



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Delhi | Alwar | Lakhimpur Khiri | Meerut | Ranikhet | Saharanpur | Vrindavan

www.sceh.net

Newsletter Issue: 19

From the Executive Director's desk

It is time to wrap up 2022. Time to reflect and be grateful. And, we have enough to be grateful!

We started the year with Covid-19 looming large, however, we are ending the year almost forgetting to wear the ubiquitous mask! Almost... We do hope we escape the new surge of cases elsewhere in the world. Thank goodness that most of 2022 was quite "return to normal", and we hope 2023 is peaceful and healthy for everyone.

2022 has been an amazing year. Our patient numbers have grown by 30% over pre-pandemic, of which 30% are seen at our 57 vision centres. In November and December 2022, all seven surgical centres broke previous records of highest patients seen and surgeries performed in a month. Our school of Allied Ophthalmic Personnel recruited and started training of 600+ young women this year. Our Education Academy trained young ophthalmologists through long-term fellowship and short courses. We took our first steps towards translational research with the creation of basic science laboratory facility. With scientists, PhDs and post-docs, our clinical team and basic science researchers are on track to produce path-breaking research. We started 2022 with inauguration of a new hospital facility at Saharanpur. Infrastructure capacity also increased in our Mohammadi facility as well as new operation rooms in Delhi.



In the centennial year of SCEH, all employees celebrated by participating in improving ourselves through Kaizen ('Sukarya'), service excellence and structured problem solving projects. At SCEH there's no shortage of talent, passion, and commitment. The 'Sambhav' initiative - SCEH 2.0, is preparing us to implement our strategic plan- to be relevant, prepared and energetic beyond 100 years! It is these small initiatives that our members are taking to improve patient experience that is building resilience and a strong foundation for a great organization.

We are thankful to our extraordinary team that is enthusiastically taking on the challenges to reduce avoidable blindness and deafness, in our community. And a special thanks to our donors and supporters for the contribution you make.

Together we have collectively and effectively served millions of people. Let us continue to remain motivated and we wish that 2023 will help us touch more lives.

Our best wishes for a happy, safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Regards,
Dr. Umang Mathur

Children's Day Celebration



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“Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow”

--Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru

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On 14th November, the Department of Pediatric Ophthalmology at SCEH celebrated Children's day across the network with great pomp and vigor.

At the event, children showcased their talent by painting pots and drawing their best on canvases. Their parents were educated about various childhood eye disorders and the need of



early screening and regular eye check-ups. Other activities like a puppet show and a live Mickey Mouse character were organised for entertainment and a live character Gandhi, and answers to questions about myths and facts about childhood eye disorders for the parents.

The drawing competition was judged by Sister Rani, Mr. Rooplal, Dr. Arpan Dr. Nishi Gupta and the children loved their prizes. The educative videos displayed gave answers to parents' queries. The series of programs ended with an interactive webinar on myths and facts about childhood eye disorders for the parents.

SCEH also created awareness through school screening camps, painting competitions, and educational programs in the nearby schools including Mohammadi, Alwar, Vrindavan, Saharanpur and Meerut.

The day was a huge success owing to the hard work of the optometrists, centre coordinators, and doctors of all the centres. All in all, it was a wonderful and colourful Children's Day celebration at SCEH!



Diabetic Retinopathy awareness @ SCEH

India is the diabetes capital of the world, and there are 70 million diabetics in India. **World Diabetes Day** is celebrated all over the world on the 14th of November to create awareness about this potentially blinding disease. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2022 was **“Education to protect tomorrow”**, as awareness is the first step towards prevention of blinding complications. The Vitreo-retina department at SCEH conducted various activities in order to promote awareness in our community.

The month began with a guest faculty lecture by Dr. Matias Igllicki from Buenos Aires on 4th Nov



“*Diabetes is not curable.
It's sustainable.*”
— Alvin Leung

2022, who highlighted the role of collaborative research work involving diabetic retinopathy (DR). This was followed by a very informative and hands on training workshop on DR on 5th November. The workshop focused on training the young doctors on identification and management of DR.

