



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

Caring for the community since 1922...



NEWSLETTER

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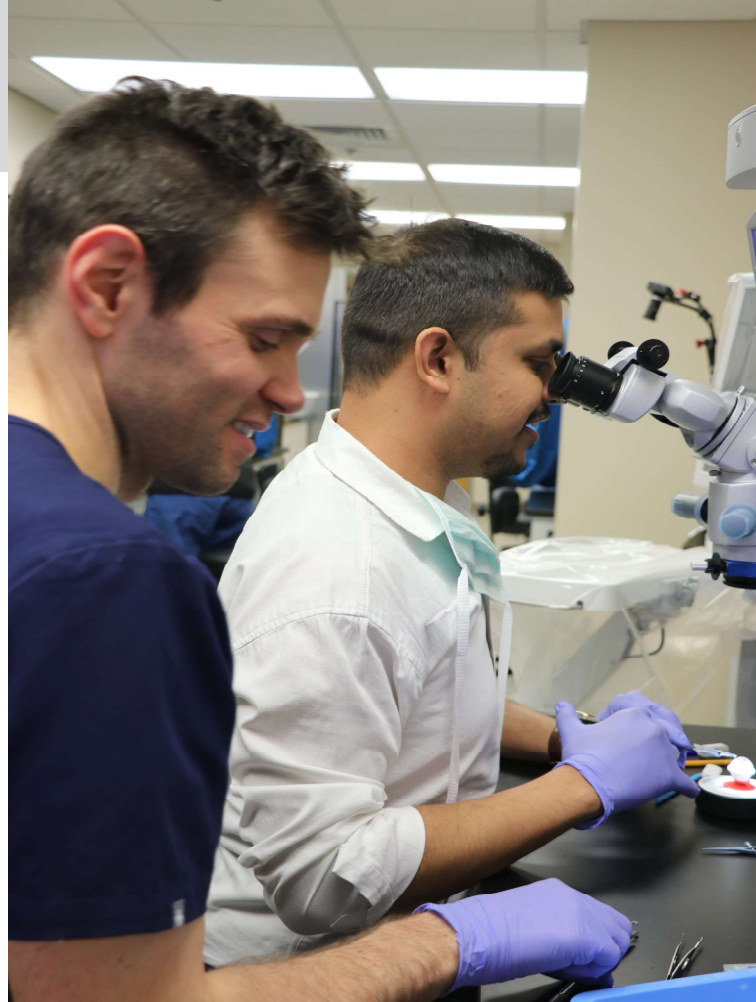
Learning across borders: An editorial

Department of Vision Science, University of Wisconsin (DOVS) is SCEH's global ophthalmology partner. Residents, Fellows and Faculty rotate in each other's institutions. The global ophthalmology partnership helps build global perspective, exchange of best practices and partnerships in research. Last year, an opportunity came up for a resident from SCEH to experience the ophthalmic practice in the US. Dr. Rishabh Gupta, a final year DNB resident, was selected for this international research and observation rotation at UW. We share his experience...

University of Wisconsin has its main centre in the city of Madison, USA. My experience in the beautiful city of Madison is beyond words...

During my month long visit, I rotated in departments of cornea and glaucoma, both rooms (OR) and also worked on a research project.

While being posted in the department of cornea, I examined patients with all kinds of pathologies and got an opportunity to bond with the cornea fellows and faculty. I visited the only eye bank in the state of Wisconsin, and observed the meticulous process of lamellar corneal transplant tissue preparation by trained eye bank personnel. I visited the off site clinic located in the village, La Farge, where I saw some rare inherited retinal disorders in the residing population. I was also trained in modified Yamane technique of scleral fixated IOL the wet lab. I was also the part of free clinic con-



ducted where residents and fellows run the outpatient clinic for the needy.

