

Quarterly
Newsletter

September 2022



Preeti Manchanda has joined the IHOPE team as a Research Assistant at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad.

Preeti completed her undergraduate degree, with Hons in Economics from the University of Delhi. She was the recipient of the Government of India fellowship for her degrees in Master's and M.Phil. in Population Studies at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. After that, she worked as a research associate at ASER Centre, a research wing of Pratham Education Foundation for over 3 years. She also serves as a council member at AI for Good Foundation, headquartered in Berkeley, California. She is also a peer reviewer for a few national and international journals. Her research interests include development, the economics of health & education and mental health.



Dr. Anjali Masih has joined as a Senior Research Assistant at the Indian Institute of Public Health Hyderabad

She hails from Delhi and has completed her schooling from the Carmel Convent School, Delhi. She then pursued her Bachelor of Dental Surgery from Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana.

She has worked as a Dentist at the Fortis Hospital, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. She went on to pursue her Masters in Public Health from the Indian Institute of Public Health- Hyderabad. During her Masters she got the opportunity to work as an external monitor with WHO for Covid-19 vaccination sites under the National Public Health Surveillance Project for Rangareddy district for a period of two months.

After completing her Masters she worked as a Research Associate with Orbis International India office for development of their 5-year strategic plan.



Neelima Sharma has joined IHOPE as the Project Lead at L V Prasad Eye Institute.

In her previous role Neelima was working as the Team Lead at Larvol where she was leading the Social Media team for Oncology and was responsible for stakeholder, project and time management activities. She has also worked with organizations like Aurobindo Pharma and IQVIA.

She completed her Masters in Biotechnology from Madras University, and a PG Diploma in Healthcare and Hospital Management from LIBA Chennai.



Sweet Cash: Is Healthcare a Normal Good for Women in Developing Countries?

Shubhangi Agrawal, Chirantan Chatterjee, and Somdeep Chatterjee

In this paper, we explore the little studied role of gender-based tastes and preferences in the empirical relationship between income and demand for health care. Based on a large body of evidence which suggests that the gender identity of the recipient of money can significantly influence allocation of resources within the household, we conjecture that an increase in women's income may have interesting and unconventional effects on demand for healthcare. Using data from a high-frequency large nationally representative household survey in India, we exploit exogenous variation in women's take-home salary incomes, generated by a change in the mandated rates of contribution to the employees' provident fund, to estimate impacts on health care spending. We find that an increase in take-home salary of women is associated with a decrease in overall spending on healthcare expenses such as consultations and medications. While this could potentially be explained by improved health outcomes of women, we control for health-status and compare healthcare utilization at the intensive margin, i.e., conditional on hospital visits for seeking treatment, and find a similar negative correlation. We achieve this by supplementing our primary analysis using administrative data on hospital electronic medical records from a leading chain of eye hospitals in India. Our results suggest that women's preferences for healthcare may be guided by various other factors, such as social and household norms, and therefore it is not obvious that estimated income elasticities of healthcare demand for women would always be positive, particularly in a developing country context.

Pandemic Shock and Technology Replacement: Evidence from EMR Data on High-end Medical Treatment in India

*Sawan Rathi, Anindya S. Chakrabarti,
Chirantan Chatterjee, Anthony Vipin Das, Raja Narayanan*



New technology adoption is driven by a troika – demand-pull, technology-push, and institutions shaped by market and non-market forces. In technologically laggard countries, often this process is slowed due to frictions arising from the fact that the new technology has to replace an established older technology. In this paper, we exploit the COVID-19 pandemic shock to examine how intra-organization technology replacements occurred due to concurrent shifts in the demand and the supply side. Specifically, we focus on the adoption of a high-end medical technology, Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography (OCTA), by ophthalmologists to diagnose prevalent eye diseases – replacing less costly and older technology OCT. We use novel Electronic Medical Records (EMR) data from one of the largest eye-care hospital chains in India that treats both non-paying and paying patients with a not-for-profit orientation. In a difference-in-differences setup, we consider non-paying patients as the treatment group and paying patients as the control group. We find that visual acuity among the pool of non-paying patients worsened during lockdown. Demand-pull generated through increased impairment propelled OCTA adoption by 21.6% points, predominantly facilitated through technology-push by young physicians. Higher adoption of OCTA, in turn, contributed to improving the eyesight of the non-paying patients. Our results go through various robustness checks and we conclude discussing the managerial and policy implications of our findings.

Congratulations!



Prof. Chirantan Chatterjee for starting a new position as
PhD Program Convenor at University of Sussex Science
Policy Research Unit (SPRU)

KUDOS TO YOU



Dr Ponnari Gottipati has been invited to visit the United States under the auspices of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) for a three-week program entitled “Promoting Biomedical Innovation and Entrepreneurship” from October 3 to October 21, 2022.