An awareness walk along with members of All India Ophthalmological society (AIOS) and South Asia Ophthalmology society (SAO) members was conducted on 13th November 2022. The walk attended by several ophthalmologists of the city.



Diabetic retinopathy screening camps were conducted across the SCEH network. A DR screening camp at the base hospital was organized on 14th November which other than screening also included consultation with a diabetologist, testing for diabetic neuropathy, and various blood tests, free of cost. The patients were also provided free treatment for DR including diagnostic tests such as OCT and ultrasound, injections and lasers. Patients and attendants were counselled regarding the importance of timely screening for DR to avoid blindness secondary to it.

World Prematurity Day celebration

Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) is a blinding disease which can be prevented if these babies are screened and treated in a timely manner. SCEH in collaboration with NEEV, which is a Delhi government initiative, and the program supported by USAID, is actively involved in screening and management of these babies, at 17 government hospitals in New Delhi. On 17th of November, on the occasion of world prematurity day, an event was organised by SCEH in order to spread awareness about this disease as well to honour the workforce associated with the smooth functioning of this



initiative. The Chief Guest at the event was Dr. Seema Kapoor, Director, NEEV. Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal and Dr. Shalini Singh welcomed and introduced the guests, gave an overview of the programme, and talked about how the collaboration was established and how the measures being implemented in various hospitals.

Awareness programmes were also organized in the secondary centres where the doctors delivered talks about ROP.

Badminton Court Inauguration

A badminton court was inaugurated on 14th November, 2022 in SCEH Delhi. This court is the first step towards encouraging extra-curricular activities at SCEH. This was made possible by the combined effort and enthusiasm of the entire SCEH fraternity.

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All work and no play doesn't just make Jill and Jack dull, it kills the potential of discovery, mastery, and openness to change and flexibility and it hinders innovation and invention.

— Joline Godfrey

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Project Prakash Pediatric Eye Screening Camps

Conducted in Blind Schools in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh from 16th to 18th November, 2022

A team from SCEH conducted a three day visit to the Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh and organized free eye screening camps under Project Prakash (PP). The screening team conducted camps with Sparsh Government Senior Secondary School for the Blind (Boys), Sparsh Government Senior Secondary School for the Blind (Girls), and Sarju Devi Viklang Shikshan Parshikshan Sansthan, Gorakhpur, U.P.

The screening team comprised of Dr. Bhavika Bansal (Fellow Ophthalmologist), Ms. Divya (Fellow optometrist) from Low Vision department, SCEH, Ms. Ranupriya (Adjunct Optometrist), Mr. Ajay Kumar Chawariya (Consultant-Program Planning & Development), and Mr. Rakesh Kumar (Asst. Program Manager), Project Prakash.



The team organized the first camp on 16th November 2022 at Sparsh Government Senior Secondary School for the Blind (Boys) and screened 54 children. Of these, three children were diagnosed with eye problems and were referred to SCEH Delhi for further medical examination and treatment. Apart from that, one child was prescribed glasses, and nine children were advised and prescribed low vision assistive devices. During the screening, the staff from the Primary Health Centre (PHC), Bansantpur, Gorakhpur, which is located just beside the school, visited the camp. The PP team informed them about SCEH's initiative and gave them some posters with information on eye health to generate awareness.



On 17th Nov., 2022, the screening camp was conducted at Sarju Devi Viklang Shikshan Parshikshan Sansathan (SDVSPS), and nine children were screened. The SDVSPS is a non-profit organization that works for the welfare of visually impaired children/youth and provides them boarding and lodging facility, free of cost. Of the nine children screened, one child was diagnosed with cataract and referred to SCEH Delhi.

The third camp was organized on 18th November 2022 at Sparsh Government Senior Secondary School for the Blind (Girls), Gorakhpur and 70 children were screened. Eight children were diagnosed with eye problems, and were referred to SCEH Delhi for further medical examination and treatment. Two children were prescribed glasses and 12 children were prescribed low vision assistive devices.

