

OptometryDistList

Instance 2015:4
Saturday, February 28, 2015

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Today's Messages:

Date: Tuesday, December 30, 2014
From: Sandhya Sekar (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Scientists discover stem cells in eye that can restore sight

HYDERABAD: Scientists of a city-based premier eye institute and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, US on Thursday claimed to have discovered potent stem cells in eye that possess the ability to restore lost vision.

"The new treatment could eventually become an alternative to corneal transplantation," Dr SayanBasu, Consultant Corneal Surgeon, LV Prasad Eye Institute, told reporters here.

The stromal stem cells were retrieved from the area between the white and black part of the eyeball called the limbus, he said.

"We found that when the stem cells were applied to damaged corneas they healed and became clear again within four weeks of treatment, while those untreated remained clouded," Basu said.

Scarring or whitening of the cornea, which is the central dark portion of the eye, following infection or injury affects more than 250 million people worldwide and has blinded over six million of them, the surgeon said.

Basu, along with James L Funderburgh, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, US, tested the stem cells they obtained from human eyes on an experimental model of corneal scarring.

"Even at the microscopic level, we could not tell the difference between the tissues that were treated with stem cells and undamaged

cornea," a release quoted Dr Funderburgh as saying.

Dr Funderburgh is also the associate director of Louis J Fox Centre for Vision Restoration and the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Pittsburgh.

The findings, published today in 'Science Translational Medicine' could one day restore vision for millions of people worldwide and decrease the need for corneal transplants, Basu said.

"The discovery also underwent the peer review process. In India, scarring is the main indication for corneal transplantation, for which 2,00000 people are currently estimated to be in the waiting lists," Basu added.

Article Source:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/Scientists-discover-stem-cells-in-eye-that-can-restore-sight/articleshow/45481967.cms>

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Date: Tuesday, January 06, 2015
From: Paula mukherjee (paulaoptom@gmail.com)

Subject: Interview with Lakshmi shinde

Optometrist Shajan Adolph interviews Optometrist Lakshmi

Shinde Part 1 - <http://youtu.be/bUly0Qt5dsM>

Optometrist Shajan Adolph interviews Optometrist Lakshmi

Shinde - Part 2 - <http://youtu.be/Tcdc5neulKk>

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Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2015
From: Brien Holden Vision Institute (info@brienholdenvision.org)

Subject: Optometric Education Resource available free online

Free access to Global Optometry Education Resources, for educators and students, has made eye health instruction widely accessible.

An open source educational platform for optometry, the resource gives access to the core teaching and learning units of an optometry degree program in a downloadable format and enables educators and students to access course notes and PowerPoint presentations made available by some of the finest optometric educators in the world.

The platform contains learning materials based on a curriculum flexibly designed to meet the variations in programs of different developing world contexts. A truly global collaborative product, it holds course modules that can be delivered integrally in self-standing format or used to complement existing courses.

To login to Global Optometry Resource go to:

<http://www.brienholdenvision.org/education/optometry-resources.html>

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Date: Monday, February 16, 2015

From: RevanthKumar (revanth.kumar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: IVI outreach initiative - Vision screening programs

To make a difference to the lives of people in underprivileged communities in and around Chennai, the India Vision Institute (IVI) organizes vision screening camps as part of its outreach initiatives.

Since its launch in October 2011, from among 3,900 people screened, over 480 people have been provided free spectacles and over 230 people referred for further investigation.