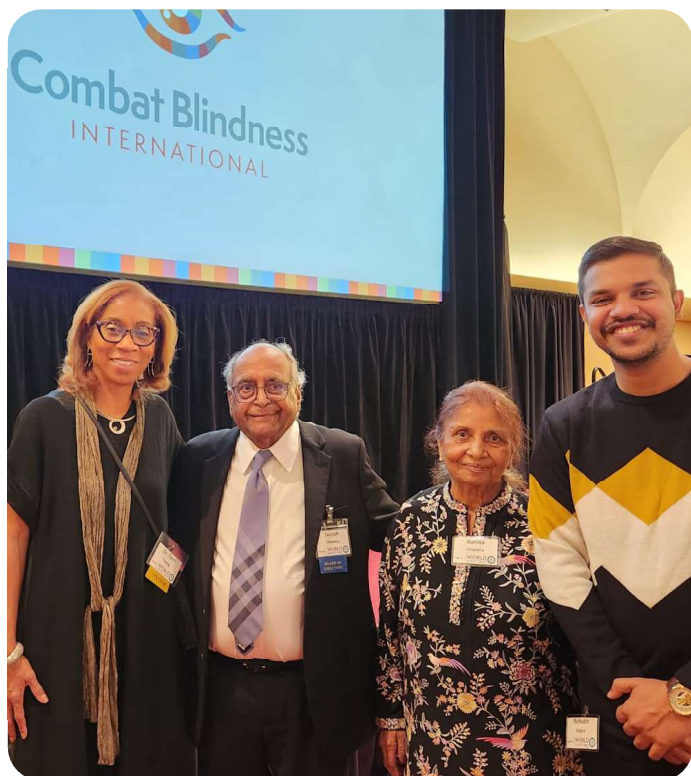
I also happened to be present in Wisconsin for the world sight day, and attended a fundraiser program conducted by Combat Blindness International (CBI) for the Aadya project currently taking place in India. I proudly witnessed the CBI team highlight the excellent work done by the SCEH workforce.



The time I spent after work was also equally fascinating. I will especially remember the bus rides, the Madison bike paths, evening walks by the lake and the mesmerizing museums of Madison. I happened to be in the city at a good time when the weather was extremely pleasant. The colors of the fall, the occasional rainfall mixed with the spirit of Halloween, added to the beauty of the city. In my free time, I visited Chicago which was just a four hours drive away.

To sum it up, this posting was enriching both academically and otherwise.

**Story contributed by
Dr. Rishabh Gupta**



Human Story

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow"
- Anthony J. D'Angelo



My journey at SCEH began in the year 2017 as a data entry operator. Being an engineer by training, working here was initially challenging, but I was determined to learn. It felt like my education had started from scratch. However, my hard work and perseverance paid off and in 2020 I was promoted to HR assistant.

I belong to a humble background. My father left for heavenly abode when I was still quite young and my mother raised my siblings and me. She worked everyday to manage the house. My older brother eventually started a business and helped run the house.

After completing my education in engineering I worked in different cities, as there were no suitable jobs in Vrindavan. However, I longed to be with my

family. I believe that being physically present with the family is vital for ones' well-being. My desire to be in my hometown led me to return to Vrindavan even if it meant changing my job profile.

Rising through ranks in the hospital, I did not merely settle for a good designation; I took on additional responsibilities and handled multiple tasks. My motive has always been to perform my tasks with perfection.

I like being at SCEH as it gave me an opportunity to learn and grow. Here, I was not just an employee; I was also a student who was continuously mentored. My seniors here at SCEH helped shape my growth and development. If I keep getting such support, I will work better and try to grow further in life. I believe in the importance of support systems, and staying connected to one's roots in the pursuit of personal and professional fulfillment.

Mukesh Kumar
Assistant HR
SCEH Vrindavan

Patient Stories

Suffering can lead to transformation, redemption, and it can be marvelous mystery – Dr. Allen Hunt



Shah Khalid was enjoying the Eid festivities when one of his eyes was injured with a goat's horn. His world suddenly went dark and he was in severe pain and agony. Being in the small town of Firozabad, he and his family were clueless about where to go for immediate help. The local doctor's and doctor's in Agra, put their hands up saying that nothing can salvage the eye. Celebrations had turned into tragedy for him and his family. That is when a relative, who had been treated at SCEH for a similar injury suggested they go to Delhi for treatment. Terrified and panic-stricken, Shah Khalid and his brother reached Delhi. On examination, the nature of his injury was found to be grievous. The anatomy of the eye was completely distorted and muscles were distorted and grotesque. The family was even scared to look at it. However, the doctor's did not lose hope and treated him the best possible way. The surgery lasted for four hours and he was in the hospital for four days after as well. Eventually, his vision recovered to almost 90% and he has gone back to work. Being the only earning member in a family of five, months of not working had put a dent on the finances. But all's well that ends well and with health by his side now, he believes he can recover the incurred losses both in terms of time and money.

Story contributed by
Dr. Shailja Tibrewal

Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity – Hippocrates



Mr. Neelkandan, a patient from Chennai has strong faith in SCEH. He first visited the hospital in 2007 for bleeding and swelling in the retina of the left eye. He was appropriately treated in the vitreoretina department and recovered his lost vision. Subsequently, he lost his vision again owing to a retinal detachment in the same eye for which he underwent a complex surgery, which recovered his vision. He has been visiting the hospital for regular follow-ups since then. He has complete trust in the treatment being provided at SCEH and it is this feeling of security that makes him travel across the country for check-ups.

