

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

School of Optometry and Vision Science
Sydney, Australia

LV PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE

International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Postgraduate Coursework Programs in Community Eye Health

Master of Community Eye Health (MCEH)

Graduate Diploma in Community Eye Health (GradDipCEH)



INTRODUCTION

Two of the world's leading research institutions have partnered to offer a unique postgraduate program in community eye health. The L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) and the School of Optometry and Vision Science (SOVS), University of New South Wales (UNSW) offer health care professionals an opportunity to immerse themselves in an enormously challenging study environment in Hyderabad, India. Since its establishment, the Institute has provided services to over 6 million outpatients and trained over 12,000 eye care professionals. Through its community eye health arm, the International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE) LVPEI has been engaged with service delivery, planning, training and advocacy efforts in India and the developing world.

The relevance, depth and diversity of the LVPEI study experience cannot be replicated elsewhere and for this reason it attracts interest from professionals around the world who want to learn from renowned academics and among colleagues as passionate as themselves about valuable careers in community eye health.

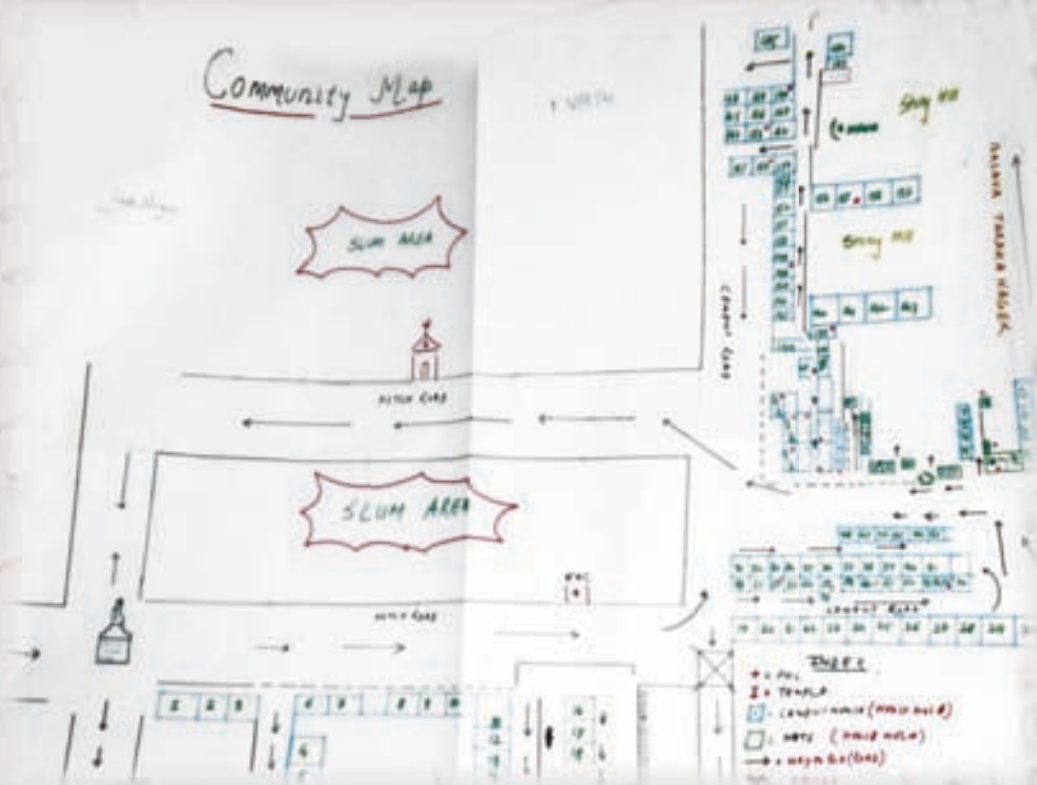
Two alumni of the program offer their perspectives here:

“It was a great experience to be a student after many years of gap and by far the best part of the course is the project work. This made me to visit the most remote places in Andhra Pradesh State to observe the lifestyle of the tribal people from close quarters, an opportunity which I never should have got without the course.”

