

Rotary Club Host Project Alumni Newsletter

 AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
The Eye M.D. Association

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From the Editor

This issue of the Newsletter highlights 2002 alumnus, Dr. Uday Gajiwala. Like Dr. Wanye in Ghana who was highlighted in the last issue, Dr. Gajiwala is living a life of service. In his work with the Society for Education, Welfare and Action (SEWA) – Rural, he is one of many in India who are busy making their villages and towns better places to live and are helping to create an India that Gandhi would have been proud of. His story is “a journey from a secondary level eye care facility to tertiary care to training centre to centre of excellence.”



Kenneth D. Tuck, MD

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has created a comprehensive online educational resource, the [Ophthalmic News & Education \(O.N.E.™\) Network](#). It's a powerful resource that will allow the Academy to share more of its resources with you. Beginning in January 2009 it will be **available free to ophthalmologists in developing nations**. In addition, you will find resources for setting up telemedicine links for e-consultations.

You are welcome and encouraged to contribute information for inclusion in the RCHP Alumni Newsletter. Send your news, updates, articles, contributions and comments to wovaitt@aao.org. Find alumni and access the previous edition of the Newsletter at <http://www.aao.org/international/rchp.cfm>

Alumni News

COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE PROGRAM
From 2002 Alumnus, Uday Gajiwala, MS

In The Spotlight

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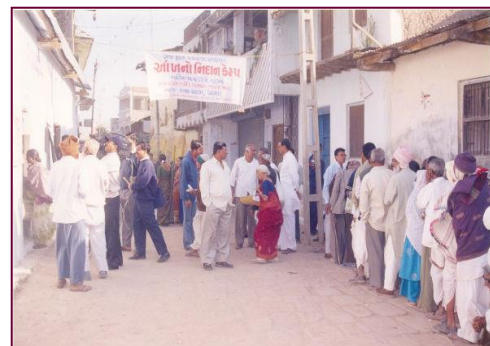
SEWA – Rural is a voluntary development organization involved in health and development activities in the rural tribal areas of Bharuch and Narmada districts in South Gujarat, India that was established in 1980. We have developed a comprehensive eye care program that includes tertiary eye care, training programs, public health education, operational research activities, diagnostic eye camps, satellite centres, community based rehabilitation of the blind, a community eye health project and an integrated education program for blind children.

The program is described here as it may serve as a replicable model in other locations. In a nutshell, it is a journey from a secondary level eye care facility to tertiary care to training centre to centre of excellence. And the journey still continues. With the grace of God, we hope to do the best that we can for the poor community around us.

Base Hospital Activities

The eye care services covers a population of 2.5 million. Recognizing the importance of eye care, the hospital established well equipped eye department with 30 beds. Today, there are 60 beds and six full time ophthalmologists. Through the eye care program, the surrounding villages became cataract free as per WHO guide-lines. This is our contribution to the Vision 2020 program, though it is a drop in the ocean.

1. Tertiary Eye Care: Modern equipment is available and subspecialty clinics are held regularly. Every year more than 10,000 patients benefit, and more than 50% patients are treated free. Medicine and spectacles are available at concessional rates.



Patients waiting at the campsite

2. Training Activities: Training programs for ophthalmic assistants, ophthalmologists in manual SICS, theatre nurses, camp organizers, optical fitting, foundation course for primary teachers and CBR workers are run on a regular basis. A DNB program was recently approved and two resident doctors are now in training.

3. Health Education: For providing eye health education various video documentary, posters, pamphlets and dramas are prepared. This activity is carried out in diagnostic camps, in the villages, in the hospital and at the tertiary eye care center on a regular basis.

Paramedical staff using auto refractor

4. Operational Research Activities: These include surveys for the govt. of India & WHO, need for school screening in



primary schools/ visual acuity cut off for school screening, infection control measures, effectiveness of short term training etc.

Outreach Activities

1. Diagnostic Eye Camps: 100 diagnostic eye camps are conducted regularly covering four districts. High quality concept is maintained in these camps. Community participation is always kept in the centre. Low cost spectacles are also provided. Yearly, approximately 25,000 patients are examined in camps. Now, subspecialty camps are also conducted.

2. Satellite Centres: We are running a daily OPD and twice a week surgeries a satellite centre where a separate eye OT has been assigned to us by the Government of Gujarat. Monthly OPD is run in five clusters of villages. This is a unique experiment of government-NGO collaboration. We examine 4,000 patients in outreach / year. We run four weekly vision centres where ophthalmic assistants examine 2,500 patients (surgeries done at HQ).

3. Community Based Rehabilitation of the Blind (CBR): So far, 640 blind people from surrounding villages have been rehabilitated under this program. The following types of rehabilitation have been done: orientation & mobility, activities of daily living, social and economic rehabilitation, and integrated education for blind children & are assisted in getting govt. benefits.

