Orbis India publishes a quarterly newsletter spotlighting Orbis’ activities and events, latest news from partner institutions, upcoming events and inspiring stories along the Orbis journey.

We welcome you to browse, read and share this!
From the Director’s Desk

2017 has gotten off to a wonderful start! To begin with, the Orbis REACH program has touched 1 million children in seven months. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners and our donor, the Qatar Fund for Development, for joining us in improving the lives of so many children.

The Flying Eye Hospital was in Doha this March and the overwhelming response from the people of Qatar as well as the enthusiasm of global participants who connected with us remotely through our telemedicine platform, Cybersight, made the visit truly memorable.

Closer to home, on behalf of Orbis India I would like to congratulate Dr. Vinay Nangia for getting the APAO Achievement Award and the Quality Resource Center team at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital for successfully completing the first ever Quality Manager's Fellowship Program.

This strong start shows great promise for the year ahead. Let’s work together and ensure that we achieve more than we had planned.

Dr. Rahul Ali
Country Director - India
Orbis International
We’ve REACHed 1 million children!

We are overjoyed to announce that we have reached one million children in seven months through our brand new program REACH - Refractive Error Among Children. REACH is being implemented under the Qatar Creating Vision initiative with the generous support of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). It has been through the incessant efforts of our partners, Aravind Eye Hospital, H. V. Desai Eye Hospital, Little Flower Hospital, Vivekananda Mission Asram Netra Niramay Niketan, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, Sankara Nethralaya and Sightsavers that we have been able to achieve so much in so short a time. We take this opportunity to thank QFFD and our partners and hope that we reach many more children within these three years!
Congratulations Dr. Vinay Nangia on getting the APAO Achievement Award

We would like to congratulate Dr. Vinay Nangia from Suraj Eye Hospital, Nagpur for his recent achievement at the 32nd Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress which was held in Singapore from March 1 – 5, 2017. Dr. Nangia received the APAO Achievement Award for his contribution to the Science of the Asia Pacific Academy. The conference, held under the theme “Discovery, Innovation and Practices,” focused on exciting areas such as new treatments for major eye diseases, novel imaging and surgical techniques, and results of pivotal clinical trials to provide evidence-based practices for Asian eye diseases. Over 1,000 leading experts from around the world attended and spoke on several areas of ophthalmology and visual sciences. The Congress also serves as an apt platform for delegates to network and seek collaborative opportunities.
It gives us great pleasure to announce that now the Orbis Vision Screening Handbook has been released in several regional and international languages, namely, Odiya, Tamil, Bengali, Malayalam, Kannada, Chinese and Nepalese. This would ensure the availability of the handbook to a larger and diverse audience. The book has been developed to aid teachers in identifying vision problems, eye diseases and disorders among their students as also to educate students on eye health and safety. We hope that the availability of this resource in a range of languages helps us bridge any communication gaps at the community level across the country. Internationally too, we hope it helps teachers identify children with vision problems, refer them for treatment and help children in reaching their full academic potential.
Glaucoma Week – CLGEI’s initiatives to increase awareness on the disease

C.L. Gupta Eye Institute (CLGEI) observed World Glaucoma Week between March 12 and 19 this year. Activities included a public awareness lecture by Dr. Mukesh Kumar, Glaucoma specialist, on Doordarshan along with a poster competition for optometry diploma students. The winning posters were put on display in the waiting lounges of the hospital. The key event was a mass rally in which over 300 volunteers had participated. The rally was flagged off by CMO Moradabad while Assistant Director - Basic Education, Dr. Ashi Khurana, CEO, CLGEI, Dr. Mukesh Kumar and Dr. Richa Gupta, both Glaucoma consultants, delivered informative talks on the cause and treatment of Glaucoma. Mrs. Shikha Gupta, Chairperson, CLGEI and Mr. Gurbinder Singh, Secretary, Eye Bank addressed the public and motivated them to spread awareness on the disease.
When we celebrated Orbis Day

The India office celebrated Orbis Day 2017 on February 22. The day began with planting a tree to make a small but real contribution towards a cleaner and better environment. This was followed by a day spent in the outskirts of the city where the team indulged in trekking, making its way through an obstacle course, having fun pictures clicked with a special Orbis Day 2017 Facebook photo frame. Fun cartoons of the team were also made and handed over to everyone along with the Orbis Values Toolkit. The day concluded with the hand painting of t-shirts and some team building activities. Each year, Orbis Day is celebrated not just to have fun but also to reiterate and reflect upon our organizational values: **Trust, Commitment, Accountability, Caring** and **Excellence**.
Vision Ambassadors at Arpakkam, Tamil Nadu

The Sankara Nethralaya team was eagerly welcomed at the government higher secondary school, Arpakkam. It was a great start for the students of Class 11, nursing stream and the teachers-in-charge for the day as they attended the vision ambassador training and an awareness session. The young girls from nursing class were brimming with curiosity about this brand new concept of vision ambassadors. One of the girls even said, “I feel really proud to have tested the eyes of my schoolmates. It encourages me to study further and wear a white coat like them,” pointing towards the Sankara Nethralaya team.