Srinivasa Reddy
Project Director
Andhra Pradesh Right to Sight Society
Andhra Pradesh

“After this course I have learned that the success of a program depends on good research and good planning, as well as coordinating with all the stake holders in a particular area.”

Bala Krishna G
Ophthalmic Officer
Upgraded Primary Health Centre,
Koyalagudem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh



COMMUNITY EYE HEALTH

Role and Scope

The role and scope of the community eye health specialist would include assessment of eye care needs, the design and management of programs to address those needs, and influence eye care service delivery and policy. This broad responsibility demands an excellent understanding of community eye health principles as well as relevant skills in communication, management and research.

Who Should Undertake Postgraduate Study in Community Eye Health

Our programs are designed for experienced health care professionals with a desire to specialize in community eye health. These highly regarded qualifications offer a relevant, applicable, research-based education to enhance careers in this field around the world.

Applicants are from a range from backgrounds, including:

- Qualified ophthalmologists with a recognized post-graduate degree with an aptitude for application of clinical ophthalmology for the benefit of the community.
- General Doctors with a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and Surgery.
- Eye care professionals such as optometrists and ophthalmic nurses.
- Administrators and managers of eye hospitals/centres.



Enumeration by a student as part of the research project

Master of Community Eye Health (MCEH) and Graduate Diploma in Community Eye Health (GradDipCEH)

The entrance qualification for the MCEH is a Bachelor's degree and at least three years' work experience in the area of community eye health. Potential applicants without a Bachelor's degree but with three years' work experience in community eye health would be eligible to apply for entry to the GradDipCEH, and may apply for transfer to the MCEH program on achievement of at least a 65% average mark in the GradDipCEH program.

Applicants who have previously completed the ICARE Diploma in Community Eye Health with an average mark of least 65%, no more than three years prior to applying for entry to the MCEH will be eligible for advanced standing, allowing exemption from the first three courses within the MCEH program. Applicants who take equivalent courses in Community Eye Health offered currently by ICARE may claim advanced standing for up to 50% of the MCEH or GradDipCEH programs (the first four courses in the MCEH, and the first three in the GradDipCEH).



Community screening by a student as part of the research project

How to Apply

Application to UNSW is completed via the Internet. For information on this procedure, please contact the School (UNSW) by email at postgrad.optom@unsw.edu.au

International applicants will need to demonstrate sufficient

competence in English. The language requirement for this program is demonstrable fluency in English (with documented proof of at least three years of tertiary level education in English medium) and acceptable scores on a test of English competence administered by ICARE. Applicants who have appeared for the IELTS and have scores acceptable as delineated on the UNSW website are exempted from the ICARE test.

See www.international.unsw.edu.au/future/entry/entryenglish.html for more details.

Program fees

Fees stated here are for 2011, in Australian dollars, and do not include living expenses.

The fee for 2012 will be confirmed in late 2011. For update on fees please see <http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/science.html>

Program	International applicants			Local applicants		
	LVPEI	UNSW	Total	LVPEI	UNSW	Total
MCEH	6326	14,760	21,086	6326	10,440	16,766
GradDipCEH	4745	11,070	15,815	4745	7830	12,575

(1 INR = approximately 47AUD)

Fees are quoted in Australian dollars for 2011 and do not include living expenses (for fees applicable in later years, please see <http://my.unsw.edu.au/student/fees/science.html>, and contact ICARE for their current fee). The exact LVPEI fee in Australian dollars will vary with the currency exchange rate. The LVPEI component is also charged differently according to the country of origin. The fee given here applies to middle income countries. Students from low and high income countries have a slightly different fee structure. Please contact the Course Convenors for details.

Note that local students are those with citizenship of Australia or New Zealand, or permanent residence status in Australia. All other applicants are International.

