

Dear Members,

Over the years we had observed there had been many ophthalmic diseases, which though addressed at the clinical level by our members over time, it would have been better if approached from the level of the Society. Our Society would have a definitive role to play in the stratification of such disease processes.

One such disease is the Retinopathy of Prematurity. We have created a subcommittee of members who have been actively involved with the treatment of this disease. This subcommittee will meet every two months in different district hospitals and private hospitals. They will prepare SOP as per IROP protocol for the benefit of our members and for medico-legal purposes. The subcommittee will also initiate to have combined meetings with neonatology forums at the district levels. They would further initiate advocacy with the Government Health Department on the importance of ROP awareness and prevention strategies. The Chairman of this subcommittee is Dr. Abhijit Chattopadhyay.

Another disease which we felt will need attention is Retinoblastoma. The Retinoblastoma Subcommittee would focus to create awareness amongst ophthalmologists, pediatricians, and ground level anganwadi/health workers for early diagnosis. This committee would aim for state-of-the-art treatment like intraocular arterial chemotherapy, plaque brachytherapy, etc. This subcommittee will try to improve the quality of care, ensure proper protocol-based treatment for best outcomes. They would create more multidisciplinary retinoblastoma care teams across the state. Treatment can be stratified according to the facilities available and group and stage of the disease. They would mobilise funding for

retinoblastoma treatment. They would further create defined centres of excellence for histo-pathology review and imaging. This subcommittee would also look into the aspect of retinoblastoma treatment training for our members. The Chairman of this subcommittee is Dr. Anirban Bhaduri.

The third in this sequence is Oculo-facial Aesthetics. This is a new emerging field which is yet to take its shape in our state. We do appreciate the National level leaders working in this domain. We had created this subcommittee not only to generate awareness amongst our members, but also to do wet-labs and workshops with the National faculties. This subcommittee will also arrange didactic classes on Botox, Fillers, Blepharoplasty and Laser Surfacing. They will guide members on how to incorporate all these into our own practices, and guide in the follow-up phase post treatment. The Chairperson of this subcommittee is Dr. Sabita Katoch.

I am sure these academic subcommittee excursions will go a long way to improve the academic ambience of our Society, and help our members to achieve their professional expertise to greater heights. The other point noteworthy is that these subcommittees are headed by the members who are experts, and authorities by virtue of their contribution to their subject of interest.

I am looking forward for an academically vibrant Society with contributions from one and all!!

Dr. Debashis Das

Honorary Secretary 2022-2024

Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal.