

Celebrates



Of collaborative and interdisciplinary research

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER

June 2021

Announcement



It makes me proud to announce that we have crossed a milestone at IHOPE. 1st April'21 marked the One Year Anniversary of our center.

We started the IHOPE journey with four investigators and today are a twenty two member strong team. We are well on our way to achieving the objectives that we set out to accomplish. Needless to say, without the support of our excellent team members, it would not be possible. Every one of them plays an important role to help achieve our goals.

We are also grateful to our Advisory Board whose suggestions and feedback have pushed us to challenge ourselves to go ahead and improve constantly.

I would like to thank Wellcome Trust/ DBT India Alliance for giving us this opportunity.

Thank you to all our well wishers and supporters. The future is bright and we will continue on this rhythm to carve out a niche for IHOPE.

Sincerely,

Dr. Raja Narayanan
Principal Investigator
IHOPE



Welcome New Hire



IHOPE is pleased to announce the recent hiring of Ashish Kumar as a Research Associate. He joined our team on the 1st of June'21.

His previous role was that of a Research Assistant at the IIM-A, where he worked on projects at the intersection of health economics and industrial organization.

He briefly worked as a Research Intern at ICTS-TIFR, Bengaluru.

He is a batch topper and has completed his Master's degree in Economics from the Ashoka University

Congratulations



Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, IHOPE Advisory Board and Founder-Chair, L V Prasad Eye Institute was conferred with the Robert Murphy Visionary Award by the Eye Foundation of America (EFA), for his contribution as a great visionary in the area of eye care.



Dr Rohit Khanna, Key Collaborator at IHOPE and Director, GPR-ICARE at L V Prasad Eye Institute, has been appointed as the IAPB (International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness) Regional Chair for South-East Asia

Know more at <https://www.iapb.org/blog/iapbs-new-board/>



Dr Anthony Vipin Das, Co-Principal Investigator IHOPE, has been promoted as the “Network Associate Director” for EMR and associated services at L V Prasad Eye Institute.

Congratulations

Appointment on COVID-19 committees



Dr Srinath Reddy, Co-Chair, IHOPE Advisory Board, is a member of many prominent national and international committees, who are providing support and technical expertise on initiatives taken during this COVID-19 crisis:

1. National Technical Taskforce convened by ICMR.
2. Honorary Advisor on Health to the Governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh with Cabinet Rank in both states.
3. Post-COVID strategy paper for the health system, by the National Security Council Secretariat.
4. WHO Solidarity Trial

Congratulations

3 Million Grant from Wellcome Trust UK



In collaboration with the Queen's University Belfast, LVPEI along with nearly 30 other partners from the USA, UK, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and India is working on a suite of studies to explore the impact of vision care on the global level to achieve Sustainable Development goals in low and middle-income countries.

The study recently received a grant award of £3 million from the Wellcome Trust UK, and additionally a generous match of £500,000 from The Chen Yet-Sen Family Foundation brings the total value of the award to £3.5 million.

Led by Professor Nathan Congdon of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in the UK and Dr Rohit Khanna of the LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), various universities, schools non-government organisations, public health bodies, government ministries, institutions and patient groups are part of the multi-disciplinary study team. Dr Raja Narayanan is also a part of the study.

<https://www.biospectrumindia.com/news/16/18909/lv-prasad-eye-institute-global-partners-explore-impact-of-vision-care-to-achieve-sdgs.html>

In Focus : CRTP Fellows



Dr. Bhupesh Bagga

Microbial keratitis is one of the leading causes of Ocular Morbidity across the world, specially in developing countries. Dr. Bhupesh's area of work lies in clinical and experimental research related to microbial keratitis and to find different treatment modalities. He works closely with microbiologists and basic scientists to find out solutions related to these difficult infections.



Dr. Brijesh Takkar

His area of research is focused on prevention of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR). He has adopted multiple approaches towards this important cause of vision loss. These include "on the ground" improvement in DR screening. He recently collaborated with stakeholders from countries in the South East Asia Region (SEAR), and representatives of the WHO and the IAPB to publish a set of guidelines that can optimize DR screening in this region. He has adopted a basic science approach for prevention of DR where he is evaluating factors related to pathology of DR, especially focussing on its sub-clinical forms where vision loss has not occurred.