As mentioned above, courses equivalent to some of those included in these programs are offered by ICARE, and can count for up to 50% advanced standing in the MCEH or GradDipCEH. The fees table above assumes this model. Please contact ICARE directly to enroll in those equivalent courses, which are offered in January and February. You would need to enroll in UNSW courses which start in March, and you should apply for entry to those courses by December of the previous year.

Program Dates

For applicants to the MCEH without advanced standing, the program begins on 2nd January 2012 and ends on 16th November 2012. For applicants to the MCEH program who qualify for advanced standing, the program begins on 26th March 2012 and ends on 16th November 2012.

For applicants to the GradDipCEH program, the program begins on 2nd January 2012 and ends on 30th June 2012.

Key Contacts

L V PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE

Contact Person: Ms S Sheeladevi / Dr Rohit Khanna

Telephone: +91 40 30615601

Facsimile: +91 40 24011293

Email: rohit@lvpei.org / sheela@lvpei.org

Website: www.lvpei.org

UNSW SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE

Contact Person: Dr Catherine Suttle

Telephone: 61 2 9385 4380

Facsimile: 61 2 9313 6243

Email: c.suttle@unsw.edu.au

Website: www.optom.unsw.edu.au

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Community Eye Health programs were developed collaboratively by SOVS and LVPEI to provide education in community eye health to eye care workers in India and worldwide. The programs are delivered at LVPEI, so learning takes place in an environment in which various aspects of community eye health may be directly experienced. The GradDipCEH comprises six UOC (units of credit) courses (36 units in total) while the MCEH comprises these courses in addition to a 12 UOC research project (48 units in total). All courses are compulsory for students enrolled in these programs. Courses within these programs may also be taken on a non-award basis (without enrolment in a program).

Candidates for the GradDipCEH should have at least three years' relevant work experience, in the area of community eye health, while candidates for the MCEH should have a Bachelor's degree (in the medium of English) in addition to at least three years' relevant work experience. Note that candidates without a Bachelor's degree may be able to take the MCEH, but must first enroll in the GradDipCEH (see below).

Program of Study: The MCEH may be completed in approximately one year full time. Note that the program begins in the Australian summer session, and extends through sessions one and two (from January to November, inclusive). The GradDipCEH may be completed in six months, full time, and extends through summer session and session one (from January to June, inclusive).

Candidates without a Bachelor's degree who would like to take the MCEH should apply for entry to the GradDipCEH. On completion of the GradDipCEH with at least a Credit (65%) average grade, candidates may apply for transfer to the MCEH program, and take the course OPTM7007 (research project) to complete the Master's program. Candidates who are graduates of the LVPEI Diploma in Community Eye Health may qualify for advanced standing for courses OPTM7001, OPTM7003 and OPTM7004

The courses constituting the Community Eye Health programs are as follows:

- OPTM7001 Introduction to Community Eye Health (6UC)
- OPTM7002 Community Eye Health Needs Assessment (6UC)
- OPTM7003 Epidemiology of Blinding Eye Diseases (6UC)
- OPTM7004 Advocacy and Education in Community Eye Health (6UC)
- OPTM7005 Eye Health Economics and Sustainability (6UC)
- OPTM7006 Eye Care Program Management (6UC)
- OPTM7007 Research Project (12UC) - Taken in the MCEH program only

All courses are delivered in English.

The Research Project

The research project, which is part of the Master's program only, will involve the student investigating a research question related to community eye health. The research will be conducted under the direct supervision of a member of the academic staff or suitably qualified personnel at LVPEI, in some cases with co-supervision by academic staff or suitably qualified personnel at the School. It is anticipated that most research projects will take place at LVPEI. Some students may wish to conduct research at the UNSW School of Optometry and Vision Science, and this is possible under co-supervision. Students who wish to conduct research at a location away from LVPEI or the School of Optometry and Vision Science may do so only if appropriate supervision and facilities are available at that location.

LIVING IN HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is one of India's largest cities and offers a cosmopolitan yet culturally rich living experience, its four-hundred year history tempered by a fast-growing information technology infrastructure. It boasts of several large medical institutions as well, therefore becoming an important destination for medical tourism. At the same time, it has a large network of very active civil society and development groups engaged in work related to equitable and sustainable socio-economic growth.