Established in 1940, the IVLP is among the U.S. government’s most prestigious professional exchange programs for foreign opinion leaders.

This program will focus on promoting biomedical innovation and entrepreneurship in developing new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics and devices. These solutions will not only lower research and development costs but enhance access and affordability by lowering healthcare costs for citizens in India, the United States and the whole world.

The new academic block of the Indian Institute of Public Health Hyderabad was inaugurated on the 25 of Aug'22 by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Health, Government of Telangana. IIPHH will operate academic and research programs from their brand new permanent campus in Rajendra Nagar from 1st Sept'22





Press Coverage



<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/business/iiph-hyderabad-academic-block-inaugurated-institute-to-operate-academic-and-research-programmes-from-permanent-campus-in-rajendra-nagar-from-september-202220220825162911/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/public-health-management-will-be-focus-of-ts-govt-harish-rao/article65809825.ece>

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2022/aug/26/it-wings-in-all-primary-health-centressoon-telangana-health-minister-harish-2491482.html>



COLLABORATION



The second set of workshops with NICE International started on 2nd of Aug'22 and will be spread over the next quarter. Work package two consists of eight knowledge transfer and capability building sessions to consolidate learnings from workshop one that concluded in early 2022.

- Session 1 Recruiting a topic expert committee
- Session 2 Quality assurance
- Session 3 Patient and public involvement
- Session 4 Training lay members
- Session 5 Managing a committee meeting
- Session 6 Induction for Topic Expert Committee members
- Session 7 Health economics
- Session 8 Adaptive HTA methods

This series of knowledge transfer sessions will focus on the key skills and capabilities that can support the development of a 'de novo' guideline as well as adaptation and the contextualisation of NICE guidelines.

IHOPE has formed a Secretariat which has 2 members in an Advisory role and 7 members who form the Secretariat. They are ably supported by an internal project team. The first meeting of the Secretariat was conducted on the 26th of Jul'22. The members of the Secretariat will now identify the various topic expert committees and elect their chairs. These chairs will then recruit committee members within these groups to take this process further.

All the best!



Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

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Prof **Anindya S. Chakrabarti** takes on the role of the new UTI Associate Professor Chair in Macroeconomics at IIMA.

He delivered his inaugural lecture today, which is based on his study titled 'Granular Origin of Comovement in Fluctuations' that he has co-authored with Shekhar Tomar of ISB.

The study takes a close look at the origin of economic fluctuations in India. It shows that when taken together, the ten largest companies from each region can explain around two-thirds of the economic fluctuations across all states in India.



EVENTS

22 July 2022



This webinar discussed in detail Ophthalmic Packages under PMJAY. The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY) of India is the largest health scheme in the world. The scheme was launched in 2018 and has since grown exponentially, covering almost 2000 procedures.



Ophthalmic Packages under PMJAY : New inclusions and way forward

Top Procedures utilized under AB-PMJAY

| Procedure | Preauth cases | Amount | Avg. per case |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Cataracts | 1249269 | 8630110669 | 6908 |
| Pterygium + Conjunctival Autograft | 36344 | 215478353 | 5929 |
| Pterygium + Conjunctival Autograft | 28644 | 267028605 | 9322 |
| Capsulotomy (YAG) | 26745 | 45561489 | 1704 |
| Retinal Detachment Surgery | 17695 | 360542102 | 20375 |
| Vitreoretinal Surgery (with Silicon Oil Insertion) | 11864 | 278831047 | 23502 |
| Laser for retinopathy (per sitting) | 11637 | 17968727 | 1544 |
| PTERYGIUM CONJUNCTIVAL AUTOGRAFT | 10951 | 70426945 | 6431 |
| CONJUNCTIVAL TUMOUR EXCISION | 10164 | 110780000 | 10899 |

90% of utilization under ophthalmology is only in these packages

Watch later Share

Arnaz Dalal

Arnaz Dalal

Dr. Narayanan

Dr. S. Channarayana Naidu

Gundlappa Prasa...