In Focus : CRTP Fellows



Dr. Varsha Rathi

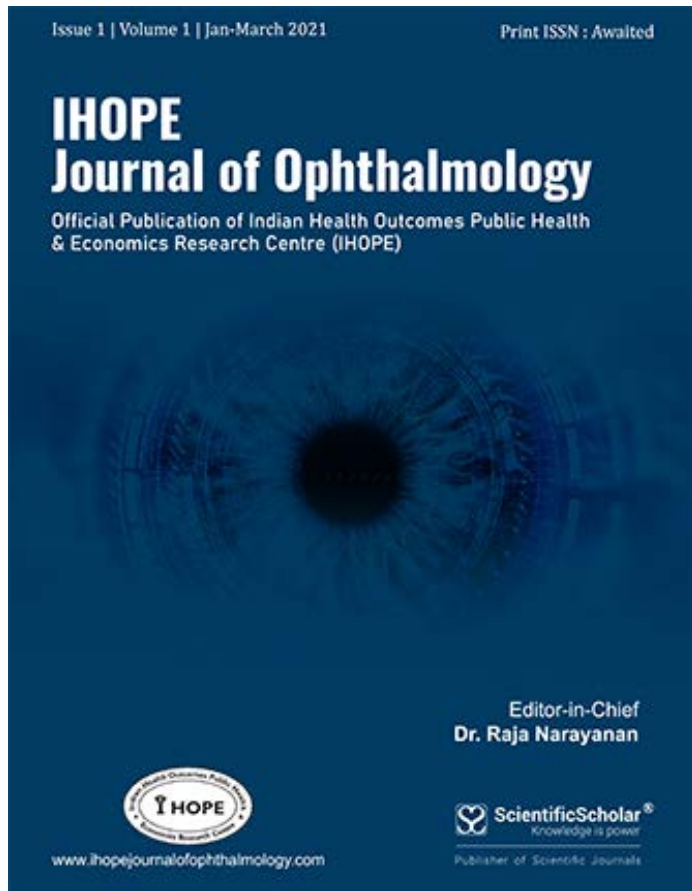
Her area of research focuses on health economics. Understanding the diseases and choosing the right procedure, technology and investigation that is cost effective, would reduce the expenditure for both – health care seeker and provider.

She was recently part of a project comparing economic models for cost effectiveness of two surgical techniques in the management of stem cell deficiencies. She has worked on the use of intracameral antibiotics with and without postoperative antibiotics and the costing to reduce and prevent the occurrence of post cataract surgery infections in rural areas.

She is currently evaluating the costing involved in the management of corneal ulcers and its prevention.

IHOPE

Journal of Ophthalmology



The Indian Health Outcomes, Public Health and Economics Research Centre (IHOPE) is pleased to announce the launch of its new journal “IHOPE Journal of Ophthalmology”.

The Journal publishes original work and findings that contribute to the advancements in the field of ophthalmology, related to big data analysis, health economics, operations research, clinical and public health research.

New manuscripts can be submitted at the journal website

<https://editorialassist.com/#/login/ihopejo>

You can also access the journal website through the IHOPE website by clicking here <https://www.ihope2020.org/ihope-journal-of-ophthalmology/>

Calendar of Events



IHOPE invites you to a webinar on

THE POWER OF DATA MINING IN BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Friday, 23rd April 2021; 7.00 pm - 8.00 pm IST



Speaker
Dr Isidore Rigoutsos
Director, Computational Medicine Center
Thomas Jefferson University

Moderator
Dr Anthony Vipin Das
Co-Principal Investigator, IHOPE
Associate Director, LVPEI





I HOPE brings to you a webinar on

Evaluating Cost-effectiveness of Alternate COVID-19 Vaccination Policies

A combined epidemiological and supply chain modelling approach

Wednesday, 26th May 2021; 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm IST

Speaker



Prof. Sarang Deo
Professor, Operations Management
Executive Director
Max Institute of Healthcare Management
Indian School of Business