The heads of the institutions/schools, where the screening camps were organized, appreciated SCEH's initiative for providing the eye care service to the children living in the remote rural areas and addressing their unmet needs. The SCEH team distributed IEC material (flip chart and posters) with information of eye health in these schools.

133

Total children screened

12

Total Patient Referred

03

Cataract (Non-PP)

06

Cornea

21

Total children prescribed low vision devices

03

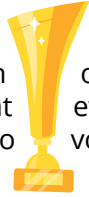
Glasses prescribed

03

Pediatric review

Award in Women Ophthalmological Society conference

Dr. Kshiti Saruparia received an award in the National Level Resident Case presentation competition in the Annual conference conducted by the Women Ophthalmological Society (WOS) with Women Ophthalmological Worldwide (WOW) 2022. Women Ophthalmological society is an exclusive group founded on the belief that every woman ophthalmologist in our country should be given a platform to voice her opinion on professional matters.



Aids & Appliances distribution camp in Vrindavan

An Aids and Appliances distribution camp was organized at the District Disability office, Chau-muha block, Vrindavan, on 1st November 2022.

The Project Officer and **The Perkins team** had been coordinating with District Disability officer (DDO) since October 2021 for arranging disability certificates, school enrollment and aids and appliances for the disabled. In this particular camp, ten children received CP chairs, toilet chairs, wheelchairs and other aids. A camp to distribute disability certificate is planned in the future.



Sukarya

*"Sukarya Hai Toh Sambhav Hai"
"Be The Change You Wish To See In The Organisation"*

Sukarya means – good work which brings positive and continuous improvement within the system. The Sukarya Programme has been initiated by the HR & Sambhav Departments at SCEH to recognise, motivate & award employees who have made significant & meaningful contribution for the betterment of the organization and streamlining processes.

The very first Sukarya Recognition Ceremony was held on 9th December 2022 at SCEH, Delhi. Sixteen employees from different departments across all SCEH centres were recognised and awarded for their contributions. The Sukarya Awardees were felicitated with an appreciation letter, a gold STAR batch, and a gift. The certification ceremony was successful in creating a sense of belonging amongst the awardees as well as their colleagues.

The Sukarya awardees shared their inputs explaining their Sukaryas and how they have brought a positive change in the system. Dr. Umang Mathur, Executive Director, SCEH, concluded the event by congratulating the awardees, and encouraged the other employees to gain inspiration and motivation from the event and the awardees to drive a positive change in the workplace and beyond.



Alwar hostel Inauguration

On 12th of November, 2022, SCEH Alwar inaugurated the first hostel for its allied ophthalmic personnel. Due to the lack of hostel facilities for these young women, SCEH Alwar used to see a large dropout earlier, but with this accommodation, we intend to provide a comfortable place for them to



stay. The hostel was inaugurated by Hon'ble Additional Superintendent of Police, Alwar & Dr. Parul Datta, Head of AOP, SCEH. The hostel has 30 beds, and with this facility in the hospital campus, we will be able to increase OT & OPD timings and will further optimise and increase our work capacity.

Peek Foundation visit to SCEH



The Peek team visited India in the month of November 2022 to gain access and explore the entire Community Eye Health (CEH) Program under **PEEK-INDIA PROJECT** at SCEH. The team visited Mohammadi, one of the secondary centers of SCEH and its rural catchment area, as well as two vision centers. They also visited our Saharanpur Secondary Center for an upcoming project based on a school eye health programme. The Peek team included Ms. Nam Thaker, the Program Implementation Manager, Mr. Carles Capellas, from the Peek-IT Support and Mr. Darren Coverley, the Product Manager.



