



Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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

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Newsletter Issue: 22

Digital Training Hub launch



Orbis is working towards delivering the skills, resources, and knowledge needed to deliver accessible and quality eye care. The DTH is the next step in fostering a cadre of trained ophthalmic professionals and advancing our fight against avoidable blindness

- Mr. Derek Hodkey

In its quest to address the scourge of blindness and visual impairment, SCEH with support from Orbis International, inaugurated the Digital Training Hub (DTH) at SCEH Delhi to increase the capacity of ophthalmologists and nurses providing eye care. Mr. Derek Hodkey, President and CEO, Orbis International, in the presence of Dr. Rishi Raj Borah, Country Director, Orbis International and the SCEH leadership team, graced the occasion.

Equipped with state-of-the-art wet lab, artificial eyes, and virtual reality set up, the DTH will operate with an experienced faculty at the helm. It aims to increase training with the help of digitisation, simulation, tele-mentorship, tele-education, tele-medicine and hands-on experience.

Through this training hub, SCEH will be able to offer a blended learning approach through sandwich fellowships, observership's, hospital-based training and remote surgical mentorships, which will be especially important for trainees in other centers, international trainees and for training by experienced international faculty.

Mr. Derek also visited the pediatric ward and said that he was amazed to see the exemplary work

SCEH pediatric and the retina departments were doing specially in the diagnosis and treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity. He also interacted with children, some recipients of successful treatment and others who were receiving treatment at the hospital, and their families.



Mr. Derek holding a baby fondly in his arms who underwent LASER treatment for ROP at SCEH by the Pediatric Retina team.

World Glaucoma Week



The International World Glaucoma Awareness Week is observed every year, across the world to raise awareness regarding the silent thief of vision: Glaucoma.

Glaucoma department at SCEH, as every year, conducted a variety of events from 12th – 18th March 2023, with the aim to spread the message far and

wide. The theme for this year's glaucoma awareness week was **"The world is bright, save your sight"**. Activities included a glaucoma awareness walk, patient education programs, screening camps, awareness talks, webinars, and cultural activities along with a fundraising badminton championship.

World Hearing Day



“

*Blindness cuts us off from things,
but deafness cuts us off from people* ~ Helen Keller

”

SCEH celebrated World Hearing Day on 3rd March 2023 in order to promote consciousness about preventive measures for hearing loss and the potential dangers they pose. The theme this year was **"Ear and hearing care for all! Let's make it a reality"**. The theme resonates with our philosophy at the SCEH at a deep and molecular level.

The Department of ENT at SCEH organized a free

ear check-up camp with special attention to the marginalized and neglected sections of society. The ENT lawns were alive with great enthusiasm and fun with the games and competitions organized on the occasion for children less than 18 years of age. Mr. Zakir Khan, Chairman Minority Commission, Delhi was the Chief Guest of the program. The attendees were appreciated with a small token gift arranged by the department.

World Optometry Week



...A tribute to the unsung heroes of ophthalmology



World Optometry Week was celebrated from 19th - 25th March 2023 across SCEH network. The theme this year was – **“Expanding the role of optometrists'- the time is now”!**

In order to highlight the role of optometrists in providing eye care, SCEH Delhi team organized a four kilometres awareness run with participation from 150 participants - optometrists and ophthalmologists included.

It was followed by week- long activities including Model, Posters and Quiz competitions and various sports activities too. The week ended with a CME - Optopack 3, on Innovations in Optometry which was attended by 82 external participants. The speakers included Prof. Nagaraju Konda, Prof. Pawan Verkicherla, Padmashree Vipin Buckshey, Mr. Sanjay Mishra, in-house faculty and research scientists.

Sukarya (Kaizen) - Story of Impact

Sister Sherly has been working in the Nursing department at SCEH since the year 2008. On one of her routine ward rounds, she noted a problem. Earlier, 350 ml bottles of injection Mannitol were ordered but only 200 ml- 300 ml was administered. The remaining 50 -150 ml was discarded as it couldn't be used for another patient. In order to avoid wastage and save on cost, Sister Sherly came up with the ingenious idea of ordering the injection in 100 ml vacs instead.