Gundlappa Prasad Reddy

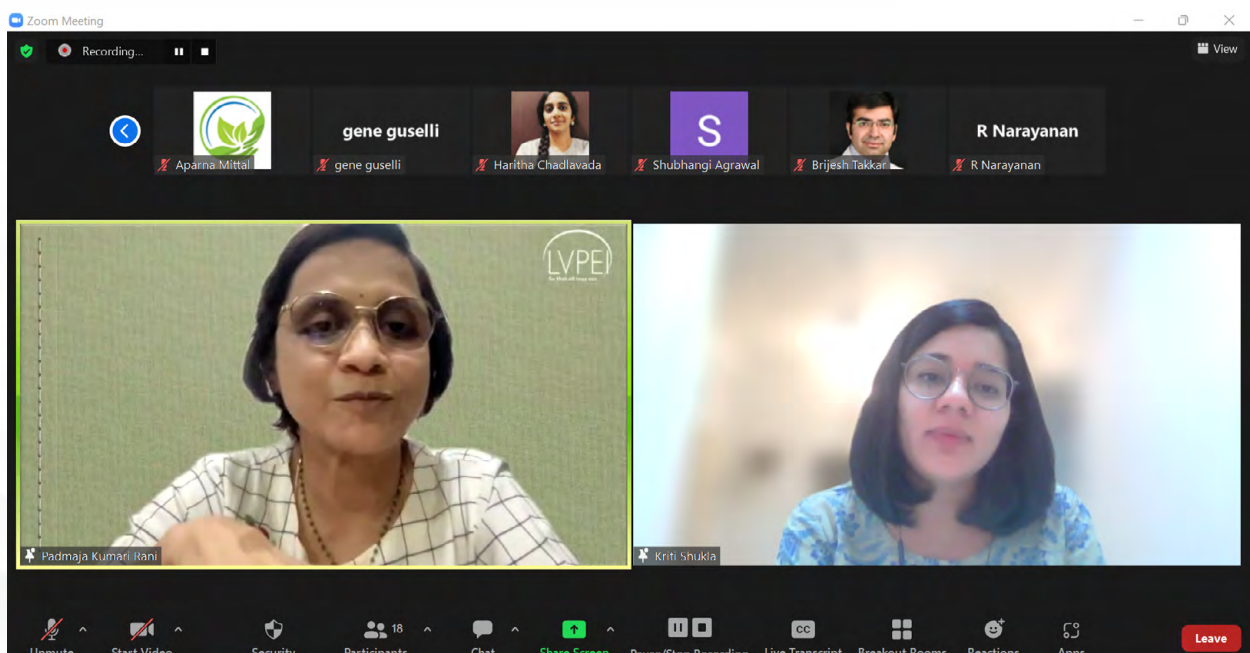
The recent addition of screening procedures for glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy are a step in the right direction to reduce blindness from these two diseases. Physicians are now in a position to take up screening at a large scale, and many patients can be saved from the late-stage complications of diabetic retinopathy.

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



This webinar was conducted on 26 Aug'22 and Dr Padmaja Kumari Rani was the speaker on the topic : Creating sustainable eye health systems through Teleophthalmology.

Teleophthalmology aims to improve patient care, expand the healthcare offerings, and access to medical care by reducing overall costs. Topics around barriers in adoption, assessing patient satisfaction, consent process etc were discussed in detail.



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



2022
23 & 24 September

The 2nd IHOPE Conference was a hybrid conference conducted on the 23 and 24 of Sep at the L V Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad.

It was an action packed two days with keynote talks and interactive panel discussions by well-known leaders in their fields. The program pivoted around the four research pillars of IHOPE namely - Public Health, Big Data, Health Economics and Policy.

Shortlisted free paper presentations were made by participants. To end the program we also had a pre launch discussion by the authors and contributors of the book "Flattening the Curve".

The newly appointed British Deputy High Commissioner to Hyderabad Mr. Gareth Wynn Owen was the guest of honor at the IHOPE conference dinner hosted on 23rd September. The DIT team at BDHC Hyderabad led by Mr. Harsh Indrarun has been instrumental in coordinating the dialogue with NICE International UK. Mr. Owen expressed his support to help continue the collaboration to further deepen the healthcare relations between India and the UK.

Quotes from the conference



Pilar Pinilla Dominguez
Associate Director – NICE
International

“NICE International is delighted to engage with IHOPE in the important endeavour to develop evidence-based eye health guidelines in India. Collaboration of this kind builds a stronger global health community and offers exciting opportunities for the future.”



Oindrila Dey
Assistant Professor
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

“Had a wonderful time at the conference. Meeting extremely talented researchers across different disciplines was undoubtedly a great experience. I have learnt a lot and have carried back some very noble ideas to ponder upon.”



Deepshikha Batheja
Post Doc Fellow
Onehealth Trust, PSO

“I was delighted to participate at the 2nd Annual IHOPE Conference. Congratulations to the entire IHOPE team for conducting an enaging and well-organized conference, exemplifying a successful hybrid event involving both online and offline participants. IHOPE’s commitment towards public health research through a multi-disciplinary approach is both essential and commendable. It will serve to greatly strengthen data driven public health policy making on vision care in the country, and thereby improve overall well-being.”



Tanika Chakraborty
Associate Professor
India Institute of Management
Calcutta

“Thanks to IHOPE for creating a much needed multi-disciplinary platform for exchange of ideas and research across diverse fields but all working towards the same goal. It was a pleasure to participate in the iHope conference and learn about the exciting research initiatives undertaken by iHope. I am confident that the research coming out of the iHope project and the discussions during the iHope conference would contribute significantly towards the improvement of society.”





