World Optometry Day - a cause for celebration

The importance of optometry as part of a complete health care system was raised by World Optometry Day, 23 March 2012.

On the day, Optometrist Rajesh Wadhwa, IOF President, explained why optometry awareness is so important in India, “Currently, 456 million Indians need vision correction and an estimated 133 million – including 11 million children – don’t have access to an optometrist who can provide an eye examination and a pair of spectacles or other optical aids. To move towards alleviating this health care crisis we need to promote optometry and optometrists. Doing so will inform those suffering with vision impairment that there is help available, as well as raise the profile of optometry. This will also attract more students opting for optometry as their preferred choice of career.”

The Federation announced 2012 as the Year of Optometry Awareness. For the week of 23 March, all over the country optometry schools, colleges and associations hosted optometry information sessions to promote the profession. It was hoped that through these free information seminars the IOF and ASCO would make great strides towards growing the awareness of optometry in the country.

It can be difficult to get the word out about the great work, and accessibility of optometrists, but through awareness initiatives like World Optometry Day the community will begin to understand the crucial service offered and see their value in the health care system.

To learn more about World Optometry Day initiatives please visit: www.indianoptometryfederation.org

Activities from around the country continue to pour in. Here are a few of our favourites:

IOF President, Optom. Rajesh Wadhwa lectured at the University of Hyderabad on March 27, 2012.

The topics were Status of optometry in India and Management of irregular cornea with specialty contact lenses.

An article covering the lecture can be read at: http://www.thehansindia.info/News/Article.asp?category=1&subCategory=12&ContentId=48936

Amity Medical School, Department of Optometry celebrated by organizing an Eye Camp at department clinics. Approximately 300 patients were examined and given treatment.

Kharagpur presented the World Optometry Day lecture slides

The India Vision Institute held an Eye Teach Workshop on 23 March 2012

Bansara Eye Care Centre, Shillong, presents World Optometry Day lecture slides

If there are any World Optometry Day activities you think we should know about please email us on R_wadhwa@yahoo.com

www.indianoptometryfederation.org
District Nodal Officer (Maharashtra)

Senior Ophthalmic Officers, formally known as Optometrists working under the National Program for Control of Blindness (NPCB) in the state of Maharashtra, have been appointed as District Nodal Officers (ophth).

The Directorate of Health Services, Govt. of Maharashtra, identified 33 Senior Ophthalmic Officers to be appointed as District Nodal Officers (ophth) for the district.

The District Nodal Officers will work with District Program Managers to run the Out Patient Department of the hospital, prepare action plans, update district data and monitor Ophthalmic Officers in their respective districts. The involvement of Ophthalmic Officers and the decentralization of work will improve the coordination and effective management of programs to control the blindness levels in the state.

This is the first time in the country that Ophthalmic Officers (Optometrist) have had a chance to be involved in the management of district health programs. The government has taken a big step towards recognising Optometrists and the Optometry profession.

Vision 2020

A Vision 2020 policy meeting, held on 19 March 2012 in Delhi, focused on policy on India North Zone Eye Care Programs.

In attendance was IOF Honorary Secretary, Optom. Anil Tyagi, IOF President, Optom. Rajesh Wadhwa, Head of DR.R.P Centre AIIMS, Professor Azad and Vision 2020 CEO, Dr Rao.

Optometry Roadmap Rolls Along

IOF leadership continues to work hard to improve the state of Optometry in India. A meeting was held with ASCO, IVI and Australian delegation to plan long term strategy for optometry in India. A primary plan was created and will be furthered discussions will continue in future meetings.

Support the Indian Optometry Federation by becoming a friend of the IOF

By registering as a friend of the IOF you will receive up to date information about Optometry in India, be the first to learn about IOF initiatives and most importantly are showing your support for the growth of optometry.

Visit www.indianoptometryfederation.org today to sign up and become a friend of the IOF!
Amity University Hosts Contact Lens Training

On 12 March 2012, on behalf of Bausch and Lomb, Senior Manager for Professional Services, Optometrist Khemraj Nackwal and Optometrist Pushpendra Rana conducted full day sessions on introduction to Contact Lenses and completed Module - 1 of the Mastermind program.

Mastermind, Bausch and Lomb’s contact lens training program for Optometrists, consists of six modules that cover practical aspects of contact lens practices.

The training was provided to Amity University, Department of Optometry students.

To learn more about Mastermind visit

www.bauschvcls.com

A Great Future
In Sight

An in-depth interview with IOF President, Optom. Rajesh Wadhwa was featured in The Pioneer. The interview looked at the current state of Optometry in India and abroad. It put an emphasis on encouraging students to choose Optometry as a profession.

The full article can be read at:


Share your ideas, learn from others and be inspired!

Visit

www.indianoptometryfederation.org

and join in on our live discussion forum
On the 22nd of March 2012, students and alumni of Bausch and Lomb School of Optometry organized a screening for under-privileged children for the occasion of World Optometry Day. 500 students were screened and 5% of children were referred for further management.