



# Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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

[www.sceh.net](http://www.sceh.net)

Newsletter Issue: 21

## Children's Eye Centre at SCEH



In February, the SCEH family welcomed Dr. Doris Macharia, Vice President, Global Programs, Orbis International & Dr. Rishi Raj Borah, Country Director – India along with other delegates from Orbis India.

The day witnessed insightful discussions on the SCEH-Orbis collaboration for over two decades, remote surgical mentorship, and interactions with the team.

On 14th February 2023, the Orbis team launched the Children's Eye Centre (CEC) at the SCEH secondary centre in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The very first CEC at SCEH, Delhi was established in 2004.

The CEC at SCEH, Saharanpur has been established to ensure that children receive timely access to quality eye care. During the project period, support will be provided for 450 paediatric surgeries and the provision of 10,700 free spectacles and directly reaching out to over 2,60,000 children.



The CEC was inaugurated by Dr. Doris Macharia and Dr. Rishi Raj Borah, along with Dr. Umang Mathur, Dr. Suma Ganesh and Dr. Shalinder Sabharwal.



Dr. Doris called this CEC unique, as it is the first CEC at a secondary center with better reach into the community and will help decrease the barrier in access and bring eye health services within reach of the unserved. Dr. Umang Mathur added that the start of the CEC at SCEH Saharanpur reiterates SCEH's & Orbis's commitment to effectively manage pediatric eye related anomalies at community level.

The Children's Eye Centre will reduce vision care inequities and close the eye care gap in children living in small towns or remote areas by bringing quality and comprehensive pediatric eye care services closer to them.

The following day, the delegation visited the Green vision center at Nanauta; an Orbis International initiative. This is an innovative approach where a



vision center is transformed through the use of a combination of clean solar energy, energy efficient electrical fixtures and appliances, and user-friendly software.

## Eicher Eye and ENT Driver Care Project

The first batch of in-house ear paramedics have undergone a rigorous short term ENT training under the ongoing Eicher eye and ENT driver care project. These optometrist joined from multiple states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh. They were taught about the ear anatomy, hearing loss assessment, the presentation and basic management of common ear infections and otoscopic examination of the ear. The training was done based on WHO manual of basic ear care.

Post this training, these optometrists will be able to do basic ear screening, hearing assessment using applications, ear syringing for wax, a common procedure done by quacks at railway stations in India and refer to the right place when required.



# Combat Blindness International (CBI) team visits SCEH Delhi & Saharanpur



SCEH welcomed the CBI team led by Ms Reena Chandra, on a week-long visit. The team included Prof. Choton Basu, University of Wisconsin Whitewater School of Management and his students from UW- Whitewater Enactus.

The entire team visited Saharanpur and Mathura to interact with women community health workers, who are a part of our Aadya program, supported by CBI. The team members also travelled to villages to observe these Aadya workers providing door to door eye screening.

In Delhi the delegates interacted with the new batch of certified ophthalmic paramedics and attended the certification ceremony of our first batch of graduates of 'Combat Blindness Interna-



tional AOP Fellowship'. Ms. Reena Chandra, Executive Director, CBI, was the chief guest at the event

and gave the commencement address to the first batch of of AOP's and awarded the certificates.

# Ocular microbiology laboratory in Vrindavan

*A first of its kind in a Tertiary Care Eye Hospital*



On February 11th 2023, SCEH inaugurated its first fully equipped Ocular Microbiology Laboratory at the Vrindavan secondary center. Very few tertiary eye care centers have this facility in India and this would be a major step in giving targeted treatment based on the diagnosis made at this laboratory. With this facility, the super-specialized microbiology testing would be done in-house. The team has technicians and trained allied ophthalmic personnel (AOP) along with the support from all the subspecialties and the main laboratory team at SCEH Delhi headed by Dr. Arpan Gandhi. Diagnosing the causative organism of corneal ulceration to causes of endophthalmitis with a very quick turn around time would be an added feature of the specialised laboratory. Also, all hospital infection control samples would be processed there.

