From the Director’s desk

Greetings from Orbis!

We have had an amazing few months here at Orbis. Globally, we welcomed our new President and CEO, John Robert “Bob” Ranck, a retired United States Airforce Brigadier General. We are also gearing up to unveil our much-awaited nextgen MD 10 Flying Eye Hospital.

Back in India, there has been progress in our project work - development of a set of CBA rubrics and the launch of a vision van to reach people most in need of quality care in Western Uttar Pradesh. Also, it is celebration time at some of the partner institutions as they scale newer heights.

We are looking forward to the months ahead, and the many things we have planned.

Thank you for your time and wish you all the best.

Dr. Rahul Ali
Country Director
Orbis India
Orbis has a new CEO

Retired United States Airforce Brigadier General, John Robert “Bob” Ranck joins Orbis as our new President and Chief Executive Officer. Ranck comes to Orbis with more than 30 years of experience as a strategist, leader and manager in a career that spans across military, manufacturing and small business sectors. Before joining Orbis, Ranck was Senior Vice President of Government Programs & Sales at Gulfstream Aerospace. At Integrated Systems Solutions, a Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned Small Business, he improved processes discipline and proposal quality. As a military chief executive in the United States Air Force, he led military units in domestic and international flying operations. Ranck is also a pilot and is qualified to fly the KC-10, a variant of the DC-10 aircraft that houses the current Orbis Flying Eye Hospital. Know more: http://bit.ly/1pZzAzG
Dr. Deepshika honored at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress

Dr. Deepshika Agarwal, Director, MGM Eye Institute, Raipur has been felicitated with the Distinguished Service Award for 2016 by the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology at their 31st Congress recently held in Taipei. She has received this award in recognition of her outstanding service and significant contribution to eye care in the country and the state of Chhattisgarh. Our hearty congratulations to Dr. Deepshika for this well deserved award.
Vision Van unveiled at CL Gupta Eye Institute

C L Gupta Eye Institute will now serve patients in remote areas with the new vision van. Generously supported by Alan Whicker, the Whicker’s World Foundation and Orbis, the van is an extension of the hospital with an aim to deliver primary eye care services to patients at their doorstep. It will complement the efforts of the outreach team in reaching the unreached. The van will screen patients and dispense spectacles at the camp site itself, saving both time and money for the patient.
Competency-Based Assessment Rubrics for Optometry and Related Disciplines

Orbis along with its partners, Aravind Eye Care System, Dr. Shroff’s Charity Eye Hospital, India Vision Institute, Little Flower Hospital and Research Center, L V Prasad Eye Institute, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh, PBMA H V Desai Eye Hospital, Sadguru Netra Chikitsalaya, Sankara Nethralaya, Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology and VMA Netra Niramay Niketan, developed a set of competency-based assessment (CBA) rubrics for optometry and related disciplines. These institutions are piloting the rubrics for a period of one year after which amendments will be made as required and the rubrics formally launched. CBA can play a critical role in determining the quality of training and can also provide objective guidance to Human Resources teams when they recruit staff as well as plan for their development. “The development of this set of CBA rubrics fulfills a long-standing need for having standards and benchmarks in the domain of training and development of human resources,” says Dr. Rahul Ali, Orbis.
Arunachal Pradesh ranks second among Indian states when it comes to the prevalence of blindness. In an effort to improve the eye health delivery in the state, VISION 2020 India in collaboration with the State Blindness Control Society conducted a situational analysis in two districts of Arunachal Pradesh involving various stakeholders. This will lead to the development of a State Action Plan which will act as a guiding tool and help key players plan and implement programs to effectively meet the eye health needs of the state.
Orbis Trustee Larry Benjamin wins award for volunteer work

