

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2022



2nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Research to Policy

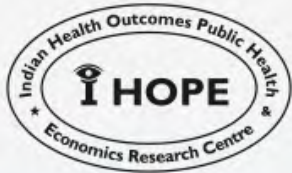
23 & 24 September 2022

at L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad

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LEARNING HUB

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Congratulations!



We at IHOPE are very proud of our Research Assistant - Ashish Kumar who got accepted for a fully funded Economics PhD admission at the Johns Hopkins University - Krieger School of Arts & Sciences. The rigorous PhD Economics Program at Johns Hopkins is amongst the best, with its world-class faculty and the doctoral program is the centrepiece of the Department of Economics.



Congratulations to Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee, IHOPE Co-Principal Investigator, on the renewal of his appointment as a Visiting Fellow for the period Sep 2022 through Aug 2023 at The Hoover Institution, Stanford University. This is his fifth year of association with them. The Hoover Institution has been supporting his research in innovation and global health since 2018.



May saw the official inauguration of the Anant Bajaj Retina Institute under the leadership of Dr Raja Narayanan, IHOPE Principal Investigator.

Honorable Vice President of India Mr. M Venkaiah Naidu formally inaugurated the Retina Institute. Present among the dignitaries were Mr Shekhar Bajaj, Chairman & Managing Director of Bajaj Electricals, other members of the Bajaj family and Bajaj Group of companies.

With the launch of the Retina Institute, LVPEI has taken a step forward towards the goal of creation of institutes of excellence that become global resource centres in their areas and creating a robust primary care network so that eye care is available close to the door step of the population of the three states where LVPEI operates.





An IHOPE Funded Study

Assessing the trends in prevalence and causes of visual impairment in the south Indian state of Telangana - the Nirmal Eye Evaluation for Trends (NEET) project

(Srinivas Marmamula, Vijay Yelagondula, Rajashekar Varada, Aritra China and Rohit C Khanna)

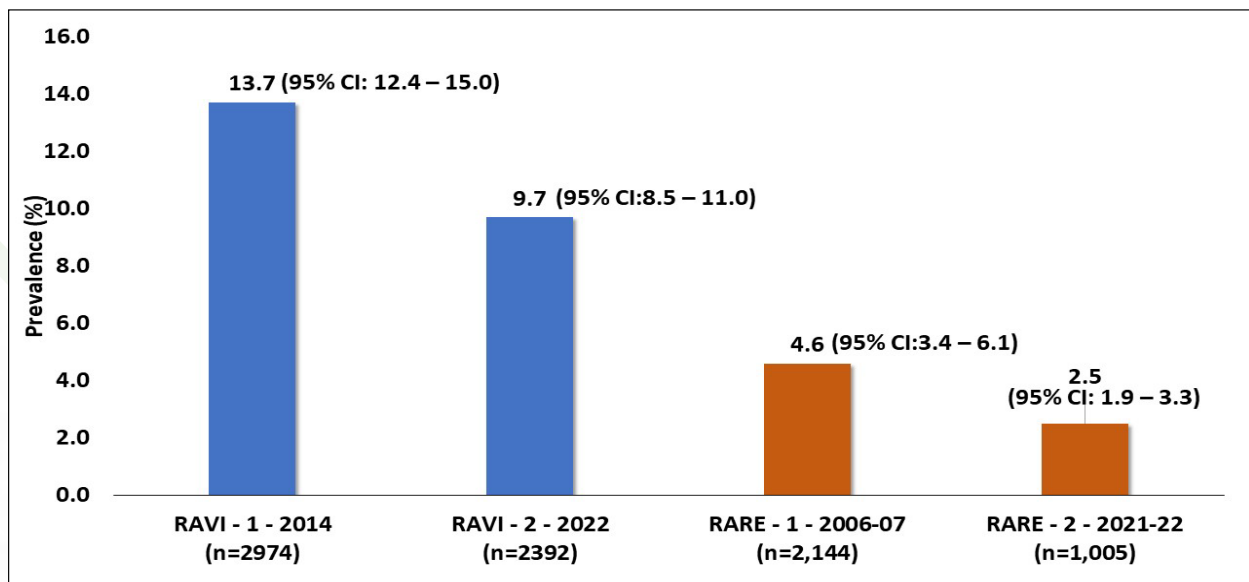
Background: Epidemiological data are a prerequisite for the planning and management of eye care services. Rapid assessments have proven to be invaluable tools in assessing the burden of visual impairment using available limited resources in many countries. Rapid data collection at low cost, using local resources and valid repeatability at stipulated intervals to study trends have been the strengths of rapid assessment methods. Rapid Assessment of Refractive Errors (RARE) and Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Visual Impairment (RAVI) are the methods that were developed and field-tested at LV Prasad Eye Institute. RARE focuses on the younger age group (16 to 39 years) and whereas RAVI includes the older population (≥ 40 years).