The facility was sponsored by Dr. Om, a donor from the United States. Three AOP's are involved in working of the laboratory and have got employment because of it.

The event was covered by the local media and a lot of interest was shown in tying up with the laboratory and doing collaborative work.

The microbiology laboratory was inaugurated by Dr. Devendra Sharma, President, U.P. State Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the presence of Dr. Ajay Kumar Verma, CMO Mathura, Shri Banwari Lal Bashisth, National President, Brij Bhumi Vikash Parishad, Dr. Gopal Chaturvedi, President Brij Sewa Sansthan, Dr. Radha Kant Sharma, President, Brij Jan Sewa Samiti, Dr. Bhudev Singh and Shri P D Gautam, District Eye Examination Officer.

The ceremony was presided by Dr. Umang Mathur. Others present were Dr. Arpan Gandhi, Shri Ranjan Shrivastava, GM Administrations BHRC, Dr. Nisha Yadav, Dr. Sufyan Danish and Miss Sangeeta Lavaniya.

# Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Umang Mathur, CEO, SCEH, was honoured with a **"Distinguished Service Award"** at the 38th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress 2023 held from 23 to 26 February at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) is a supranational organization in the Asia-Pacific region committed to driv-

ing Ophthalmology forward.

Under the theme of "Reconnect and Collaborate", the APAO 2023 Congress featured internationally renowned speakers presenting the latest discoveries and ideas in 16 ophthalmic subspecialties, including clinical ophthalmology and visual sciences.

## NOTTO Scientific Dialogue 2023

NOTTO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised the NOTTO Scientific Dialogue 2023 on 19th February. Brilliant minds in the medical field, all working together to advance understanding of organ transplantation and the various challenges, came together for this meeting.

Dr. Manisha Acharya chaired the session **challenges and way forward - eye bank**, with Dr. Prashant Garg, Executive Chair, LVPEI as Speaker. Fruitful and important issues like delinking cornea from other organs, Improvement in eye banking-quality and training were discussed. We look forward to seeing the many advancements and breakthroughs that will undoubtedly emerge from this gathering.



# Wisconsin Students and Faculty Visit SCEH Delhi



Students and faculty from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Global Ophthalmology Initiatives (GOI), visited SCEH, Delhi under the on-going inter-exchange and emerging educational collaboration between the two institutions.

The students and faculty were felicitated on completion of their two-week training program at SCEH.

programs as well as on research and development programs that create new knowledge and enhance the capabilities of respective institutions. The collaboration facilitates tremendous opportunities to develop professional interactions and collaboration across the spectrum of clinical service, teaching, and research between SCEH and GOI.



The team visited a camp at Sonipat and enthusiastically screened and interacted with patients and organizers

The visiting team comprised three residents and two faculty members, Dr. Evan Jacobs (department of cornea), Dr. Alexander Miranda (department of pediatric and strabismus), and the residents Dr. Katherine Dalzotto, Dr. Chintan Pathak and Dr. William Vandecar.

SCEH and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Global Ophthalmology Initiatives have been collaborating on joint educational and training



# Sukarya Felicitation Ceremony



SCEH Delhi organized the first Kaizen-Sukarya Felicitation Ceremony for the month of January on 16th February 2023. The organization felicitated 27 SCEHites, who contributed towards the concept of process improvement and registered their Kaizen-Sukarya for organizational development. Employees from various departments including ENT, store and purchase, eye bank, biomedical engineering, Information technology, management training academy, laboratory services, wet lab, communications, data cell, process excellence and donor relation were felicitated.

The Sukarya done by the awardees helped in the better management of data, improved processes, and saved on costs.

Dr. Suneeta Dubey thanked all awardees for their contributions and said that she looked forward to many more Sukarya(s) to be registered. She also

added that Sukarya is all about "Small changes that can have big results. The key is to engage all employees towards continuous improvement, thereby building Sukarya culture in the organisation."