Impact of her Sukarya:

Cost of 350 ml bottle: **INR 130**
 Cost of 200 ml bottle: **INR 75**
 Savings per patient: **INR 55**
 Total mannitol injections advised in a year: **3000**
 Total savings (55x3000): **INR 1,65,000/year**

Sukarya - Reduced the wastage of Injection Mannitol (medicine)



34th European Eye Bank Association's Conference

Dr. Manisha Acharya attended the 34th European Eye Bank Association's Conference at Aachen, Germany from 2nd - 4th March. The conference brought together eye banking professionals, researchers, and clinicians from around the world to discuss the latest advancements in corneal transplantation, tissue donation, and preservation.

Dr. Acharya talked about "Indo - German GIZ Collaboration: Impact and Way Forward in Global Eye Banking" at the conference which highlighted the significance of the collaboration between SCEH - Eye Bank and DGFG, Germany and how it has positively impacted the global eye banking scenario.

The conference provided her an excellent opportunity to network with other eye banking professionals and learn about the latest developments in the field. Her participation in the conference is a testament to SCEH's commitment to providing



quality eye care services and promoting eye banking on a global scale.

CME on Intraocular Tumors

"Sharing knowledge fosters collaboration and innovation"

Diagnosing and managing intraocular tumors is complex and requires a collaborative effort from various specialists, including ocular oncologists, retina specialists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, and pathologists. Keeping the importance of inter-professional collaboration at the



fore, SCEH organized a CME on intraocular tumors on 12th March. The event included lively discussions about recent advances in the management of retinoblastoma, as well as case-based discussions on the grey areas of presentation, radiological diagnosis, and management of intraocular tumors. The event also provided a platform for us to showcase our work to a wider audience while also gathering valuable insights from them.

Basics and hands-on workshop on Stem Cell Culture

A stem cell workshop was held by the Stem Cell Department at SCEH on March 20-21, 2023, which comprised of informative lectures on different facets of stem cell culture and their medical applications. In addition, laboratory-based hands-on experiments were conducted. Eleven participants attended the workshop and the training helped participants in becoming proficient in independently cultivating stem cells.



Retisurge LIVE



Retisurge Live- a one of its kind live vitreoretinal surgical conference was organised by the department of Vitreoretina at SCEH, for the 4th consecutive year, on 5th March 2023. This year the conference was on tackling Optic disc pit Maculopathy and Epiretinal membranes.

Two stalwart surgeons, Dr. Naresh Babu, Head Vitreoretina, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai and Dr. Prashant Bawankule, Director Sarakshi Netralya, Nagpur operated live at SCEH.

The Live Surgical Broadcast was viewed by delegates who attended the event at SCEH and also by numerous delegates, from across the globe, who connected online through online portal.

Panelists included experts like Dr. Mahesh P Shanmugam, Dr Vishali Gupta, Dr. Sangeet Mittal and Dr. Dinesh Talwar who shared their experience and gave valuable tips. Surgical videos pertaining to newer innovations and complications, and their management were also presented and discussed.

Intravitreal Injections Workshop

A workshop on Technique of Intravitreal injections was organised by the Department of Vitreoretina, SCEH on 18th March 2023. The workshop was attended by ophthalmologists from all across the country. The agenda was to impart knowledge regarding safe and judicious use of intravitreal injections.

Talk on the basics of the various intravitreal drugs available for ophthalmic use, bio-similars and clinical cases was given by the faculty in the department. Dr. Lagan Paul, an alumnus of the department was invited for a talk along with Mr. Sanjay Vashistha, a practicing lawyer in Delhi who highlighted the medico legal aspects regarding Intravitreal injections. This was followed by a hands-on



wet lab session where the technique and precautions while giving intravitreal injections were demonstrated by the faculty.

Patient Story

Master Safi (name changed), a three-year-old boy, presented to SCEH during COVID lockdown in April 2020, with a large fungating mass protruding from his right eye. His parents noticed a white reflex in his right eye when he was only five months old. They visited a government hospital in Delhi multiple times but could not get proper treatment. His parents eventually brought him to SCEH, where he was diagnosed with Retinoblastoma in both eyes with right more severe than the left. He received chemotherapy, exenteration surgery and radiation in the right eye, and focal treatment in the left eye.

Safi's story is not only inspirational but also an eye-opener regarding the need for early diagnosis and referral for treating Retinoblastoma, as it was really unfortunate that he got diagnosed at a late stage despite early presentation at one of the tertiary eye centres in Delhi.