RARE and RAVI studies were conducted in the Mudhol region in Nirmal district in Telangana, India in 2006-2007 and in 2014 respectively. With this background, Nirmal Eye Evaluation for Trends (RARE + RAVI) was undertaken in Mudhol region with the objective to: a) determine the prevalence and causes of visual impairment in the Mudhol region (Nirmal district) in the south Indian state of Telangana and b) to compare the prevalence estimates from the NEET studies with studies done earlier in the same geographical location.

Methods: A team comprising a trained vision technician and a community eye health worker visited the households and conducted eye examinations including presenting and pinhole visual acuity (VA), anterior segment examination, and fundus imaging. (Figure 1) Visual Impairment (VI) was defined as presenting VA worse than 6/18 in the better eye.



Findings: In total, 5,400 participants were enumerated and 4,654 were examined (response rate of 86.5%). Among those aged ≥ 40 years ($n=2,392$), the prevalence of VI was 9.7% (95% CI: 8.5 – 11.0). It declined from 13.7% (12.4 – 15.0) compared to the 2014 RAVI study. Similarly, VI among those aged 16 to 39 years, the prevalence of VI was 2.5% (95% CI: 1.9 – 3.3). It declined from 4.6% (95% CI: 3.4 – 6.1%) compared to 2006-07 RARE study. (Figure 2)



Conclusion: There was a significant decline in VI in the Nirmal district in Telangana, India. The differential trends in the prevalence of VI can be explained by the availability and uptake of eye care services in the region over the years.

Meeting the NICE International Team

In London, the IHOPE team met with Pilar Pinilla-Dominguez, Associate Director – NICE International, Deborah Lee, Senior Project Manager, NICE International & NICE Scientific Advice and Hugh McGuire, Senior Scientific Adviser – NICE International & NICE Scientific Advice



The IHOPE centre had conducted a series of six workshops from Nov'21 to Feb'22 in collaboration with NICE on Developing Clinical Guidelines and the process of putting them into practice.

In a virtual meeting held at NICE offices - experts from RSSDI, Endocrinology Society, National Cancer Grid, VRSI etc came together for an open collaborator meeting to discuss and share their views on following the due process to develop various clinical guidelines, including for diabetic retinopathy in India. As next steps IHOPE is putting together a secretariat who will work jointly on developing these guidelines.



Discussions with the Healthcare UK Team

The IHOPE team met with Dr Bala Sridhar, Export Catalyst & NHS Specialist, Rahul Agarwal, Deputy Head: Healthcare & Life Sciences, Madhukar Bose, Deputy Head of Healthcare - Digital Health at Department for International Trade (DIT) along with Ashwin Ravindran, Senior Trade Adviser, Healthcare and Life Sciences who is from the British Deputy High Commission in Chennai.

The discussion centred around how guidelines need to be contextualized and used and steps that need to be taken to disseminate it and track usage at the deployment stage in organizations.

Dr Fabio Gomes, who is the Consultant Medical Oncologist and Director Clinical Outcomes Unit of the Chirstie NHS Foundation Trust spoke about the importance of real-world data in clinical outcomes, identifying surgeries that need to be tracked for outcomes and development of systems for the same. He discussed about the challenges in implementing uniform guidelines, and how to approve exceptions. There was also a discussion on adaptation with changing evidence, decision making tools for removal of existing guidelines and treatments. However, there is no established process of removal of existing treatments at this time.