Adopting and implementing Sukarya has many benefits that improve productivity, safety, and the satisfaction of both employees and customers. Each of these, in turn, helps reduce costs and increase profit without large, capital-intensive improvement projects.

SCEH encourages its employees to think out of the box and perform Sukarya(s) around their workplace so that productivity is improved, costs are reduced, profitability is improved and a continuous improvement culture is established. All this will add-up to make SCEH 2.0 possible.



## Eye Check-up Camp on Police Commemoration Day 2023

SCEH organised an eye screening for the officers at Daryaganj police station. 51 police officers were examined during the camp.

A voluntary blood donation camp, in association with Rotary Club, was also organised during the same time.



# Orbito-facial Trauma Workshop

*“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”*

Management of orbito-facial trauma is a challenging condition that requires collaboration of a maxilla-facial surgeon and an Oculoplasty surgeon to restore functional and aesthetic part of the eye and periocular area. Department of Oculoplasty, conducted a hospital-based training workshop for management of complex orbital trauma in collaboration with Dr. Gautam Dendukri, maxillofacial surgeon from Hyderabad, who taught the approach to complex orbital trauma through live surgeries. It was a great learning experience for all those who attended the workshop.



## Keratitis Workshop



Cornea department and department of laboratory services at SCEH, organised a Keratitis presentation and management workshop on 25th and 26th of February. The course included didactic lectures on the various types of keratitis and their medical and surgical management. Wetlab training was done in minor OT procedures commonly performed in such cases. Basic microbiology and histopathology training and hand-on was also performed in the laboratory. The course was attended by 14 candidates. Training in keratitis identification and management will help many give targeted therapy in their areas of practice and disease.



# Retinoblastoma disease awareness at Prakriti School



A first of its kind event, SCEH participated in the annual day event at Prakirti School Noida on 19th February 2023 for raising awareness about Retinoblastoma (RB) disease and also fundraising through the RB merchandise. SCEH put up a **"Corner of Hope"** stall with merchandise for sale, developed by paintings made by the children who have fought the deadly eye cancer and have come out as brave survivors. The team got an overwhelming response from students, staff, and visitors. Through this initiative, we sensitized the audience about early signs and symptoms of the disease and the need for continuous support for

the affected children.

Around 24 participants bought the merchandise and shared their interest for collaboration, which included one international school in Greater Noida and one university. Another donor later visited the hospital and contributed to the cause.

Great work by the whole team of donor relations led by Ms. Kanupriya, and Dr. Namita for taking the initiative, and Ms. Tanvi, Mr. Rajan and Mr. Vaibhav for working on design and creating the merchandise under the guidance of Dr. Sima Das.

## SCEH Delhi Inaugurates Two New Operation Theatres

As part of our continuous efforts to eliminate avoidable blindness and serve more people in need of eye related surgical care, SCEH inaugurated two new fully-equipped Operation Theatres. With this addition, SCEH Delhi now has Ten OT's.



# Rare Disease Day Event

*"To LIVE is the rarest thing in the world.  
Most people EXIST, that is all"  
- Oscar Wilde*



A rare disease is the one which affects fewer people in the world, a small percentage. The consequence of rare diseases is that there is a lack of a substantial market to promote the development of treatment strategies for them. Often known as Orphan diseases, they are neglected in most healthcare programs. Most of these disorders are genetic in origin and affect multiple members of the same family. Around fifty percent of them would have multisystemic involvement and more than 80% of them do not have a cure. A genetic origin also means that once the disease happens, it remains for life. Thus a child with a rare disease would remain without cure and will live with the disability throughout his/her entire life. Overall

300 million people worldwide. Now, that is NOT an insignificant number!!!