Vision screening camps held at schools:

1. Government AdiDravidar Welfare Higher Secondary School, Palavakkam, Chennai (twice)
2. Sri Manjunatha School, Bangalore
3. Chennai Corporation School, MMDA, Chennai
4. AL Mudaliar Matriculation School, Palavakkam, Chennai
5. Government AdiDravidar Welfare Primary School, Palavakkam, Chennai (twice)
6. Advent Christian High School, Palavakkam, Chennai
7. Social Service League Primary School, Queen Marys College, Triplicane, Chennai
8. Panchayat Union Primary School, Kottivakkamkuppam, Chennai
9. Advent Christian Primary School, Chinnaneelankaraikuppam, Chennai
10. Rural Service League Higher Secondary School, MCC, Tambaram, Chennai

11. CSI Primary School, Adhanur, Chennai
12. Krupa Community School, Adhanur, Chennai
13. St Anthony's High School, Kappikadu, Kanyakumari
14. LMS Higher Secondary School, Marthandam, Kanyakumari

Vision screening camps held in local communities:

1. Krupa Community College, Padappai, Chennai
2. Krupa Day Care Center, Poonamalle, Chennai
3. AG Life Church, Jafferkhanpet, Chennai
4. Prayer Hall, Kolathur, Chennai
5. Krupa Community Center, Kottamedu village, Thiruvallur
6. Krupa Community Center, Adhanur, Chennai

Vision screening programs are also planned at a number of schools in Coimbatore, Pondicherry, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Cochin and Calicut during 2015, in association with local partners.

Sponsors:

1. Optometry Giving Sight
2. Australian Consulate in Chennai
3. Korean Association in Chennai
4. Individual donors under Eye See I Learn campaign

Do join hands with IVI to make a difference to the lives of people through better vision.

To make a donation (or) for additional information, please contact: ivi@indiavisioninstitute.org or visit www.indiavisioninstitute.org
Hyderabad Ph: 040 2354 8269; Chennai Ph: 044 2451 5353

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Date: Monday, February 23, 2014
Subject: Medical devices to be under drug control

AHMEDABAD: At the moment, doctors can use devices ranging from pacemakers to artificial knee joints of their liking and can ask the patients to go for the same. With no definitive rule pertaining to medical devices, most of the doctors go for the ones that have

approvals from countries such as the US.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) that looks after the standardization of drugs and cosmetics under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, is now poised to include medical devices ranging from artificial limbs to heart stents under its purview. An amendment for this purpose is likely to be presented to the Parliament in upcoming session. The draft of Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2015 has now been put in public domain, said CDSCO officials.

The central agency has organized a five-day workshop for more than 75 drug control officials from across the country on medical devices regulation at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University (GFSU) starting from February 16. The workshop will cover a wide range of topics including definition of medical devices, existing guidelines in India and abroad, quality control and management, safety prerequisites and sterilization, regulatory audits and impact of proposed amendments on current procedures.

"With the advancement in medical technology, the agency felt that it is time to amend the existing rules to encompass the medical devices that have become integral part of the treatment. While even countries such as Bangladesh have their own rules on the issue, India being a major consumer and producer of devices doesn't have such regulations," said a senior CDSCO official.

How will the move help patients? The officials said that as the drug regulations help identification of counterfeits, harmful medicines and help keep an eye on malpractices, once the devices are identified and categorized, the similar procedure will help in quality control and systemization of the market.

"One of the roadblocks the Indian manufacturers face is absence of regulations in the country. It hampers their prospects of exporting the medical devices abroad. With Make in India the buzzword now, the regulation will provide impetus to the sector for both local producers and companies from abroad operating in India," said a CDSCO official, adding that the process is on to identify trouble areas in various regions under the authority and the production and consumption patterns.

Article Source:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Medical-devices-to-be-under-drug-control/articleshow/46268581.cms>

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Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2015
From: Jissa James(jissa.james@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Low Vision Awareness Month

February is Low Vision Awareness Month

To celebrate Low Vision Awareness Month, the National Eye Institute has created an infographic about low vision.

Posted on: February 24th, 2015 lowvision

Article link:

<http://whatislowvision.org/2015/02/24/february-is-low-vision-awareness-month/>

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Date: Thursday, February 26, 2015
From: Sandhya Shekar(sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: Vacancy for the post Program Officer, IVI

IVI is looking for an optometrist with 1-2 years of experience to assist in vision screenings and other programs held across India.

Please email your resumes to sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org
Or call 8754473742.

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