We provide interest free seed capital to economic program beneficiaries. 27 blind people were sent for training in agriculture & were provided with financial aid at the end of training to become self reliant. A special follow up project to keep in contact with these clients was started this year.



Economic beneficiary selling flowers

4. Community Eye Health (CEH) Project: In 2001, a CEH program was started combining primary eye care with traditional rehabilitation for the first time in the country, keeping in view the low doctor:population ratio & relatively more medical problems in rural areas. Activities include Vitamin A dist., school screening, spectacles distribution, measles Immunization, cataract operations, first aid, etc. Sightsavers International now promotes this approach elsewhere.

5. Integrated Education Program: 80 blind children in five clusters of villages have been covered under integrated education scheme with the help of four Braille teachers. Of these, 22 blind students are taking education in the nearby city residential schools. 32 students are pursuing their studies in local schools. Two students have completed their graduation.

The eye care today is a comprehensive program encompassing all the components – cure, prevention, promotion & rehabilitation. We have become a member in Vision 2020 India - trying to contribute at larger level in advocacy issues through published articles in journals.

Help us keep up to date on the latest information on Rotary Club Host Project Alumni!
Please send news and updates to wovaitt@aao.org for inclusion in the next edition.

E-Education – O.N.E.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has created a comprehensive online educational resource, the Ophthalmic News & Education (O.N.E.™) Network. It's a powerful resource that will allow the Academy to share more of its resources with you. Beginning in January 2009 it will be **available free to ophthalmologists in developing nations.**

The O.N.E. Network features a powerful clinical search system for quick retrieval of relevant information to meet specific clinical challenges. The search scours trusted Academy resources, including the *Basic and Clinical Science Course*, as well as extensive literature banks of Academy and third party materials, including *Ophthalmology* and other ophthalmic journals.



well

Personalize your O.N.E. home page to see the latest news in just your subspecialty, from the month's top journal studies. This resource features the latest in clinical updates, techniques, diagnostics, controversies and strategies for managing complications – all filtered for your subspecialty.

Develop personal learning plans, set and monitor educational goals, and enrich your clinical expertise using more than 50 free courses, cases, videos and podcasts.

O.N.E.'s free online self-assessment provides real time, anonymous evaluation of your performance compared with your peers, and it identifies areas in which you may wish to polish your expertise by giving feedback for incorrect answers.

O.N.E. will automatically analyze your self-assessments and suggest relevant content that can augment your custom learning plan. You choose which tasks are added to your learning plan and assign a completion date. O.N.E. will send reminders to keep you on track.

For help in treating specific diseases, you can search practice guidelines that are based on clinical evidence and expert consensus to help you treat specific diseases. Improve quality

of care by decreasing inappropriate variation and expediting medical advances into everyday practice.

If you would like to have access to the O.N.E. Network in January 2009 please contact Annamarie Hastings by email ahastings@aao.org

E-Consultations

Cyber-Sight®

ORBIS International's telemedicine program, Cyber-Sight, makes it possible for ophthalmologists in developing countries to benefit from the knowledge and experience of ORBIS volunteer faculty whenever the need arises. ORBIS volunteer medical faculty offer online assistance to local doctors in diagnosing and treating patients while giving them the opportunity to grow in skills and confidence.

Through the Cyber-Sight website, eye care professionals in developing countries transmit patient data and digital images to ORBIS volunteer doctors for assistance with diagnosis and discussion of case management. Volunteer faculty responds to queries electronically in a timely manner, entering into a dialog with partners.



Sight,
of
ORBIS

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Cyber-Sight has three distinctive program components to aid blindness prevention:

- E-Consultation links partners with expert mentors for the purpose of patient consultation on all cases, including pediatric ophthalmology.
- E-Resources provides convenient access to ophthalmology educational resources and materials geared to any eye care provider worldwide.
- E-Learning allows enrolled doctors to take tests covering basic ophthalmic material while earning continuing medical education credit.

To learn more about Cyber-Sight see <http://telemedicine.orbis.org/bins/home.asp>

To request an application to receive expert consultation for your difficult patients as a Cyber-Sight partner, contact cyber-sight.consult@orbis.org

Swinfen Charitable Trust

The Swinfen Charitable Trust establishes telemedicine links between hospitals in the developing world and specialists, including ophthalmologists, who give free advice by email. Digital cameras are used to send clinical photographs by email.

The Swinfen Charitable Trust has provided telemedicine links to 120 hospitals in 34 countries. The specialists are located in: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Finland, Germany, Iraq, Sweden, New Zealand, USA and UK.

To learn more, see <http://www.swinfencharitabletrust.com/>

You are welcome and encouraged to contribute articles for inclusion in the Alumni Newsletter. Please send your contributions or your questions, comments, or suggestions for future editions of the RCHP Alumni Newsletter to wovaitt@aao.org.

This electronic newsletter is sent to alumni and current participants of the Academy's Rotary Club Host Project. If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or would like the newsletter sent to a different e-mail address, please send your request to wovaitt@aao.org.

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