Impairment and Blindness in Preterm Infants.' Panelists were Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham, Medical Director, Vitreoretinal Surgeon, Pediatric Retina Specialist, Radhatri Nethralaya, Dr. Shruti Nishanth, Strabismologist, Pediatric Ophthalmologist and Neuro-ophthalmologist, M.N. Eye Hospital, and Sailaja Manda, Research Fellow, Schepens Eye Research Institute. **Read the full article at** <https://vision-plusmag.com/optometry/retinopathy-of-prematurity-rop-concern-for-vision-impairment-blindness-in-pre-term-infants/>

### Disability Inclusive Eye Health Practice

To commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, participants at the panel discussion 'Disability-Inclusive Eye Health Practices' on December 9 contributed to the discourse on making eye health practices more inclusive for people with disability and special needs.

Panelists for the discussion were Dr. Sara Varughese, Regional Director, CBM India, Dr. Deiva Jayaraman, Rehabilitation Specialist, LV Prasad Eye Institute, and Dr. Deepak Bagga, Consultant Optometrist, LV Prasad Eye Institute. **Read the full article at** <https://visionplusmag.com/optometry/disability-inclusive-eye-health-practices/>

Both sessions were moderated by Vinod Daniel.

## Support IVI Programs

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

## Excellence in Vision Science Lecture series

### Visual Perspective in Space-Time Continuum

With the aim to promote and advance Vision Science Research in India and as recommended by our Vision Science Research Taskforce in June 2021, IVI has initiated an Excellence in Vision Science monthly lecture series that will see experts in this field share their latest research works and advancements.



Scientist - Visual Optics and Psychophysics Laboratory, Prof Brien Holden Eye Research Centre, L V Prasad Eye Institute.

Dr. Bharadwaj summarized the key highlights of research works from his lab. The front-end limitation due to refractive surgery, keratoconus, corneal transplantation, and cataract can impact the image formed in the retina. This image is transmitted to the visual cortex for processing. Dr. Bharadwaj discussed the impact of degraded optics due to these conditions on monocular and binocular vision. He also discussed the degradation of optical structure, consequences of degraded structure & impact of the optical correction on spatial and depth vision, and motion-induced depth illusion.

[Click to view the session https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/952917325609046](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/952917325609046)

The lecture series was kickstarted on December 20 with a talk on 'Visual Perception in Space-Time Continuum' by Dr. Shrikant Bharadwaj, Network Associate Director - Optometry, Brien Holden Institute of Optometry and Vision Sciences,

### Ocular Lesions in Patients with HIV/AIDS Clinical Tips in Identification and Management

Ocular manifestations are common in patients with HIV. To throw light on the topic, on December 1 – World AIDS Day – an online session focused on 'Ocular Lesions in Patients with HIV/AIDS - Clinical Tips in Identification and Management'. Dr. Sudharshan, Senior Consultant, Department of Uvea & Intraocular Inflammation, Sankara Nethralaya, spoke on how to handle patients with HIV when they visit an eye hospital, the importance of history-taking in finding the presence of HIV, signs, and symptoms to look for early diagnosis, differential diagnosis and patient-hand-

ling precautionary measures that need



to be followed. The talk served as a guide to optometrists that will help assist in the right diagnosis and create awareness among patients and the general public on this sensitive topic. [Click to view the session https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch\\_permalink&v=1032947054103774](https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=1032947054103774)

## Basics of Visual Psychophysics for Optometrists

Dr. Shonraj Ballae Ganeshrao, Associate Professor and Head of Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions (MAHE), spoke on the basic concepts of visual



psychophysics, how powerful the tool is, and daily application of psychophysics in clinics through his talk on 'Basics of Visual Psychophysics for Optometrists', November 24. He emphasized why it is important to learn the science of psychophysics and the need for it to be included in optometry curriculum. Dr. Ganeshrao shared insights on PsychoPy Builder, a software that allows doing psychophysical experiments, which the audience showed a keen interest to know about.

[Click to view the session https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/271552088132319](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/271552088132319)

### Braille for Visually Impaired - An Overview & Referral Guide

On World Braille Day, January 4, Dr. Namita Jacob, Executive Director, Chetana Trust, delivered a talk on 'Braille for Visually Impaired - An Overview & Referral Guide'. She spoke about the history of literacy systems among the visually impaired, what exactly is Braille, and the relevance of Braille in this technology-driven world.



The talk benefited Optometrists and Ophthalmologists, who are often the first to meet and make decisions on the life of the visually impaired. It discussed the assessment criteria to determine which candidate needs to be referred for the use of Braille as a tool. The session evoked high interest among the participating audience.

[Click to view the session https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/660311408469692](https://www.facebook.com/IndiaVisionInstitute/videos/660311408469692)

### Upcoming



**VARs 2022**  
VISION AND ROAD SAFETY CONFERENCE

Date: 10 & 11 February  
Time: 2 PM to 6 PM IST

**RESMEET 2022**  
Vision Science Research Conference  
April 22 & 23



We gratefully acknowledge  
Lawrence & Mayo for their support towards  
a set of vision screenings equipments.



