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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!
Greetings from Orbis!

I would like to thank all the partners for their unrelenting support towards realizing the Orbis dream in India.

This edition of the newsletter carries stories of everything Orbis and beyond that took place in the previous quarter. Congratulations to Sankara Nethralaya and Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital for winning awards at the 15th Annual Conference of Vision 2020-INDIA. I want to congratulate the Orbis team as well for participating and achieving awards at the conference.

Read through for stories and highlights from around the country and more.

All the best!

Rishi Raj Borah
Country Director - India
Orbis
The Flying Eye Hospital’s first program in Chile

The Flying Eye Hospital conducted its first program in Chile through cutting-edge simulation training which is a first for the country. Led by a dedicated team of expert volunteers, the simulation training breaks down a complex surgery into smaller parts allowing local teams to focus on a certain skill - something you cannot do with a human eye. Subjects covered were glaucoma, cataract, strabismus, medical retina, cornea, and pterygium, geared towards second-and-third year ophthalmology residents as well as postgraduate ophthalmologists from Chile, Bolivia and Peru.
Diabetic Retinopathy and ROP Pilot Initiatives Summit

Rishi Raj Borah, Country Director-India and Srinivasulu Kuragayala, Manager-Program Development, attended the Diabetic Retinopathy and Retinopathy of Prematurity (DRROP) conference held in Hyderabad between June 12-14, 2019. The summit was held to mark the end of two large scale initiatives for the prevention of blindness from diabetic retinopathy (DR) and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), which impact the vision of millions of Indians. Orbis, along with other INGOs and professional bodies presented on how the initiative can be scaled up. The DR and ROP initiatives helped strengthen health systems (particularly in tackling Non-communicable Diseases) in 14 states. At the summit, various hospitals and institutes also presented on their current initiatives.
We were at the Vision 2020-INDIA conference

The Orbis India team participated in the 15th Annual Conference of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight-INDIA held in Chennai. The event was inaugurated by the Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu, Shri Banwarilal Purohit. The Orbis team participated in the free paper and poster presentation. Sheeladevi Sethu, our Technical Advisor at Orbis received the Best Paper award for her paper titled: 'Childhood cataract in India – Present status and recommendations.' Srinivasulu Kuragayala, our Manager - Program Development also received the Best Poster award for his poster titled: "Integration of renewable energy and digital technology at vision centers to provide access to uninterrupted primary eye care services for remote and underserved communities"
Congratulations to our partners
We would like to congratulate our partners for receiving awards at the 15th Annual Conference of Vision 2020-The Right to Sight-INDIA held at Chennai. Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital received the Shri Dharamsey Nansey Oman award for their exemplary contribution in community eye care through the delivery of equitable, comprehensive and quality eye care. Sankara Nethralaya received the SN Shah for the eye health care services rendered by them with a focus on children and women.
Orbis brings Bihar its first Children’s Eye Center

Orbis has launched a new initiative in Bihar, along with Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital (AJEH) to reduce avoidable blindness and visual impairment among children in the state. The Children’s Eye Center (CEC) at AJEH is the 33rd such center supported by Orbis and the first Children’s Eye Center in Bihar. For pediatric eye care, this child-friendly center has been developed at AJEH to provide comprehensive services to children in the six districts. “We firmly believe that irrespective of a person’s capacity to pay, s/he should have access to world-class treatment...regardless of their social or economic background,” Mr. Mritunjay Tiwary, Founder and Head, Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital said.
Bob Ranck unveils Green Vision Centers for better eyes and better environment!

Bob Ranck, President and CEO, Orbis, inaugurated our Green Vision Center initiative! It is an innovative approach where a vision center is transformed through the use of a combination of clean solar energy, energy efficient electrical fixtures and appliances, and a user-friendly digital data management system. The project has been implemented in four Vision Centers of Siliguri Greater Lions Eye Hospital in Bagdogra, Shiv Mandir, Nagrakata and Malbazar in West Bengal. Speaking at the inaugural event, Bob said, "The Green Vision Center concept comes out of our deep concern for the future of our children, not just their eyes, but also the world around them, their environment!"
Orbis Annual Partners’ Meet 2019