Dr. Raja Narayanan
Principal Investigator, IHOPE
Director of Clinical Research
LV Prasad Eye Institute



Moderator

Calendar of Events


IHOPE BRINGS TO YOU A WEBINAR ON

Challenges of Controlling Visual Loss from Non-Communicable Eye Diseases from a Public Health Perspective



Friday, 18th June 2021
7.00 PM to 8.00 PM IST

Speaker



Dr. Clare Gilbert
Professor of International Eye Health
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Moderator



Dr. G.V.S. Murthy
Co-Principal Investigator, IHOPE
Director
Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad

IHOPE conducted webinars on relevant and important topics related to data mining, cost effectiveness of alternate Covid vaccination policies and the challenges of controlling visual loss from non communicable eye diseases.

Our Advisory Board Members, Dr. Isidore Rigoutsos, Prof. Sarang Deo and Dr. Clare Gilbert explained these concepts and shared their in-depth knowledge on these subjects with the audience. We thank them for taking the time to address the participants.

On July 23, 2021 we are organizing a Public Engagement programme to engage with various stakeholders on the topic - Health in the Times of COVID-19 .

The aim is to bridge the gap between science and society by bringing the scientific community and the public together to share, debate, and deliberate on eye related diseases and how ongoing research should be focused keeping patient experience in mind.

Refer to our website for all the webinar videos <https://www.ihope2020.org/media/>

Speaking Engagements

Dr Raja Narayanan

Principal Investigator

April 2021

24

Talk on Brolucizumab: Initial Experience, at the International Speaker Program at Novartis

May 2021

12

Panelist at the Scientific Writing Workshop by BMJ Case Reports

May 2021

23

Moderator for the joint meeting of Endocrinologists, Nephrologists and Cardiologists at the VRSI Roundtable meeting

June 2021

9

Moderator for the session on Insurance Coverage for Retina Procedures at the AIOS and VRSI Round Table Discussion

June 2021

19

Guest Speaker on the topic HOPE in Eye Care for Friends on Same Wave Length

June 2021

24-27

Speaker, Moderator, Panelist commitments at the AIOS

Speaking Engagements

Dr Anthony Vipin Das
Co-Principal Investigator

Dr. Vipin gave a Data Talk on “The AEye Project” at the ISB Institute of Data Science (IIDS) On 24th April’21



Publications

Topic	Risk factors, clinical features and outcomes of Neisseria keratitis
Authors	Anahita Kate, Bhupesh Bagga, Khuraman Ramazanov, Vineet Joshi, Ashik Mohamed, Savitri Sharma
Objective	To describe the clinical features, risk factors and outcomes of Neisseria keratitis.
Source	IntOphthalmol. 2021 May 28. doi: 10.1007/s10792-021-01898-8. Online ahead of print.PMID: 34047910

Publications

Topic	Diabetic retinal neurodegeneration as a form of diabetic retinopathy
Authors	Deepak Soni, Pradeep Sagar, Brijesh Takkar
Objective	To review the evidence supporting diabetic retinal neurodegeneration (DRN) as a form of diabetic retinopathy.
Journal	Int Ophthalmol. 2021 May 6. doi: 10.1007/s10792-021-01864-4. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33954860.

Topic	Diabetic retinopathy screening guidelines in South-East Asia region using the context, challenges, and future technology
Authors	Takkar B, Das T, Thamarangsi T, Rani PK, Thapa R, Nayar PD, Rajalakshmi R, Choudhury N, Hanutsaha P.
Objective	To formulate guidelines for screening of diabetic retinopathy (DR) for the World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia Region (SEAR) aligned with the current infrastructure and human resources for health (HRH)
Journal	Semin Ophthalmol. 2021 May 18:1-8. doi: 10.1080/08820538.2021.1925308. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34003720

