



**Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital**

Caring for the community since 1922...



# Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

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

www.sceh.net

Newsletter Issue: 29

## WORLD SIGHT DAY



SCEH organized a series of activities across its network on World Sight Day (WSD) on 12th October 2023. Aligning with the theme, **"Love your eyes at work"**, our endeavors resonated with the current need of caring for our eyes in the digital age where there is increased screen activity, farmers who are at a risk of vegetative trauma and workers in factories that use chemicals. To contribute significantly to the cause we committed to screen one-lakh individuals, along with other activities for eye health promotion in the community, especially among those aged 19 to 59. These activities included health talks at the workplace, integration program with public health care workforce, inaugurating five new vision centers, appreciating local partners for their contribution, a photo competition, corporate eye camps, eye screening for truck drivers and media coverage to increase awareness.



### विश्व दृष्टि दिवस के अवसर पर डॉ. श्राफ आई चैरिटेबल हॉस्पिटल में लोगों को दी जानकारी



बढ़ता राजस्थान

अलवर (का.स.)। बृहस्पतिवार को विश्व दृष्टि दिवस के अवसर पर एक जागरूकता सभा का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें विश्व दृष्टि दिवस के इस वर्ष के थीम 'स्लैव योवर आईज एट वर्क' पर डॉक्टर श्राफ चैरिटी आई हॉस्पिटल प्लॉट नंबर 138 सुभाष नगर अलवर में आयोजन किया गया जिसमें डॉ. श्राफ चैरिटी आई हॉस्पिटल अलवर के सीनियर कंसल्टेंट डॉ. रमिज रेजा जी के द्वारा आंखों में होने वाली बीमारियों एवं रोकथाम के बारे में विस्तार से बताया गया जिसमें संस्था के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी श्रीमान योगेश यादव जी के द्वारा आम जन को संस्था की सेवाओं के बारे में बताया तथा समय पर

देखभाल एवं इलाज करने के लिए प्रेरित किया। सभा में संस्था के कम्युनिटी लीड श्रीमान समुंदर सिंह व अन्य स्टाफ मौजूद रहे। इसी तरह की सभाएं संस्था के प्राथमिक नेत्र जांच केंद्रों पर विश्व दृष्टि दिवस के उपलक्ष में की गई जिसमें मालाखेड़ा राजगढ़ कटुमार वानसुर एपुकड़ा व तिजारा में नेत्र जांच केंद्रों पर सभाएं की गई। और लोगों आंखों कि समय पर सही देखभाल के जागरूक किया यह संस्था समय, समय ऐसे आयोजन करती रहती है तथा समय, समय पर आंखों के बारे में लोगों को जानकारी देती रहती है जिससे कि समय पर सावधानी बरती जा सके और समय पर सही इलाज हो सके। यह जानकारी संस्था के प्रशासनिक अधिकारी श्री योगेश यादव के द्वारा दी गई।



## World Anesthesia Day

*...Celebrating the unsung heroes of our ophthalmology operating theaters*



A six years old girl from Meerut, U.P presented with acute Steven Johnson syndrome. In addition to the ocular disease affecting both eyes, she had blisters all over her body and oral mucosa, and was in immense pain and discomfort.

After a quick assessment by the cornea team, the

child was posted for an emergency examination under anesthesia and sight-salvaging amniotic membrane grafting surgery. The tentative duration of general anesthesia required was an hour. The pre-anesthetic checkup presented a challenge of securing the airway safely, while preventing bleeding from the oral ulcers. After ensuring an adequate nil per oral status and reviewing the basic laboratory investigations, the child was taken for surgery the same day. Every step seemed to be more demanding than the previous; from securing an intravenous line, to managing the fragile mucosa. Very gently and cautiously, we managed to insert a laryngeal mask airway without causing any trauma. During the surgery the child was put on controlled ventilation and analgesia and hydration were maintained

throughout the procedure. The surgery was uneventful and post-operatively, the child was monitored closely as well.

The biggest challenge was to safely secure the airway without causing any bleeding. However, performing the emergency surgery in such children is vital for protecting their vision. Thankfully, despite the fear of complications that were explained to the parents, they trusted us and allowed us to go ahead with the procedure. Since then, the child has undergone two more procedures under anesthesia, and more surgeries are pending for rehabilitation.