The Annual Partners’ Meet 2019 was held in Delhi on April 05 – 06, 2019. Sessions under the theme of ‘The Public Face of Leadership’ were conducted by Bob Ranck, President and CEO, Orbis, and representatives from Genesis BCW, John Snow India, and Just Plain and Simple Consulting. The two-day meet had sessions on ‘Leadership & Communication,’ ‘Leading Others,’ ‘Brand Distinction-Self vs Organization,’ ‘Crisis Management’ and ‘Dealing with the Government.’ At the meet, The Singing Tree was launched in Odiya by Bob along with Mr. Sarangadhar Samal, Director, Kalinga Eye Hospital, Dhenkanal. We also unveiled the Orbis 2020 logo for our 20-year celebration in India next year. The regional meet was attended by our partners in India, Nepal and Indonesia.
Orbis has launched a new course on Cybersight.org following the blended learning approach. The “Fundamentals of Glaucoma” is a four-module course that covers the introduction to adult glaucoma, diagnosis of glaucoma, glaucoma medications, lasers & surgeries, and complications in glaucoma surgeries. Learners can choose to complete a specific module or all modules in a course for a certificate. For this course, the curriculum combines online self-paced learning on Cybersight, with in person skills transfer sessions which can be delivered through the Flying Eye Hospital or Hospital Based Trainings.
Partner staff refresher meet at the Orbis office

Orbis conducted a two-day project staff refresher meet held at the India office on May 9-10, 2019. The theme for the meet this year was ‘Referral Management’ sessions on which were taken by Dr. Suraj Singh Senjam, Associate Professor, Community Ophthamology Dept. at Dr. R.P. Centre, AIIMS. Partner hospital representatives from Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital, Bangalore West Lions Eye Hospital, Biratnagar Eye Hospital, CL Gupta Eye Institute, Mechi Eye Hospital, Nepal Netra Jyoti Sangh, and Susrut Eye Foundation & Research Centre attended the meet. Topics included ‘Factors affecting referral management,’ ‘Strategic plan to improve referral management,’ and ‘Data management systems to improve referral management.’
Bharath had a pair of glasses already when the Orbis partner, Bangalore West Lions Eye Hospital (BWLEH) undertook eye screening at his school. Bharath explained that he had been unable to see the blackboard or copy notes, for some time, a year ago so his parents took him to an optical shop and got him a pair of glasses. Although Bharath could see with those glasses, he was not wearing the right glasses with the right power. So, Bharath was prescribed a new pair of glasses by the hospital team. The result? When they went back to see if all the children prescribed glasses had any issues with their glasses, they found a happy Bharath able to copy notes and feeling more comfortable with his new pair of glasses than the ones he was using earlier!
Upcoming events

August 03-04, 2019
“ISCKRS Meet 2019” Annual Conference of Indian Society of Cornea and Keratorefractive Surgeons, New Delhi, India

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August 03-05, 2019
4th India International Optical & Ophthalmology Expo 2019, Hyderabad, India

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August 09-11, 2019
“Salem Eyecon 2019” The 67th Annual Conference of Tamil Nadu Ophthalmic Association, Tamil Nadu, India

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August 09-11, 2019
“BOA Focus 2019” XXVII Annual Conference of Bombay Ophthalmologists’ Association, Mumbai, India

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August 22-23, 2019
29th International Congress on Vision Science and Eye, Vienna, Austria

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August 24-25, 2019
Delhi Retina Meet 2019, New Delhi, India

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Upcoming events

**September 05-08, 2019**
XIV International Congress of the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology, Dead Sea, Jordan  
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**September 07-08, 2019**
Intraocular Implant and Refractive Society, India, Annual Conference 2019, New Delhi, India  
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**September 13-15, 2019**
“India Medic Fair 2019” Mega Healthcare and Medical Exhibition, Coimbatore, India  
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**September 16-17, 2019**
World Congress on Ophthalmology and Optometry, Singapore  
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**September 21-22, 2019**
“APTOS 2019” The 4th Asia-Pacific Tele-Ophthalmology Society Symposium, Chennai, India  
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**October 07-08, 2019**
IAPB’s Council of Members 2019, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
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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: 33 centers across 18 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!