Publications

Topic	Ocular ischaemic syndrome following coil embolisation for direct carotid cavernous fistula
Authors	Gunna NT, Paritala A, Takkar B, Sheth J.
Objective	A 36-year-old man presented with proptosis and external ophthalmoplegia of the left globe following road traffic injury. Cerebral angiogram revealed moderate flow direct carotid cavernous fistula on left side for which coil embolisation was done repeatedly. Subsequently, the patient developed decreased vision in left eye and developed features of left-sided ocular ischaemic syndrome. The patient was treated conservatively with spontaneous reversal of ocular ischaemic syndrome and complete regain of visual function.
Journal	BMJ Case Rep. 2021 May 27;14(5):e242121. doi: 10.1136/bcr-2021-242121. PMID: 34045204

Topic	Insurance coverage for intravitreal injections in India—The road ahead
Authors	Narayanan, Raja; Sengupta, Sabyasachi
Objective	Ophthalmologists should be aware of the available insurance coverage for anti-VEGF injections as per the recent IRDAI guidelines. Additional training of stakeholders and continued dialogue with insurance companies is required to increase the utilization of this important inclusion in the guidelines.
Journal	Indian Journal of Ophthalmology: May 2021 - Volume 69 - Issue 5 - p 1027-1028 doi: 10.4103/ijo.IJO_738_21

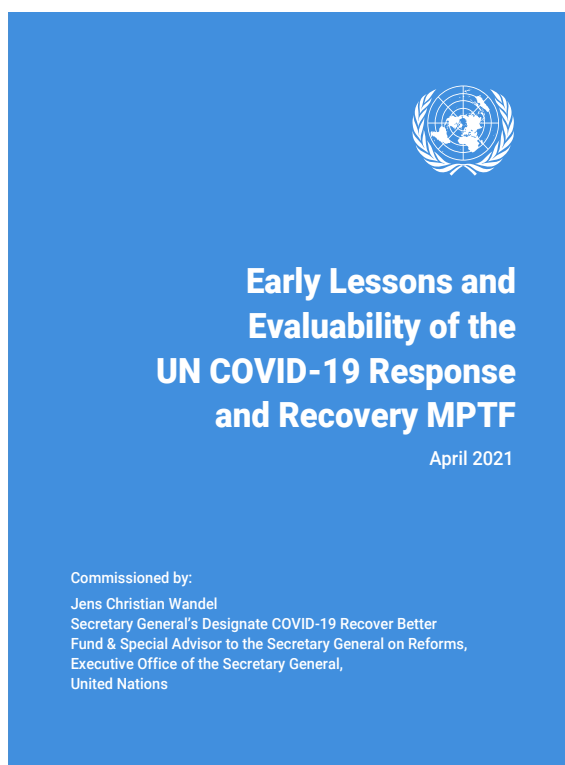
Publications

Topic	Long term follow-up of visual acuity and incidence of subretinal neovascularization in Mactel Type 2 in 82 Eyes
Authors	Kerul Marsonia, Kedarisetti Kiran Chandra, M Hasnat Ali, Jay Chhablani, Raja Narayanan
Objective	To evaluate the long-term natural course of macular telangiectasia Type 2, correlation with visual acuity and the incidence of Choroidal Neovascularisation (CNV) in Indian eyes.
Journal	PMID: 34027801 DOI:10.1080/08820538.2021.1929347

Topic	Forecast of Outpatient Visits to a Tertiary Eyecare Network in India Using the EyeSmart Electronic Medical Record System
Authors	Gumpili Sai Prashanthi, Nareen Molugu, Priyanka Kammari, Ranganath Vadapalli and Anthony Vipin Das
Summary	India is home to 1.3 billion people. The geography and the magnitude of the population present unique challenges in the delivery of healthcare services. The implementation of electronic health records and tools for conducting predictive modeling enables opportunities to explore time series data like patient inflow to the hospital. This study aims to analyze expected outpatient visits to the tertiary eyecare network in India using datasets from a domestically developed electronic medical record system (eyeSmart™) implemented across a large multitier ophthalmology network in India
Journal	Healthcare 2021, 9(6), 749; https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare9060749

Report

Early Lessons and Evaluability of the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery MPTF



This report was commissioned by the SG's Designate for COVID-19 in line with the SG's April 2020 report on the quadrennial policy review to evaluate COVID-19 MPTF as a system-wide evaluation.