In our daily work we often come across different hurdles, this makes our work interesting and finding innovating solutions keeps us going.



*-Story contributed by  
**Dr. Amit Bhuttan, Dr. Aparna Seth,**  
under the mentorship of Dr. Parul Datta*



### **Dr. Manisha Agarwal**

Receives a Gold Medal at the Uttarakhand State Ophthalmological Society for her Contribution to Eye Care



The Public Health and Research Department of SCEH attended the 17th Vision 2020 Annual Conference at Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh hosted by Gomabai Nethralaya

## Liquid Cornea: The magic elixir



The Shroff-Pandorum Centre for Ocular Regeneration (SP-CORE) represents a collaborative effort between SCEH and Pandorum Technologies. Its primary objective is to address the shortage of available corneas and

ensure regenerative treatments are accessible to a wider population. Recent research indicates that corneal opacity is the leading cause of blindness among individuals under the age of 50. Currently, the sole treatment option is corneal transplantation, typically reliant on corneas from deceased donors. Unfortunately, 40% of donated corneas fail to meet the required transplant standards. This underscores the pressing need for innovative solutions to alleviate this scarcity. SP-CORE plays a pivotal role in addressing this issue by producing its own bioengineered corneas, known as Kuragenx.

Kuragenx is a combination product of a bio-polymeric material and small sized biological vesicles called exosomes, which are obtained from mesenchymal stem cells. Cornea has three layers: outermost epithelium, middle stroma and inner endothelium. Kuragenx mainly caters to the defect which involves the epithelium and stroma. Interestingly, Kuragenx has properties similar to that of human cornea, hence it



can be used as a perfect replacement in corneal diseases. The application of the product is easy, where it is applied dropwise using a syringe, locally, from the top on to the cornea, at the site of wound or defect. Initially its in the form of a liquid which takes the shape of the native cornea and solidifies in less than ten minutes

after exposing it to visible light. Post its application, it acts as matrix, from where sustained release of

exosomes take place and help in the process of wound healing. With passage of time, this material degrades and allows the cornea to heal with reduction in inflammation and scarring.



This product has been tested in rabbits, where the scientists in the laboratory have created a diseased model of corneal scarring using alkali injury and later treated it with Kuragenx. After three months of treatment in rabbits, it was seen that the corneal transparency was like that of a healthy rabbit cornea. In addition, regeneration of nerve fibers and reduced inflammation were some other key parameters observed after treatment with Kuragenx. The product did not display any side effects on the other organs as tested from the blood parameters of the rabbits. Hence, animal data indicated safety and efficacy of the Kuragenx was intact and gave promising leads to translate it into the human beings to treat corneal blindness.

The project is carried out, under the supervision of Dr. Virender Sangwan, Director of Innovation, SCEH. The team includes a combination of clinician-scientists, research scientists and optometrists. The research laboratory is well equipped with a clean room, and a molecular and culture laboratory.

*"Every once in a while, a new technology, an old problem, and a big idea turn into an innovation."*

*-Story contributed by  
Ms. Mehak Vohra (Scientist)*

## Patient Story

### - A sight restored is a life restored



This is a story of baby Sangya who was born with no vision in both eyes and improved after a bilateral cornea transplant. Restoring sight has a profound impact on anyone's life, especially for a 3-year-old who is taking baby steps into the world.

Baby Sangya's journey to regain her vision was full of challenges. Being born with rare anomaly of bilateral anterior segment dysgenesis, people blamed her mother for her condition, as she had stepped out on a day of solar eclipse when she was pregnant. The superstition surrounding solar eclipses during pregnancy is unfortunate and very common in some regions. Her parents decided not to fall for this misbelief and sought evidence-based medical treatment.

They went to multiple hospitals in and around Delhi, but were refused treatment everywhere. That is when they reached SCEH and the treatment here brought a significant change in the life of their daughter. Timely medical intervention saved her from any disability, and improved the overall quality of life for her and the family.

At SCEH, we transplanted both cornea's and as per her parents her vision is about 30% better post-surgery and she is improving further.

*"She can now tell where the fan is and see her mehndi-applied hands and we even saw her fighting with another patient for her packet of chips"*

*-Sangya's Father*

## Humans of SCEH

*"Success is not just an accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." - Pele*

I am a photographer at SCEH and I come from a family with a background in photography. I am also pursuing M.Com masters simultaneously. My family is into this business for the past 30 years and I have been around cameras even when I was in primary school.