RARE DISEASE DAY is celebrated on 28th February every year with a motive to generate awareness regarding rare diseases and support the 300 million people suffering from these disorders worldwide. The department of Ocular Genetics and the upcoming department of CURED (Center for Unknown and Rare Eye/ENT diseases) celebrated this day by organising a two-day guest lecture series. On 27th February the lecture was delivered by Dr. Vinod Scaria, a scientist in the CSIR, Institute of Genomics and Integrated Biology. He (along with his colleague Dr. Sivasubbu) run a program called GUARDIAN (Genomics for Understanding Rare Diseases India Alliance Network). He enlightened

## DYSMORPHOLOGY - INTRODUCTION

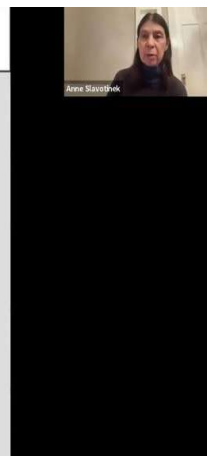
### Dysmorphic features are important

#### Major malformations:

- up to 4% of population
- surgical/cosmetic importance

#### Minor malformations (dysmorphic features or facial anomalies):

- 70% are on face, hands
- indicator of major anomalies



the attendees with the various applications of personalized and precision medicine in different hospitals across India which have benefited from this program. He also discussed avenues for collaboration and how patients with rare eye diseases could benefit from this program.

The second lecture was held on 28th february and was delivered by Dr. Anne Slavotinek from Cincinnati Children's Medical Center. Dr. Slavotinek is a clinical geneticist whose research focuses on finding new genes and cures for various brain and eye developmental disorders. She spoke about dysmorphism and the ways to identify them in patients in the clinic. The program ended with an interesting quiz for the attendees.

10000 such diseases exist, collectively affecting

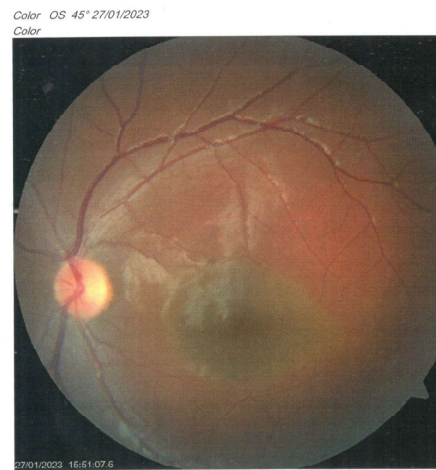
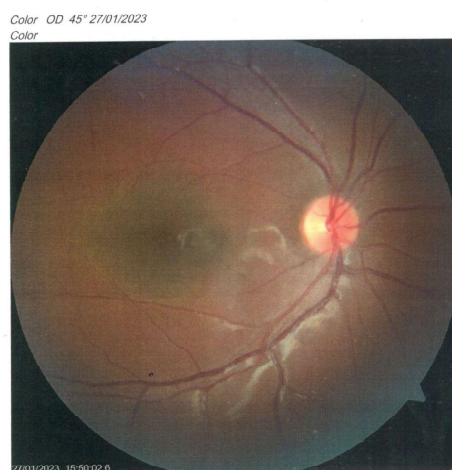
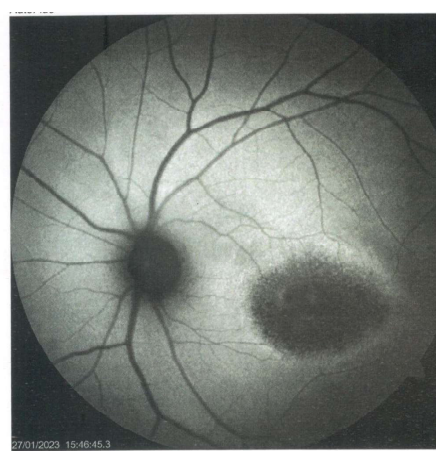
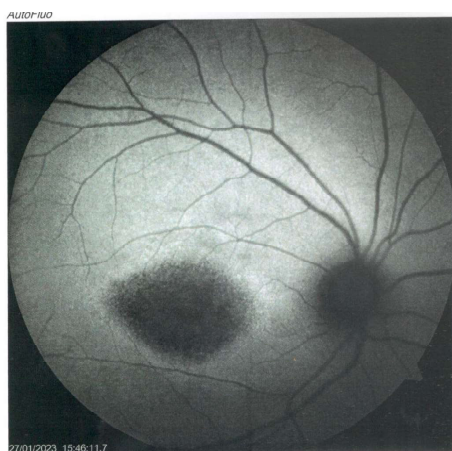
- Dr. Shailja Tibrewal