Language: Though Telugu is the language of the state, English, Hindi and Urdu are understood and spoken by majority of the people. Knowing these languages is a distinct advantage for conversing and dealing with the local population while using public transport and in shops and business places. Assistance can be arranged for students to acquire a working knowledge of these languages. Multilingual translation books are also available in the Institute library.

Climate: Hyderabad enjoys three main seasons: summer, monsoon and winter. Summers are pretty hot, starting from March and running through June; whereas winters are pleasant, starting from November till February. Light clothing for summer and a sweater or jacket for winter is recommended.

Food: Hyderabad is known for its world-renowned cuisine. The local food is quite spicy, but continental, Chinese and other kinds of food are available in most restaurants. Fruits are available round the year and are reasonably priced; these include bananas, apples, grapes, oranges, mangoes, and melons, which are cheap during the season.

Health: Health and medical insurance is not compulsory in India. Eye examinations will be provided free of cost to students at LVPEI. General practitioners, superspecialty hospitals, and nursing homes offer quality care, if needed. Medications and drugs are easily available.

Recreation: Cinema theatres, parks, and local sightseeing places offer entertainment and recreation to students. Many picnic spots exist in and around Hyderabad - most of them can be visited within a day.

Communication: International and National Subscribers Trunk Dialing (ISD and STD) facilities are available in the vicinity. Mail and courier services can also be arranged. Internet kiosks and cybercafes in the city offer good services at nominal charges.

Banks and valuables: Several nationalized banks close to the Institute provide for bank transfer of money and safe keeping of valuables with a locker facility. The average time period for making a bank transfer to USA or Europe is 7-10 days. Most banks have Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and credit and debit cards can be used to withdraw money.

Libraries and reading rooms: Apart from the Institute library, libraries at the National Institute of Nutrition and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology are open to visitors, as also the British Library. Arrangements can be made for students to use library facilities at other medical colleges too.

Shopping: The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad are famous for their pearl bazaars, jewellery, glass bangles, handicrafts and handlooms. Most shops accept national and international credit cards.



COURSE CONVENORS & CORE FACULTY

SOVS, UNSW Core Faculty

Catherine Suttle, PhD, MCOptom

Catherine studied optometry at City University, London, and received her PhD in Vision Science from Aston University, Birmingham, England. She studied as a post-doctoral researcher in children's vision at the School of Optometry, University of California, Berkeley, then moved to Sydney to take up a lectureship in Optometry at the University of New South Wales. Now a Senior Lecturer in Optometry and Vision Science, Catherine co-developed the Community Eye Health programs in collaboration with ICARE faculty, and is coordinator of those programs. Her teaching focus and research interests are visual development and evidence-based practice.

Isabelle Jalbert, OD, MPH, PhD

Isabelle completed her OD from University of Montreal, Canada, and received her PhD in Optometry and her MPH from UNSW. She had held in turn the positions of Director of Clinical Research at the Institute for Eye Research and of Deputy Director, Knowledge Creation Programs at the Canadian government agency for health funding, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She is the author of more than 25 referred papers and several book chapters. Now a Lecturer in Optometry and Vision Science, she teaches Ocular Diseases and Ocular Therapeutics. Her research interests include anterior segment diseases, contact lenses, evidence-based practice, and public health optometry.

ICARE, LVPEI Core Faculty

Rohit Khanna, MBBs, DOMs, MSc (Community Eye Health)

Rohit Khanna received his basic medical education in Nagpur, and later completed a fellowship in comprehensive ophthalmology at LVPEI. He did his Master's in Community Eye Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He handles the clinical and outreach aspects of LVPEI's community eye health program, and the training for manual small-incision cataract surgery. His clinical interest is in glaucoma, with a focus on community ophthalmology.