Adventures of the anesthesiologist

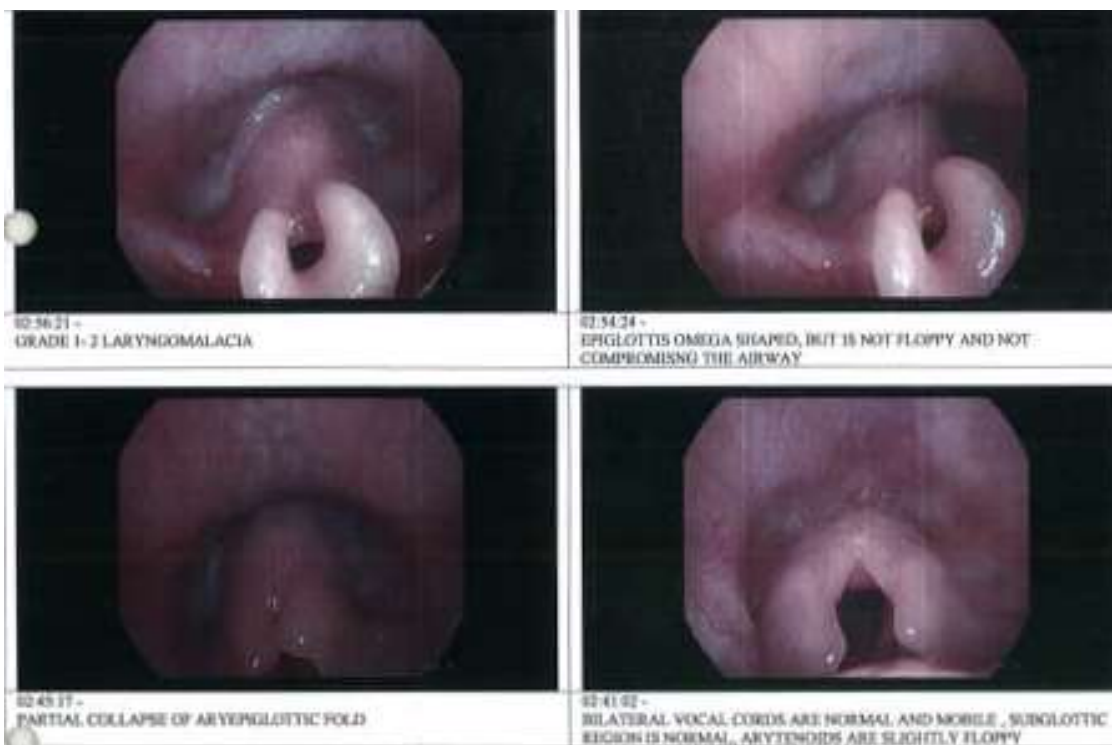
An anesthesiologist is “A physician to surgeon and surgeon to the physician.” This makes the job of an anesthesiologist very challenging and but isn't any profession without challenges just a daily grind.

Here are a few of the interesting cases undertaken by our team in the past couple of months.

A month old child from Uttar Pradesh presented with the diagnosis of right eye congenital glaucoma, and required a trabeculectomy surgery under general anesthesia. However, due to an inspiratory stridor the baby was refused anesthesia at multiple places including big tertiary care centers in Delhi. Her regular blood investigations were normal. After examination at our end, the child was referred to a pediatrician for further evaluation where she was diagnosed with laryngomalacia, omega - shaped epiglottis, partial collapse of aryepiglottic fold and floppy arytenoids. With clearance from ENT and cardiology, she was taken up for surgery under general anaesthesia. Surgical plan was changed on table, and went on for 40 minutes. The surgery was uneventful and so was the postoperative course. The child was discharged on the same day. A second examination under anaesthesia, lasting 30 minutes, was also done recently.