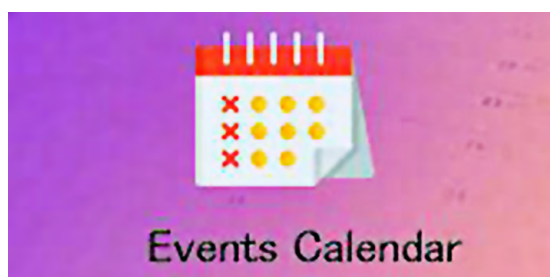


Visit to the Brighton and Sussex Medical School

In Brighton, the IHOPE team visited the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital and participated in discussions with Malcolm Reed, Dean and Professor of Surgical Oncology, BSMS; Somnath Mukhopadhyay, Joint Head of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Chair of Paediatrics, BSMS, Prof. Mahmood Bhutta, Chair in ENT, BSMS and IHOPE Co-Principal Investigator, Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee from University of Sussex.

A collaboration to explore work on the effect of healthcare on climate change, sustainable practices and health economics could be possible in the months to come.





Webinar on **Living Smarter with Glaucoma** was conducted in April'22 in collaboration with PatientsEngage. Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness. If managed well it can prevent loss of vision. This session provided patients with insights on how to manage this disease effectively and maintain a good quality of life.

A green-themed poster for a webinar. At the top left is the PatientsEngage logo. At the top right is the IHOPE logo (Indian Health Outcomes Public Health Economics Research Centre). In the center, a green ribbon icon is next to a dark green box containing the text "LIVING SMARTER WITH GLAUCOMA" in white. Below this, the date and time "18TH APRIL 2022 6 PM IST" are displayed. At the bottom, two circular portraits are shown: Viji Venkatesh, a Glaucoma patient advocate, and Dr. Sirisha Senthil, Head VST Glaucoma Centre at LV Prasad Eye Institute. On the right side, there are icons for Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube, all linked to PatientsEngage.

PatientsEngage

IHOPE
Indian Health Outcomes Public Health Economics Research Centre

LIVING SMARTER WITH GLAUCOMA

18TH APRIL 2022 6 PM IST

Viji Venkatesh
Glaucoma patient advocate

Dr. Sirisha Senthil
Head VST Glaucoma Centre
LV Prasad Eye Institute

zoom
f PatientsEngage
▶ PatientsEngage

Recording available at <https://www.patientsengage.com/news-and-views/webinar-living-smarter-glaucoma>




Brings to you a webinar on
Artificial Intelligence in Medicine
 A methodology for customizing clinical tests
 for esophageal cancer based on patient preferences

Guest Speaker



Prof. Sourangshu Bhattacharya
 Assistant Professor
 Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering
 Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

Moderator



Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee
 Co-Principal Investigator, IHOPE
 Reader in Economics of Innovation (University of Sussex)
 Visiting Fellow (Hoover Institution, Stanford University)
 Visiting Faculty (IIM Ahmedabad)

Day: Friday | Date: 27th May 2022 | Time: 7 PM to 8 PM IST





Artificial Intelligence in Medicine discussed the fact that many clinical tests for diagnosis of diseases are expensive, uncomfortable, time consuming and can have side effects e.g. barium swallow test for esophageal cancer.

Prof. Bhattacharya spoke about the need to devise a general methodology for customizing tests with user preferences to avoid expensive or uncomfortable tests. The key idea is to design classifiers trained from EMR, with 100% false normal rates, possibly at the cost of higher false abnormal rate. Kernel logistic regression was found to be the most suitable for this task.



Brings To You A Specially Curated Discussion On **EYECARE AND THE CARBON FOOTPRINT**



Dr Merle Fernandez
Director
Kallam Anji Reddy Campus
LV Prasad Eye Institute

in conversation with



Mr Thulasiraj Ravilla
Director, Operations
Aravind Eye Care System
Executive Director-LAICO

Day: Friday | Date: 24th June 2022
Time: 7 PM to 8 PM IST



Climate change and its impact on the environment are rapidly becoming a crisis, resulting in extreme climate conditions and directly impacting health. Healthcare providers are a significant contributor to carbon emissions and thus there is a need for us to look at ways to mitigate the same.