His treating doctor at SCEH said that he was going through some personal stress related to his wife's health that may have contributed to the initial deterioration of his condition. Stress and emotional factors can also be known to prolong healing. It is important to address both the physical and emotional aspects of health, and provide the patient with a safe place and support them through their disease for wholesome healing.

Story contributed by
Dr. Manisha Agarwal



Value Story Patient first

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value” - Albert Einstein

Empathy & humanity are part of SCEH culture and Team Vrindavan displayed these qualities when a child undergoing a surgery under general anesthesia had to be shifted to ICU after the surgery. The team, including the consultant in-charge, Dr. Danish, the OT in-charge, and the nurse stayed back at the hospital the entire night to make sure the child was stable. They only left after the child was discharged and sent back home.



Donor Speaks

Mr. Prashant Khatri
Assistant Vice President,
ElectricPe



I have been in association with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital for the past 10+ years. SCEH has the best doctors, best infrastructure and high-end lab equipment. The hospital's commitment to provide quality & equitable eye care to ones who need it the most has kept me motivated to build our relationship deeper. I would love to donate in best possible way to help SCEH succeed in their mission. Thank you, SCEH, for giving me the inspiration to transform many lives.



Sukarya Story

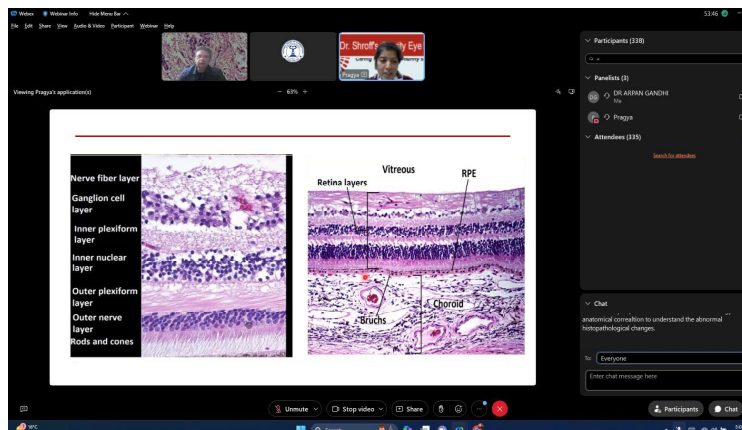
“Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out”
- Robert Collier

The patient's from Shahbad Dairy Vision Centre (VC) had to make an additional trip to our center before surgery, for lens power calculation. This increased cost of transportation and caused inconvenience to the patients. Mr. Abhishek, from the Department of Public Health, suggested and initiated the A-scan facility at the Shahbad Dairy VC once a week, and this meant the patients going the main center directly for surgery. The implementation of Sukarya in Shahbad Dairy Vision Centre has significantly improved the patient experience and operational efficiency. This has reflected in increase in the number of patients, suggesting improved accessibility and convenience.



Ocular Histopathology Webinars

The National Board of Examinations (NBE) organized three Ocular Histopathology webinars PAN-INDIA for students pursuing residency in ophthalmology. Nearly 400 DNB students from all over India attended these webinars. Three Residents from SCEH presented on Jan 8, 15 and 22nd 2024. Dr. Arpan Gandhi mentored each of these webinars.





Happy Republic Day

January 26th

Declaration of Avoidable Blindness Free Villages

Avoidable blindness free village initiative was taken up by SCEH with the support of Standard Chartered Bank. The Avoidable blindness free village project ensures that all villagers irrespective of gender, caste, creed, and financial status are provided with an opportunity to undergo eye check-ups, get treated for curable eye conditions, and regain their lost vision.

The first village that was declared to be free of avoidable blindness was **Daniyarpur** village under Fardhan block of Mohammadi region, on 31st January 2024. Around 100 community people and local authorities participated in the event. In this small village, a total of 265 people were screened and made aware of the causes of blindness and visual impairment. Six patients in the severe visual impairment/blind category were operated for cataract. **Dhanoli** village under Achhnera block of Vrindavan region was declared as the 2nd Avoidable Blindness Free Village. In the village, a total of 3800 people were screened and 23 patients were operated for cataract.



A new vision center was inaugurated at Madanpur Khadar on 22nd January 2024, increasing the number of vision centers to 80



Mohammadi Centre awarded for best performance in Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya Yojana.



Unruly Art by Project Prakash Children

Project Prakash is the brainchild of Prof. Pawan Sinha, Professor of Vision and Computational Neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). A team of individuals from MIT, SCEH, and IIT Delhi lead the project. Project Prakash was started in 2005 with the twin objectives of providing treatment to children with severe visual impairments and understanding mechanisms of learning and plasticity in the brain. Over the past twenty years, Project Prakash has provided insights into several fundamental questions about brain function (even some that had remained open for the past three centuries) while also transforming the lives of many blind children by bringing them the gift of sight.