A 27 years old lady was planned for examination under anaesthesia and mucosal membrane grafting. She was a known case of Steven Johnson syndrome, schizophrenia and seizure disorder and on three anti-epileptics and three anti-psychotics drugs. Due to her underlying condition, she was uncooperative, highly aggressive had unpredictable behaviour. Her systemic medications were potentially known to cause serious interactions with anaesthesia drugs. After a quick workup and blood tests she was posted for surgery the next day itself under general anaesthesia. In the OR she became highly aggressive due to an unfamiliar environment. She was quickly taken up for anaesthesia for a three hour-long surgery. Care was taken to extubate her deep to prevent any sympathetic stimulation, which could have aggravated her on awakening. Both intra-operative and post-operative period henceforth were uneventful and she was discharged the next day.

-Contributed by Dr. Aparna and Dr. Amit Bhuttan
(Consultant anesthesiologists, SCEH Delhi)
Special thanks to Dr. Parul Dutta for the support



Impact of an in-house ocular and ENT histopathology and cytopathology center

Ocular Histopathology and Cytopathology is of extreme importance in diagnosing and scientifically treating patients with targeted therapy. Histopathology and Cytopathology helps us understand disease pathology better and is also the foundation of advanced ophthalmic pharmacology. Our center offers in-house cytology, histology, and outsourced immunohistochemistry services to all the specialty clinics. The tissue processing, embedding, microtomy, staining, cytologic and pathologic interpretation is done all in our laboratory. There are only eight centers doing such specialized work. Apart from processing samples received from the entire SCEH Network, we get samples from 30-35 other referral centers on a regular basis. The team is



headed by Dr. Arpan Gandhi, Director Laboratory Services, and includes two trained technicians, Mr. Dheerendra Kumar and Mr. Deepak Kumar, with over 15 years of experience in the field. The center also collaborates with the research and stem cell laboratory and also has ten publications to its credit. The current focus is on digital pathology and on adding more equipment in the future. The month of November recorded the maximum number of biopsies received in the year 2022.

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“Laboratory services especially Ocular Histopathology is a super-specialized branch and is essential in the optimal functioning of ophthalmology services. Having an in house fully equipped Ocular Histopathology laboratory meets unique needs in ophthalmology and allows faster, accurate and refined results leading to happier patients and better treatment outcomes”

- Dr. Jyoti Batra Ohri
Consultant, Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology services, ICARE Eye hospital

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“For an Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncologist surgeon having in-house histopathology and cytology lab is really a much-needed asset. It helps us get a proper orientation of the tissue while grossing and processing, which ultimately leads to accurate reporting of tumor and non-tumorous tissue. With this facility we can even do a frozen section biopsy of tumor tissue for the management of tumors”

- Dr. Namita Kumari,
Adjunct Consultant and Project Manager:
USAID retinoblastoma, Oculoplasty and Ocular Oncology services, SCEH Delhi

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- Article contributed by Dr. Arpan Gandhi

Humans of SCEH

Bhole Baba Ki Jai Ho! I am Dungal Singh Sammal, and I am currently working at a post of OT assistant at Shree Baba Haidakhan Hospital, Chilianaula, Ranikhet. I joined this hospital on 5th September 2001. So, it has been over 20 years that I have lived and worked here. My first training in eye care was by Dr. A.K. Grover in Sir Gangaram Hospital, New Delhi. Nandram Ji, who also currently works with me, was also trained along with me. We underwent training in OPD procedures and OT assistance for three months. Then we worked for a few years with doctors from other institutes, and started working with SCEH only in the last 7-8 years.



I have assisted at least 25 thousand surgeries here with as many as 25 surgeries a day. I show patients in the OPD in the morning and assist surgeries in the evening. Mr. Nandram prepares the patients and autoclaves the instruments. Together we are a great team. Our setup is simple but efficient.

This place is my home. I left my actual home and came here to serve Bhole Baba and his cause, and now I live with my wife and children in the Ashram campus. My colleagues stay in the same accommodation and we are now a family.

I love my work and I do it as a service to the people. I don't remember a single day when I have wanted a break; I even plan my leaves on days when the OT list is short. We are now training young women from nearby areas in OPD and OT assistance, that's another feather to my cap. I like working with SCEH, we have learnt a lot being associated with them.

- Dungal Singh Sammal



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