Thank you Rotary Club of Chennai Towers  
for the Oxygen Concentrator for our office

We gratefully acknowledge the support of  
President, Rtn Ramakrishnan Mani &  
President Elect, Rtn Satish Jupiter

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## Eye See & I Learn

### Clear Vision for School Children in Chennai

Over the past two months, IVI undertook vision screening programs, with all Covid protocols in place, for providing access to



disadvantaged corporation school children in Chennai.

Some 3,737 children were screened; 206 children diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles and 170 were referred to the hospital for comprehensive assessment.

**IVI acknowledges the support of Barbara Kipper for funding this program.**

### Auto Drivers get their Vision Checked

IVI has initiated primary eye care services for drivers of three-wheelers, and light commercial/passenger vehicles. Some 27 camps conducted since October 2021 screened 1,874 auto-rickshaw drivers in



Chennai and Hyderabad; 741 drivers diagnosed with refractive errors were provided spectacles, and another 409 with ocular ailments were referred to the hospital for further medical intervention.

**IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.**

## Eye See & I Work

### Community Screening for Underprivileged

Vision screening campaigns between October and December screened over 7,891 underprivileged daily wage workers in Chennai, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar, Pudukottai, Salem, Arimalam, Nilgiris, Tirupur and other parts of Tamil Nadu.



Some 3,914 people diagnosed with refractive errors received free spectacles and 1,476 were referred to the hospital for further intervention.

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

### Screening Salem Truckers and Communities

To support the drivers and underprivileged adults of Salem, JSW has initiated an eye screening program implemented by IVI in Salem district of Tamil Nadu. The program aims to screen around 2,000 drivers and 7,000 underprivileged adults.



So far, some 720 truck drivers have been screened, of which 417 truckers found with vision difficulties will be receiving free spectacles and 66 truckers have been referred to the hospital for further examination.

**IVI acknowledges the support of JSW Foundation for funding the program.**

### Vision Screening for Commercial Vehicle & Truck Drivers in 2 States

As part of Shell's DriveSafeIndia program, we screened 21,609 drivers, cleaners, and technicians from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, since October 2021. Driving communities in Chennai, Bangalore, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Namakkal, Salem, Madurai, Coimbatore, Pudukottai, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Tirupur, and Erode benefitted. We diagnosed 13,768 people with refractive errors and 2,356 were referred to the hospital for further intervention.



**IVI acknowledges the support of Shell India for funding the program.**

### Vision Screening Services on Wheels

The Urban Eye Health Program - an initiative of Sightsavers with support from SBI Capital, and implemented by IVI through a Mobile Van Eye Unit going around urban



slums and Government Health Centres of Chennai has screened 3,885 people since October 2021. Areas covered include Ennore Kuppam, Kottivakkam, Royapuram, Neelangarai, Old Washermentpet and Chindatripet. Of this, 2,058 people were diagnosed with refractive errors and 699 people were referred to a tertiary hospital for a comprehensive eye examination.

**IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.**

## Making the Bread Earners See Better

Another major screening campaign - for industrial workers in Chennai - has been progressing well. We were able to screen 15,138 people from Koyambedu, Choolaimedu, Purasaiwakkam, Pallikara-



nai, Peerkankaranai, Kilpauk, Aminjikarai, Tondiarpet, Kannagi Nagar, Kotturpuram, Thiruvottriyur, Adyar, Velachery, and other areas in Chennai.

Around 8,829 people diagnosed with refractive errors were given free spectacles and 3,009 people were referred to the hospital for further intervention.

**IVI acknowledges the support of Luxottica India for funding the program.**

## Vision Screening for Truck Drivers in Coimbatore

A screening campaign for truck drivers in the Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu was kick-started in November 2021. Till now, we have screened 847 truck drivers, and of which 347 truckers found with vision difficulties received free spectacles and 162 truckers were referred to hospital for further examination.

**IVI acknowledges the support of Sightsavers for funding the program.**



## What Others Say About IVI

*"IVI conducted a free eye and spectacle distribution camp in Vellore. I was one of the beneficiaries. I had a near vision problem for the past five years. I could not afford a vision check but now, thanks to the camp, I have been provided with a pair of good reading glasses" - Raguraman, Vellore*

*"A driver-cum-conductor at the local bus depot, I was fortunate to have got my vision tested by a visiting IVI team, who provided a free pair of reading glasses that I now use to do my accounts and read newspapers"- Karthiban, Kanyakumari*

*"Your care and patience have benefited the people of my village. The eye screening was very well organized. A huge thanks to IVI" - T.Mathubalan, Pottaneri, Salem*

*"Thanks for putting together a first of its kind Studometry conference for the Optometry Students. The conference was well organised and I'm sure the students who participated in the conference found it interesting and useful. Overall a good show and congratulations to team at the IVI for making this conference a success. Thanks for having us as one of the sponsors and we really enjoyed being a part of this event." - Ramesh Pillai, Chief Optometrist & Head of Training, Eyecare Division, Titan Company Ltd*

*"A well-organized event. Timely planned and professionally conducted. Unique and one of its kind initiative from IVI that will help students to have a basic understanding of the various scope of practice." - Japin Charan, HOD - Professional Optometry Services, Lenskart*

### IVI Vision Screening Programs

	Children	Community	Total
No of programs	687	1,249	1,936
Individuals screened	2,87,784	1,74,862	4,62,646
Spectacles distributed	28,185	84,298	1,12,483

### Current Project Supporters



**Barbara Kipper (Chicago, USA)**

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