Photography has been with me since childhood, and when I grew, it first became a passion and then a profession. Clicking pictures and getting perfection in them is what I like the most. In future, I would like to become an even better photographer. I joined SCEH through the reference of my college photography teacher, and being here gives me immense pleasure.

Looking at the sufferings of people in the hospital brought out an emotional side of me. Now when I approach a patient, I think of myself as a storyteller and not just a photographer. I am intrigued and at the same time touched by their hardships and their inspiring stories. I feel encouraged in my life looking at them, that if they can be positive and strong so can I. I face new challenges every day at SCEH. A

new experience every day motivates me to keep working here. The two patients that have moved me the most were a four-day old baby who could not open her eyes and yet seemed to have it in her to fight, and an old lady who had endless suffering but still carried a beautiful smile on her face.



I feel proud when people at SCEH appreciate my work. I feel important in this hospital full of surgeons and clinicians. All I want to say to others currently working at SCEH is that if you love your work and you are facing challenges, it means you are learning. Don't let the obstacles dishearten you, as these are only helping you achieve your targets faster.

**- Himanshu**

Photographer

Communications Department



## Value story

***"Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well" -John W. Gardner***

Pooja introduced innovative safety measures for handling biomedical waste at SCEH Alwar. She initiated the use of colorful bins in addition to the color-coded bags. By creating visually distinct bins, she has made the disposal of biomedical waste more efficient and intuitive. These boxes were not only aesthetically pleasing but also served as a visual aid. This simplifies the process of disposal and decreases the chance of mistake. Her work is a shining example of how small, thoughtful changes can have a big impact on the safety and well being of all those involved in the healthcare system.



## Sukarya Story (Kaizen)

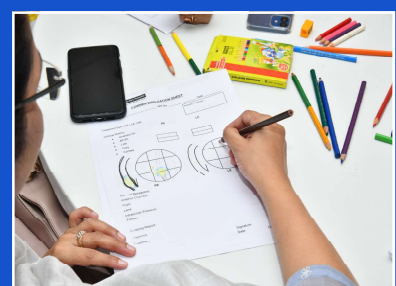
***"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out" - Robert Collier***

In SCEH Delhi, getting intraocular lenses (IOL) of unusually high or low powers required a month or two of waiting time. Earlier, there was no system of informing the patient regarding the tentative time of IOL availability and consequently they had to visit the hospital multiple times just to inquire. This led to frustration amongst patients.

Sonam from the pre-surgical checkup department decided to bring a change. She created a register of lens booking for the patients and now patients are informed about the status of their IOL's regularly. This proactive communication helped ensure a more efficient and patient-centric experience. This is a great example of how continuous improvement can lead to better outcomes for both the medical facility and its patients.



## Keratitis Workshop



## Diabetic retinopathy screening camp held in Mathura jail



A diabetic retinopathy screening camp was held at Mathura Jail on 14th October. Dr. Manisha Agarwal and Dr. Rushil K. Saxena screened a total of 49 diabetic inmates and employees. Patients found to have vision threatening diabetic retinopathy were guided to visit SCEH Vrindavan hospital for free treatment.



## Congratulations to Dr. Obaidur Rehman & Dr. Chhavi Gupta

for bagging the best paper and video award at Annual Conference of Oculoplastics Association of India

## 8 vision centers were inaugurated in October. Now we have 79 Vision Centres in total.

The new vision centres opened up in Vrindavan, Saharanpur and Modinagar and we thank our partners, **Standard Chartered Bank** and **MAQ** in supporting us in our mission.





## Eye and Ear Screening Camp in Spiti Valley supported by Royal Enfield and Muse

*SCEH took the initiative of organizing a free eye and ear screening camp in Spiti Valley*



*Spiti Valley has low oxygen levels and limited access to basic eye and ear healthcare facilities*



*SCEH Eyebank creates a new milestone in the month of October*

222

Corneal Tissue  
Collected

204

Corneal Tissue  
Transplanted

124

In-house  
utilization

80

Outside  
SCEH network

77

Delhi

21

Vrindavan

13

Saharanpur

10

Mohammadi

3

Alwar



Happy reading!

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