Month published in – April 2021

Commissioned by:

Jens Christian Wandel

Secretary General's Designate COVID-19 Recover Better Fund & Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Reforms.

Executive Office of the Secretary General, United Nations

Members of the Evaluation Team

- Ted Freeman
- Andrea Lee Esser
- Chirantan Chatterjee
- Paola Vela

Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee, from IHOPE, IHOPE had been selected as a global health expert and worked with a cross functional team to evaluate cross country UN response to COVID-19 in November 2020.

Link to the report - <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/COV00>

Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee
Co-Principal Investigator



Title:	Covid-19: A case for transparent aid
Date of Publishing:	04 th May 2021
Source:	The Telegraph Online
Link:	https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/covid-19-a-case-for-transparent-aid/cid/1814419

Covid-19: A case for transparent aid

Given that India's recovery path from the pandemic and its mutant variants impacts the world, donors should be pushing for transparent science



Media Mentions

Dr. GVS Murthy
Co-Principal Investigator



Title:	Virus Surge will continue periodically
Date of Publishing:	16 th April 2021
Source:	The Hindu, Main Edition
Link:	https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/virus-surges-will-continue-periodically-says-iiph-director/article34344507.ece



Title:	Universal vaccination, expediting first dose drive need of the hour
Date of Publishing:	4 th May 2021
Source:	The Hindu
Link:	https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/universal-vaccination-expediting-first-dose-drive-need-of-the-hour/article34480824.ece#comments_34480824

Media Mentions

Dr. Mehul Mehta Key Collaborator



Title:	We need to understand our own ethnic genome better
Date of Publishing:	17 th Feb 2021
Source:	Business Standard
Link:	https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/we-need-to-understand-our-own-ethnic-genome-better-albright-s-mehul-mehta-121021601399_1.html

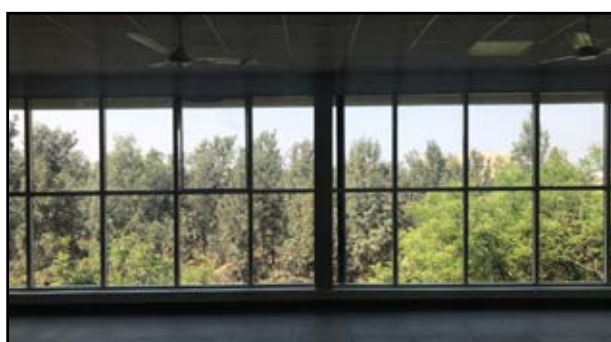
Title:	Reality always catches up in a pandemic: Albright Stonebridge's Mehul Mehta
Date of Publishing:	11 th June 2021
Source:	Business Standard
Link:	https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/reality-always-catches-up-in-a-pandemic-albright-stonebridge-s-mehul-mehta-121061101419

Teaming @ IHOPE!!

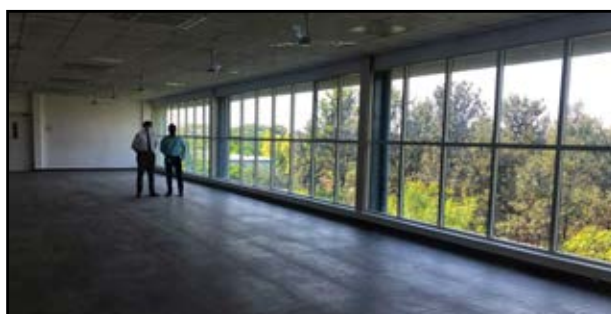
Colleagues at LVPEI played host to Puja Roy and Vaishakh Nair from IIMA during their visit in April'21

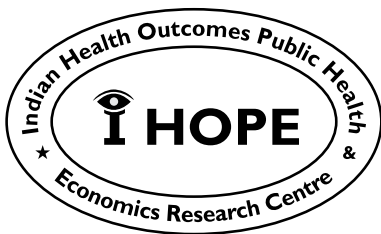


**The IHOPE Team @LVPEI
will be moving to a new
office soon...**



**Our very own Switzerland
in Hyderabad !!!**





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Website : www.ihope2020.org