# Patient Story

This is the story of Master Sankalp (Name changed), a seven-year-old child. He is the first-born child to Amit and Aasha Chaudhary (names changed), both of whom are IT professionals. They got worried when their child was unable to perform well in school due to difficulty in copying from the board. They consulted an eye specialist who prescribed glasses. Despite compliant use of glasses his vision did not improve beyond 6/24 in both eyes. He consulted two more doctors, both of whom could not find any other problem with his eyes. After two years, and visiting at least six ophthalmologists, he presented to the pediatric ophthalmology department of SCEH. He was examined by Dr. Shailja Tibrewal, and was suspected to have a retinal problem. The clinical features were suggestive of a macular dystrophy, which was confirmed after appropriate tests. The parents were shocked to hear about this as no other member in their entire family was suffering from a similar disease. To add to the confusion, the electro-retinogram done elsewhere was suggestive of congenital stationary night blindness, which did not correlate with the clinical diagnosis. Both parents were desperate to find the right answer regarding the disease that their child was suffering from, and what were the implications in future, will he go blind in near future and whether any treatment was available anywhere in the world. We explained the entire situation to

them and offered genetic testing for Sankalp, to know the exact diagnosis. After appropriate pre-test counselling by our genetic counsellor Ms. Ria Ratna, Sankalp underwent the test. The results revealed a pathogenic variation in the ABCA4 gene. The prognosis of the disease was discussed with the parents and he was advised appropriate precautions. Sankalp was offered vision rehabilitation, and a letter was provided to the school teachers to accommodate him in studies considering the revised diagnosis. The parents would be linked to similar patient forums and we are on look out for connecting them to therapeutic trials.

Statistics have shown that it takes an average of Eight years to diagnose a rare disease. It is said that "the fear of the unknown is the greatest fear of all". Diagnosing a rare disease is the first step towards its recognition and the efforts to eliminate it. Although most of these diseases do not have a cure, several clinical trials across the world are offering promising future. Also, through genetic counselling and appropriate testing, the risk of recurrence of a disease in a family can be greatly reduced. At SCEH, we certainly believe that "NO CURE DOES NOT MEAN NO HOPE". We continue to serve these patients with the hope that one day, we will be able to provide solutions to each of these rare diseases.



# Expanding Horizons: Dr. Mazhar's Journey Featured By Orbis

Early detection and intervention can prevent vision loss due to Glaucoma. Orbis International, to mark the Glaucoma Awareness Month, shared the inspiring story of Dr. Mazhar Naseem, who sought expertise in glaucoma as his subspecialty to address the gap caused by poor eye health services in his area.

Dr. Mazhar completed the Orbis supported Glaucoma observership at SCEH in May 2022 and is currently working as a Consultant at the Mohammedi secondary centre. In the story, Dr. Mazhar stated, "I have witnessed numerous patients go through pain, and many of them developed vision impairments as a result of delayed treatment. In order to assist some of these people, I selected ophthalmology. Later, as I practised comprehensive ophthalmology, I became aware of the neces-



sity of developing my clinical expertise, particularly with regard to certain eye conditions like glaucoma. This condition receives much too few diagnoses, particularly in the population I serve."