Dr. Larry Benjamin, Orbis volunteer and trustee, won the Care Service Provider award at the annual UK Charity Staff & Volunteer Awards. The awards celebrate the outstanding dedication and achievements made by charity staff and volunteers across the UK. This year over 800 people were nominated across all categories. Pediatric Ophthalmologist, Larry has been involved with Orbis since 2004. Each year he dedicates countless hours to training ophthalmologists and treating children across the world. During this time, Larry has shared his skills across 14 programs in Asia and Africa, including India, Pakistan, Syria, Myanmar, Ghana and Zambia. We would like to congratulate Larry on this incredible win and thank him for his contribution to our efforts in India.
Drashti Nethralaya begins their silver jubilee year celebration
Drashti Nethralaya has entered their Silver Jubilee Year in March 2016. To celebrate this, the hospital is organizing a broad range of events and programs throughout the year. We wish Drashti Nethralaya all the success for many more years to come and look forward to our continued collaboration in the fight against needless blindness.
Our third-generation Flying Eye Hospital is coming soon
6 years in the making, 250,000 man hours, 17.6 miles of cabling, 26 screens and monitors, 9 custom
designed module, carrying 40 tons of medical equipment and teddy bears, Orbis is proud to introduce
our third-generation Flying Eye Hospital - The MD 10. A unique fusion of aviation innovation and
medical technology the cargo aircraft donated by FedEx is replacing the existing DC 10 as our next
generation, state of the art Flying Eye Hospital. For more than 30 years, FedEx has played an
indispensable role in helping Orbis achieve its vision of a world in which no one is needlessly blind.
Visit www.orbis.org/pages/launch to see the exciting teaser to the launch.
Orbis India has published a pictorial Vision Screening Handbook to help school teachers identify vision problems, eye diseases and disorders among their students as well as educate them about eye health and safety. The handbook comes with a screening chart and a 6-meter tape to aid screening. Accidentally, few copies of the handbook were left in Dinesh Chandra, our Assistant Director - Finance and Operation’s car following a conference at which we distributed the handbook. The next day, he drove down with his family to their family home in the countryside for an extended weekend. One afternoon his sons, Utkarsh and Rishab found the animated book in the car and asked Dinesh if it was a storybook. To engage and entertain the kids Dinesh started telling stories about what Orbis does, how it treated children like them and started screening the kids holding the screening charts 6-meters away using the tape. That was when Dinesh realized that Rishab faced difficulty in reading from a distance. As soon as they returned to Delhi, Dinesh took him for an eye examination where he was identified with refractive error and prescribed spectacles.

Dinesh being his usual witty self, says, “Is this what people mean when they say, charity begins at home?”
Upcoming events

30th April – 1st May 2016
"Overcoming Obstacles-Current Practices in Ophthalmology" by Poona Ophthalmological Society at Hotel Le Meridien, Pune.

04th – 08th May 2016
XIII International Congress of the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology, Bahrain.

06th – 07th May 2016

01st – 05th May 2016
Annual Meeting of Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology at Seattle, United States.

16th – 18th May 2016
6th Global Ophthalmologists Annual Meeting, Osaka, Japan.

24th – 26th May 2016
Annual Congress of Royal College of Ophthalmology at Birmingham, United Kingdom.

01st – 04th Jun 2016
XIV International Congress of Cataract and Refractive Surgery at Sao Paulo, Brazil.

06th – 07th June 2016
Global Pediatric Ophthalmology Congress, London, United Kingdom.
Upcoming events

17th – 19th Jun 2016
"Eye Advance 2016" XI International Congress on Advances in Ophthalmology at Renaissance, Mumbai Convention Center Hotel, Mumbai.

19th – 23rd June 2016
12th European Glaucoma Society Congress at Prague, Czech Republic.

18th – 19th July 2016
8th Global Ophthalmology Meeting at Chicago, United States.

04th – 05th August 2016
International Conference and Expo on Cataract and Optometrists Meeting, Manchester, United Kingdom.

5th – 7th August 2016
64th Annual Conference of the Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association at VIT, Vellore.

13th – 15th August 2016
"In-Optics 2016" Optical Trade Fair & Exhibition at Milan Mela, Kolkata.

19th – 21st Aug 2016
"BOA Focus 2016" 24th Annual Bombay Ophthalmologist Association Conference at ITC Maratha, Hyatt Regency and Hilton, Mumbai.

24th – 26th August 2016
9th Global Ophthalmology Summit at Sao Paulo, Brazil.
Orbis International

India Country Office,
6th Floor, Fortune Tower II, Plot No. 406, Udyog Vihar Phase III, Gurgaon,
Haryana - 122016, India

Tel: 91-124-4284601
Fax: 91-124-4284602
Email: info.india@orbis.org

We are an International not-for-profit organization working for eye care. Our programs focus on the prevention of blindness and the treatment of blinding eye disease specially among children.

We have been working in India for over a decade and have established the world’s largest network of Children’s Eye Centers in any one country; 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!