



ISLRR VIEW

July 2020

Editor's letter

Michael Crossland, London, UK
@lowvisionnews

Well, we certainly didn't expect this! Hundreds of thousands of low vision clinic appointments cancelled or converted to telemedicine assessments, millions of children being educated at home, and one very important low vision conference being postponed by exactly a year.

I have been very impressed by how well low vision services around the world have adapted to the COVID-19 outbreak. From telephone appointments to very quick face-to-face assessments wearing masks and visors, different centres have taken different approaches to ensuring their patients continue to receive safe and effective low vision care.

Please do share your experiences of low vision in the time of Coronavirus. I will publish a selection of them in the next issue of ISLRR View.

I hope you and your loved ones are well.

Michael

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Vision 2020 becomes Vision 2020⁺¹!

Brian Allen, Dublin, Ireland

The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic has had impact on every aspect of our lives including curbing the wonderful opportunities that we have to gather together to discuss, meet, engage, and learn about topics which we are all passionate about including Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation.

It is with the safety and health of everyone concerned that we have come together with the ISLRR, VISPA, the local Organising team and our venue, CCD in Dublin to agree the postponement of Vision 2020 to the same week in July 2021.

We are therefore delighted to announce that Vision 2020, simply put, becomes:



and our conference with the same incredible programme and esteemed Keynote speakers will take place on 11-15 July 2021

- Same Week
- Same Keynotes
- Same Great Programme
- Same Registration Fees offered as Super Early Bird so Book now before they increase in 2021!

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin 11-15 July 2021 where our gathering together will be even more significant following these challenging times.

Stay Safe and Healthy and Join us in 2021!

www.vision2020dublin.com

vision2020@conferencepartners.ie

MEET THE EXEC: VIJAYA GOTHWAL

In the latest instalment of the 'Meet the Exec' series, we travel to India to meet Assistant Secretary Dr Vijaya Gothwal.



ISLRR View: Hi Vijaya! What is your role on the ISLRR committee?

Vijaya: I am the Assistant secretary of ISLRR

Outside ISLRR, what is your main job?

Patient care (low vision) and conducting research (mainly Patient-reported outcomes research such as understanding patient's perspectives of their eye condition, impact of the eye condition and its treatment on the quality of life, etc. in glaucoma (adult and pediatric), diabetic retinopathy, cataract, strabismus and corneal disorders, etc., falls in older adults, developing new questionnaires and validating legacy questionnaires using Rasch analysis.

What do you think is the most exciting change in low vision research and rehabilitation in the last 5 years?

The introduction of new technology such as electronic (including portable devices) and wearable devices so that we are now able to serve even those with severe vision impairment. The easy availability and affordability of mainstream devices such as smart phones, tablets and iPads, and several freely

available apps is another important development that are increasingly being used by the VI given that these devices are ubiquitous and cosmetically acceptable.

What do you think is the biggest challenge in low vision research and rehabilitation?

I think the awareness about benefits of LVR and what constitutes LVR continues to remain low among eye care professionals (including optometrists) and patients. Referral of patients to LVR at mild or moderate levels of VI is still low. Under-corrected or inadequately corrected refractive errors is still common among patients with LV and this needs to be addressed. Getting the younger optometrists interested in this field is also a big challenge because we need the next generation of service providers.

What are your hobbies outside work?

Actually not much given the work timings. If I can squeeze in some time like to get creative and do some crafts work.

Tell us something people might not know about you...

Nothing much ! The international community may not know this - I completed 3 decades of service at the L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, India (my first job !) and was responsible for initiating the LV service at the institute. I belong to the first batch of optometrists in the country to have pursued a Baccalaureate in Optometry from the prestigious Elite School of Optometry, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, South India. First in India to have pursued PhD in LV and first Indian to have been awarded the Constance Atwell award for LV research by ISLRR (at ARVO). First Indian to have been awarded the Diplomate in LV by AAO.

Low vision in a time of Coronavirus: Acuity Testing

Michael Crossland, London, UK

With colleagues at Moorfields Eye Hospital and UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, we have developed free, open source, printable vision charts which can be used for adults and children. They can measure acuity values between 1.3 logMAR and 0.1 logMAR, and are available in Sloan Letter or Auckland symbol optotypes. See homacuitytest.org for more details.