Over 60,000 children screened

Over 520 children received surgical treatment

Over 2,000 children received non-surgical care

Over 30 children received education and rehabilitation

According to WHO, approximately 1 in 150 Indians suffer from blindness; nearly a million of these are children. In over half of the cases, blindness is treatable or preventable; however, most of the children never receive medical attention due to various reasons. Project Prakash, aims to address this need and bring not only the power of sight to these children but also provide them with pathways to reinstate successfully into society by helping them overcome significant obstacles to access education and secure livelihoods.

Every year Project Prakash treats several children with congenital cataracts. Our team of pediatric ophthalmologists, led by Dr. Suma Ganesh, operates and manages these kids to provide them with good visual outcomes. To allow the treated children to explore their creativity, the Prakash team organizes Unruly Art events. Unruly Art i.e. art without any rules, not only gives these children an opportunity to use their newly acquired vision but also makes them aware of their hidden potential. These beautiful paintings are displayed in art galleries across the world.



Orbis visit

SCEH hosted Mr. Manish Kumar (Senior Program Manager), and Mr. Sanghamitra Mishra (Program Manager), from the Orbis International team at our Saharanpur center.

During their visit we showed them how we encourage spectacle compliance at a madrasa, where we provide free eye care services to the students. The team also joined us during our door-to-door and school screenings, where we identify and treat eye problems in the heart of the community we serve. In addition, they visited two of our green vision centers, which are our eco-friendly primary eye care centers run using solar power.

The visit also consisted of a productive meeting on annual planning, where the focus on paediatric eye health was discussed, as were strategies to provision eye care to the entire district. We look forward to taking this combined vision further in the region, as well as our continued collaboration with Orbis International.

Contributed by **Mr Parvindra Tyagi**
Edited by **Ms Ishaana Sood**

USAID workshop in Geneva



USAID recently convened a workshop in Geneva to strategize for the future of their Child Eye Health Program, formerly known as the Child Blindness Program. Approximately 20 experts from various countries, including representatives from the WHO, were invited. Among them was Dr. Shalinder Sabherwal, representing SCEH. The workshop involved a thorough examination of the outcomes and influence of past grant cycles, as well as exploring potential synergies with other initiatives from organizations such as the WHO. It concluded with the formulation of recommendations for objectives and strategies to guide future grant cycles.

मैं जब भी "डॉ. श्रॉफ चैरिटी आई हॉस्पिटल" की प्रतिष्ठित विरासत,
(मुख्य इमारत) की अनुभूति करता हूँ तो मेरे मन में बहुत ही आशावादी
भाव उत्पन्न होते हैं। जिन्हें मैंने एक कविता के माध्यम से व्यक्त करने का
प्रयत्न किया है। जहाँ मुख्य इमारत की तुलना एक बूढ़ी माँ से की है।

कुछ लाल कुछ पीली, कुछ कच्ची पक्की सी दीवारों की विरासत है।
कुछ गोल खिड़कियाँ, कहीं दीवारों पर बने आलों की सजावट है॥

लखोरी इंटो की दीवारें, चुनें और गारे से लिपटी है।
जैसे कोई बूढ़ी माँ अपने ही आँचल में सिमटी है॥

कुछ पुराने गमले हैं, क्या रियाँ हैं, कहीं फूलों का बगीचा है
बहुत से पुराने दरखतों को, इस माँ ने, अपने आँचल में सींचा है॥

कभी, जरा एक पल ठहर कर देखो, तो आपको लगेगा
की ये माँ स्वरूपी इमारत कुछ बोलती है, बताती है, ये पास बुलाती है,

की कैसे इस माँ ने अपने उद्देश्यों को जिया है
कैसे ही सदा निरंतर, केवल परोपकार किया है॥

की कैसे एक सदी तक जिमेदारी निभाई है
कैसे इस इमारत ने इतनी प्रतिष्ठा बनाई है॥

की कैसे इस माँ ने नेकी का बिगुल बजाया है
कैसे इसके लालों ने इसका आँचल सजाया है॥

इसने कितने ही बेसहारा को सहारा दिया है
न जाने कितने अंधेरो को उजाला दिया है॥

सदा ही इसके भीतर मानवता का दीप प्रज्वल है।
ये एक सदी पुरानी इमारत है साहब,
इसके सभी पहरेदारों का भविष्य उज्ज्वल है॥

*Abhishek Agarwal
Public Health, Delhi*



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