## Patient Story

A 32 years old woman, residing in Sambal district, Uttar Pradesh, first came to us nine years back, in 2014, when she had already lost vision in one eye, and had very poor vision in the other due to a corneal infection. She had been treated at multiple places, but her vision kept deteriorating due to the infection.

She underwent corneal transplantation at our hospital, where her diseased cornea was replaced with a donor cornea. Soon after the surgery, she developed an infection in the transplanted cornea as well, for which she underwent a repeat corneal transplant, which later failed too, and she also developed glaucoma (increased pressure) in her eye. She was not able to do any of her activities herself and required assistance to even carry out the most basic tasks of everyday life. She also could not get married and was fed up with her life.

Considering her clinical and psychological condition, she was advised a Boston Keratoprosthesis (end stage artificial corneal implant) along with an Ahmed Glaucoma valve implant and she underwent the surgery in 2016. She was kept under supervision and close follow-up of doctors and



was compliant with the treatment. Her vision drastically improved after this surgery and her pressure was also under control. She was regular with her follow-ups.

She last visited us in February 2023, and had a best corrected visual acuity of 6/12 in her only seeing eye. She is gratified and content with her vision and is able to carry out all her daily activities herself. She is even married now, and has two children. She is the sole bread-earner for her family and takes care of her physically handicapped husband and two children.

We are truly grateful to have been given the opportunity to make a difference in her life.

Story contributed by –

Dr. Nidhi Gupta  
(Consultant, Cornea Services, SCEH Delhi)

Dr. Abhishek Agarwal  
(Fellow, Anterior segment and cornea, SCEH, Delhi)

# Humans of SCEH

I am delighted to introduce myself as Mukesh Kumar, an optometrist hailing from the beautiful state of Bihar. My journey in optometry began when I completed my Bachelor's in Optometry from Durgapur West Bengal and then further did my optometry internship in Vasan Eye Care Bangalore. During my academic tenure, I received comprehensive training in eye examinations, prescribing and dispensing eyeglasses, and contact lenses. However, it was during my Optometry Fellowship at Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital in October 2014 that I experienced a profound transformation in my career. This fellowship program provided me with extensive practical exposure and hands-on experience in diagnosing and treating various eye conditions.

During my fellowship, I had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most experienced optometrists & doctors in the field, which helped me gain valuable insights into the latest advancements and best practices in optometry.

It was a pivotal moment in my life, and I emerged from the experience as a confident and skilled optometrist. After completing my fellowship, I continued working as a consultant optometrist in the Department of Cornea and Refractive surgery at SCEH from January 2016 to present.

Working in a charitable institution has been an incredibly fulfilling experience, and I have had the opportunity to work with patients from all walks of life. I am excited to embark on a career in optome-

try and look forward to using my skills and knowledge to make a meaningful impact in the lives of my patients. When I am not working, I enjoy exploring new electronic gadgets. I find it fascinating to learn



about the latest technological advancements and how they can be integrated into our daily lives.

What I love the most about SCEH is the environment that feels like a family. Also, there is a lot of opportunity to meet new people, interact and get great new ideas. Here, I not just met colleagues, but made friends. I never felt like

switching to the corporates, because here I get freedom, good learning and a continuous opportunity to grow with the helping hands of my mentors. In conclusion, I am honoured to have the opportunity to introduce myself to you. I am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that have shaped my career, and I look forward to continuing to serve my patients with dedication and passion.

-Mukesh Kumar  
Optometrist  
Cornea Department



**Compiled by the Editorial Board:**

Dr. Umang Mathur, Dr. Monica Gandhi, Dr. Abha Gaur, Dr. Isha Chaudhari, Mr. Manish Lal

**Designed By:** Rajan Yadav | **Photographer:** Vaibhav Anand & Himanshu

## Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

5027, Kedarnath Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi – 110002

Ph: 011-43524444, 43528888 | Web: [www.sceh.net](http://www.sceh.net) | Email: [communications@sceh.net](mailto:communications@sceh.net)