VIRTUAL HEALTHCARE: Towards an inclusive future of healthcare

This workshop was jointly hosted by the Australia-India Institute, the VirtuCare network and the Indian Institute of Public Health Hyderabad (The Public Health Foundation of India).

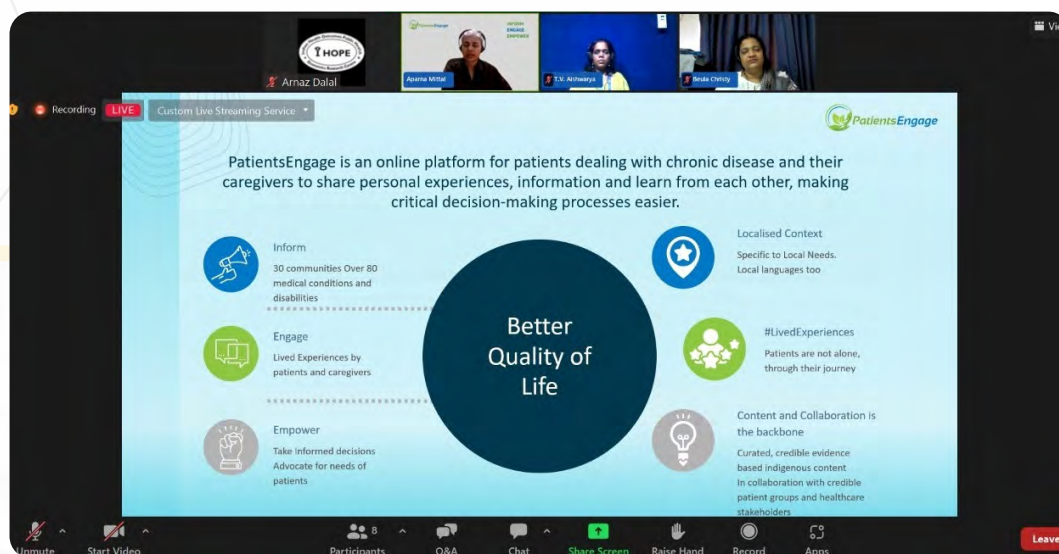
The aim of the workshop was to bring together Australian and Indian health researchers, practitioners and professionals from universities, research agencies and technology companies for networking and collaboration in inclusive digital health and technology. It sought to identify themes in inclusive digital health and technology for which there is significant potential for research and technical collaboration between the two countries, and to promote research and work with people with disability to co-design interventions in inclusive digital health. The workshop is a part of an ongoing project to maximise virtual health care and ensure all are included.





IHOPE's ongoing collaboration with PatientsEngage (www.patientsengage.com) has an underlying objective of providing patient education and public awareness on eye health.


In July'22 we conducted a Webinar on Vision Rehabilitation for Better Quality of Life. This discussion highlighted the importance of vision rehabilitation and how early intervention can help a person with low vision or blindness live productive lives.



Recording available at <https://www.patientsengage.com/news-and-views/webinar-vision-rehabilitation-better-quality-life>

An Interview in Aug'22 on Diabetic Macular Edema Treatment and Prevention was conducted by Aparna Mittal, Founder, PatientsEngage with Dr. Padmaja Kumari Rani, Network Head, Tele-Ophthalmology L V Prasad Eye Institute.

DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA TREATMENT AND PREVENTION [VIDEO]

 Play Audio Content



Diabetic Macular Edema is a complication of diabetes and can impact vision if left undiagnosed and untreated. It affects persons with both Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 diabetes. Dr. Padmaja Kumari Rani, Network Head, Tele-Ophthalmology and Vitreoretinal surgeon, Consultant Ophthalmologist, L V Prasad Eye Institute answers questions on the risk factors, treatment and prevention of Diabetic Macular Edema

Recording available at <https://www.patientsengage.com/news-and-views/diabetic-macular-edema-treatment-prevention-video>

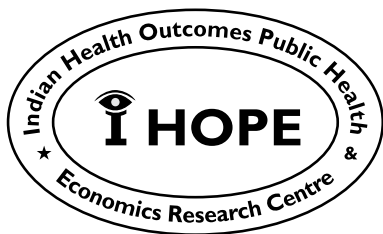


In Sep'22 a Webinar on Dry Eyes Prevention and Management was conducted. Dr. Sayan Basu, Network Director- Research, L V Prasad Eye Institute was the expert panellist for this session.

Dry Eyes disease is a growing public health problem and one of the most common conditions seen by eye practitioners. It is an often unrecognised disease affecting millions of people and results in symptoms of discomfort, visual disturbance and tear film instability with potential damage to the ocular surface. This session addressed the prevention and management of dry eyes.

Recording available at <https://www.patientsengage.com/news-and-views/dry-eyes-prevention-management-webinar-video>





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