Srinivas Marmamula, MA, M Sc (Community Eye Health)

Srinivas Marmamula has a Master's in Sociology and a diploma in ophthalmic techniques and a post-diploma fellowship in optometry from LVPEI. He completed his Master's in Community Eye Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London. His areas of interest are refractive errors, prevention of visual impairment in children and training for community eye care. He is pursuing a PhD on development of 'Rapid Assessment Methodology for Detection of Refractive Errors (RARE)' from the SOVS, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.

Kovai Vilas, MA, M Phil, PhD (Anthropology)

Kovai Vilas received his Master's and M Phil degrees in Anthropology from the University of Hyderabad. He has completed his PhD from the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He heads the Vision Centres program that aims to provide a model of affordable preventive eye care at the grassroots. He was involved in the Andhra Pradesh Eye Disease Study (APEDS) and the Refractive Error Study in Children (RESC), conducted by LVPEI. His professional skills lie in project management, social science research, advocacy, and teaching. His interests include concept development and operational research.

S Sheeladevi, M Com, MHM

Sheeladevi holds Master's degrees in Commerce and Hospital Management, from Madurai Kamaraj University, Tamil Nadu. She attended the International Health Practitioner Residency Program from the School of Public Health (SPH), University of Berkeley, California, USA. She has experience in managing epidemiological and hospital-based clinical trials in ophthalmology and public health. Her research interests include epidemiology of eye diseases with a focus on children and women, primary healthcare and community development.

S Krishnaiah, MSc, Ophthalmic Epidemiologist

S Krishnaiah received his Masters degree in Statistics from Nagarjuna University in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, followed by a Second Master's in Population studies from the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. Before joining LVPEI, he worked as Research Officer at IIPS on an international project on reproductive and child health, which was jointly funded by the World Health Organization and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. His interests are in teaching and research in blindness prevention. He has authored more than 12 papers in peer-reviewed international journals and books.

Jachin David Williams, MA (Sociology), DCEH, BMS

Jachin David Williams holds a Bachelor's degree in Mobility Science for the Disabled and a Master's degree in Sociology. He is involved in the planning and execution of all community eye care programs of LVPEI. He conducts training programs for community workers, program coordinators, field staff, school teachers and trainers in community eye health and community based rehabilitation programs. He has developed training manuals handbooks and other awareness material.

The medical and scientific faculty of LVPEI also contribute to teaching on the courses.

Representative Guest faculty

National

Dr Parikshit Gogate
Ophthalmologist and Community
Eye Health Professional
Pune

Dr Rajesh Noah
CEO
VISION 2020 India

Dr Asim Kumar Sil
Netra Niramay Niketan
Vivekananda Mission Ashram
West Bengal

Dr Noela Marie Prasad
Eye Care Consultant
Coimbatore

Dr Kuldeep Suhas Dole
Community Ophthalmologist
HV Desai Eye Hospital
Pune

Dr N R Dhanuka
Chief Medical Officer
JPM Rotary Eye Hospital &
Research Institute
Cuttack

Dr Pallerla Srinivas Reddy
Project Director
AP Right to Sight Society
Hyderabad

Dr G Venkateswara Rao
Country Director
ORBIS International
India

Dr B R Shamanna
Consultant, Public Health
Hyderabad

Dr Usha Raman
Associate Professor
Department of Communication
University of Hyderabad
Hyderabad

IIPH*

Dr Rahul R Shidhaye
Faculty

Dr Raghupathy Anchala
Faculty

Dr S Anil Chandran
Asst Professor

Dr Nanda Kishore
Faculty

Dr Rajan Shukla
Asst Professor

SOVS#

Professor Fiona Stapleton
Head of School

International

Dr Ramachandra Pararajasegaram
Consultant, Prevention of Blindness
World Health Organization
Geneva

We also draw expertise from the following institutes in India
Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad
Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Hyderabad
National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad
Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), Madurai

#School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, Australia

***Indian Institute of Public Health, India**



MCEH First batch with some of the faculty on their Graduation Day



MCEH Second batch with some of the faculty on their Graduation Day