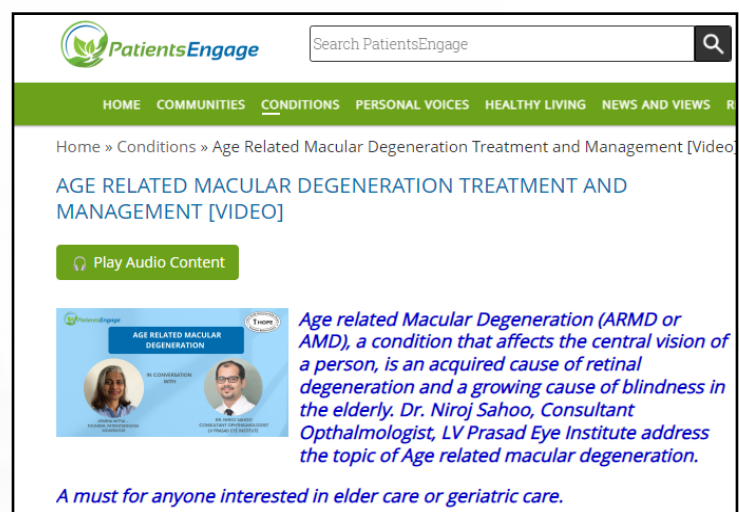
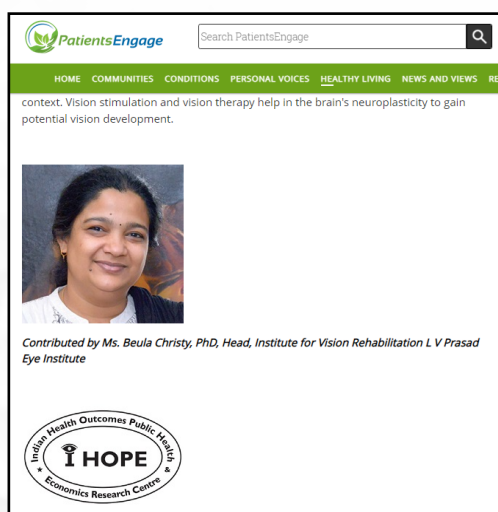
The webinar on **Eyecare and the Carbon Footprint** discussed how we can Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Rethink, and Research.

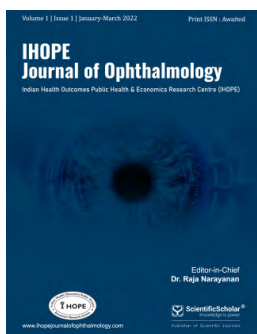
Recordings available at <https://ihope2020.org/events/>



Ongoing collaboration with PatientsEngage (www.patientsengage.com) with a view to provide patient education and public awareness on eye health

April '22	Panel discussion on Glaucoma – with Dr Sirisha Senthil and Viji Venkatesh (patient advocate) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZY4KntaHtkE
May'22	Article on How to cope with Vision Loss – Dr Beula Christy https://www.patientsengage.com/healthy-living/how-cope-vision-loss
June'22	Interview on Age Related Macular Degeneration with Dr Niroj Kumar Sahoo https://www.patientsengage.com/conditions/age-related-macular-degeneration-treatment-management-video



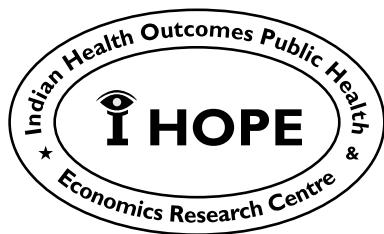


IHOPE Journal of Ophthalmology

The second issue of the IHOPEJO was released in May'22. Six co-authored articles by IHOPE and NICE International faculty have been published under the 'Updates' section in the journal. They are a result of the knowledge exchange series conducted by NICE on the process to contextualize evidence based clinical guidelines in India.

Available at <https://ihopejournalofophthalmology.com/current-issue/>

Title of Article	Authors
1. Using real-world data alongside evidence in guideline development	Anirudh Gaurang Gudlavalleti Hugh McGuire
2. Commissioning, contracting and contextualizing guidelines to other jurisdictions	Pilar Pinilla Dominguez
3. Introduction to quality standards and indicators	Raashi Raj Hugh McGuire Pilar Pinilla Dominguez
4. Implementation: Putting guidance into practice	
5. Developing and quality assuring clinical guidelines	Kriti Shukla Hugh McGuire Pilar Pinilla Dominguez
6. Surveillance and guidelines update process at NICE	



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Website : www.ihope2020.org