Even after the diagnosis, regular follow-ups were in itself a mammoth task for them as the father was a migrant worker and was frequently out of the city. His mother had already lost both eyes to the disease. His sister was also found to have unilateral Retinoblastoma on sibling screening. She also received treatment. Many times, their neighbours had to escort them for the treatment. Sometimes the hospital arranged a vehicle for transport and their stay during radiotherapy sessions. One of our social workers even got home-cooked meals for them during COVID lockdown. Safi later developed persistent socket infec-



tion post-surgery because of improper cleaning. It was challenging to explain about hygiene, cleanliness and proper wound care post-surgery to a mother with no vision. However, somehow, she managed it all, from cooking food to taking care of three children and getting them treated for the disease her own vision had succumbed to. Safi and his family's story is one of extraordinary circumstances, the one that tells they fought like warriors.

Contributed by
Dr. Sima Das & Dr. Namita Kumari

Humans of SCEH

*Story of Saba...
A story of a girl living in the moment.*

All of 23, Miss Saba is the backbone of the laboratory services at the SCEH Hospital in Mohammadi. This hospital located around 100 miles from the nearest tertiary care eye hospital, and caters to a population that is mainly agrarian. Ulcers in the eye due to vegetative trauma are common and usually poorly treated. This hospital is unique in a way that it treats its ulcers with a targeted approach and not with a cocktail therapy of whatever drugs are available. To make this possible, a laboratory for microbiology had to be set up in the premises, to run the sample of every ulcer patient that presents, so that the treatment is based on the organism isolated. This facility is not available any nearby town or city. However, the biggest challenge to setting up this laboratory was the lack of trained personnel who would be willing to stay in the small town of Mohammadi.

Over 5000 samples processed and analysed since the inception of the laboratory in Mohammadi a year back, Saba has proved to be an asset. She, along with the laboratory technician, Mr. Aftab, are responsible for analysis of these samples and in training of other people. But her story was not always the same....

A shy girl belonging to Dhamaula village near Mohammadi, Saba is the second of six siblings and was already a graduate in history when she decided to join SCEH Mohammadi as a trainee. Her elder sister was also working here and both of them got to know of the place through their uncle who is an employee as well.

Her father died when she was very young, and the

responsibility of supporting the family fell on the two elder daughters. In a rural community, where the women are not looked upon as bread-earners, their father ensured their basic education be complete as he wanted all his children to grow up to be independent and confident adults.

After completing her 45-day classroom training under the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel (AOP) training program, she was posted in the MRA department.

Saba says that joining this program not only made her technically sound, but she is practically growing here as a person. She is learning life skills that nurture a holistic development making her more adept at being able to navigate life pressures, and also helped her provide for her family. The program empowered her, made her efficient, skilled, confident and independent person while being in a safe and productive work environment. In spite of the long commute time and distance, she loves coming to the hospital everyday as it satisfies her

tremendously both personally and professionally. She feels that this position has not only brought her immense love from her hospital family, but respect in her real family and community. As per her, of the many positives of being a part of the SCEH family, the one that stands out is the inclusive environment of the organization as there is no bias or discrimination in the work culture.

When asked of her future plans, she coyly replies that she is just living the moment and savouring every bit of it, as she believes that satisfaction and happiness at work is all about having fun, enjoying the moment, touching lives and leaving one's tiny bits of memorability in every occasion in their own unique way.

Written by –

Mr. Manish Lal and Dr. Isha Chaudhari

Contributions from –

Dr. Arpan Gandhi and Dr. Natasha Koul



I can confidently say that change in my personality and confidence resonated deeply within my community as 15 more girls from my village have since joined the COP program. Along my journey with SCEH, I have been fortunate and privileged to receive the opportunity to cross train three COP program candidates. It's an honour and a privilege for me to be part of an organization that deeply cares about its employees and patients and is making a huge impact in eye health at the community level."

– Saba Khan



Ms. Saba Khan has not only learnt the very super specialised skills required for Ocular Microbiology but she is very passionate about it and has been an important link between the Cornea Services and Lab Services making her a very unique person in the SCEH family."

*- Dr Arpan Gandhi
Director Laboratory Services, SCEH Network*



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