What is more overwhelming is the enthusiasm with which the school has taken this initiative forward and is planning to conduct a separate session on ‘Eye health awareness and vision ambassador training’ as a part of their science project association in the next academic year!
First ever Quality Manager’s Fellowship Program for eye hospitals

Dr. Van Thanh Nguyen, Senior Ophthalmologist, Binh Dinh Hospital, Ms. Le Thi Thuy Trang, Quality Manager, Hue Eye Hospital and Dr. Nguyen Thi Thanh Truc, Ophthalmologist, Hue Eye Hospital were trained under the first ever Quality Manager’s Fellowship Program at the Quality Resource Center (QRC) set up at Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital. On the occasion of their convocation, the three trainees felt that the training was immensely resourceful. Dr. Thanh said, “I have attended many sessions on quality improvement before but learnt much more here at the QRC.” Ms. Trang felt her learning experience was a first and found it enriching. Dr. Truc felt, that after having learnt so much in a short span of time, she would go back to Vietnam and chalk out a quality plan which she would then present to the quality committee at her hospital. The training, which began on January 2, 2017, a first of its kind in India, is to be held biannually with the second one planned for August this year.
The Flying Eye Hospital was in Doha

The Orbis Flying Hospital (FEH) visited Doha in March to celebrate Qatar Creating Vision, a unique initiative of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), led by Orbis. H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar and H.E. Mr. Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, took a tour of the FEH with their team. Also, Egbert Schillings, CEO of World Innovation Summit for Health (WISH), representatives from QFFD led by Misfer Hamad M A Al Hajri as well as Ambassadors and their teams from Bangladesh, Canada, France, India, UK, US and Vietnam visited the FEH. During the program, Orbis volunteer faculty, Dr. Donny Suh, conducted a series of Preferred Practice Medical Workshops on-board the aircraft with local doctors. Furthermore, over 300 medical professionals from 94 locations and 49 countries tuned in remotely alongside those on the plane for a special webinar on ‘Technical Aspects of Pediatric Surgery.’
SightLife’s Global Surgeon Training Program

SightLife hosts skills transfer courses and short-term fellowships in partnership with Orbis and other leading ophthalmic institutions to provide hands-on training in DSEK (Descemet's Stripping with Endothelial Keratoplasty) and PKP (Penetrating Keratoplasty) surgical techniques. Designed to improve surgeon’s ability to diagnose indications, assign treatment, develop surgical skill, and demonstrate effective postoperative care, the program gives opportunities to work with international and local faculty. This is possible through a combination of live surgeries, wet labs, clinic time, case studies and hands-on surgery. A series of DSEK and PKP skills transfer courses are scheduled between August and October 2017. Please write to surgeontraining@sightlife.org for more information.
Shivjee had traumatic cataract which remained untreated until Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital’s outreach team identified him during a screening camp. The 10-year-old stopped going to school for the past two years as a result of his inability to see. He also missed going out to play with his friends like he did before. After the surgery of his right eye, Shivjee was happy to go back outdoors and play with his friends. He resumed studies too and aspires to become a police officer.
Upcoming events

May 5 - 9, 2017
American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Los Angeles, California

May 7 - 11, 2017
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, Maryland, USA

May 18 - 21, 2017
American Ophthalmology Society Annual Meeting, Virginia, USA

May 25 – 26, 2017
International Conference on Ophthalmology and Optometry Research, Malaysia

May 26 - 27, 2017
Ocular Surgery News, Milan, Italy

June 01 – 03, 2017
30th APACRS (Asia-Pacific Association of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons) Annual Meeting, Hangzhou, China

June 03-04, 2017
VISION 2020: The Right to Sight – INDIA’s 13th Annual Conference at MGM Eye Institute, Raipur, India

June 05-06, 2017
2nd Pediatric Ophthalmology Congress, Milan, Italy

June 10 - 13, 2017
European Society of Ophthalmology, Barcelona, Spain
Upcoming events

June 28 - July 01, 2017
World Glaucoma Congress, Finland

June 29 - July 01, 2017
11th Global Ophthalmologists Meeting, Bangkok, Thailand

July 08 – 09, 2017
"IIRSI 2017" Annual Conference of Indian Intraocular Implant & Refractive Society at Hotel ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, India

July 10-11, 2017
2nd International Conference and Expo on Cataract and Advanced Eye Care, Berlin, Germany

July 14 – 15, 2017
"RETINA SUMMIT2017" Retinal Detachment CME Programme conducted by Sankara Nethralaya at Hotel Taj Coromandel, Chennai

August 04 - 06, 2017
"EROVISION 17" 65th Annual Conference of the Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, Erode, India

August 07 - 09, 2017
10th International Conference on Clinical and Surgical Ophthalmology, Beijing, China

August 12 – 13, 2017
"ISCKRS Meet 2017" Annual Conference of Indian Society of Cornea & Keratorefractive Surgeons at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India
Orbis is a leading global non-governmental organization that has been a pioneer in the prevention and treatment of blindness for over 30 years. Orbis transforms lives by providing the skills, resources and knowledge needed to deliver accessible quality eye care. Working in collaboration with local partners, Orbis provides hands-on training, strengthens eye care infrastructure and advocates for the prioritization of eye health on public health agendas. In India, the focus is specially on children, where Orbis has established the world’s largest network of Children’s Eye Centers: 31 centers across 17 states.

When we can see, it can be easy to take our vision for granted. But giving vision to someone who doesn’t have it is life-changing. And we change lives!