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Dear Members,

A warm greeting to all our members on behalf of our entire Executive Committee.

This month of August had been very productive from the point of view of our Society activities. We ultimately received our confirmation from the Registrar of the Society, acknowledging our new Executive Committee, as well as accepting our Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held during our last Annual Conference 2022. This ultimately happened after persistent follow up from our end to the Registrar Office over these last few months since our Annual Conference. We had visited their office and simultaneously applied online for at the minimum 6 times during these last 8 months.

Dr P K Chatterjee Free Paper Competition for post graduates studying in West Bengal is organized every year by Ophthalmological Society of West Bengal. This year it was organized on 11 th August 2023 at Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Kolkata. We had a total of 66 paper presentation. There were 4 preliminary rounds. Preliminary rounds were conducted from 11.00 AM to 5.30 PM. The best 8 papers were selected for the Final round. The top 3 papers in the finals were awarded. The program was attended by 120 doctors mostly post graduate students. The quality of papers and presentations was appreciated by all the judges. The whole program was chaired by Dr Asim Kumar Ghosh (Chairman PG Education Committee) and organized by Dr Maneesh Singh (Convener PG Education Committee).

We held our first Leadership Development Program on the 19th of August 2023, at the Susrut Conference Hall. It was an iconic event well attended by 41 members. The introduction to LDP was given by non-other than AIOS Past President and mentor to OSWB-LDP subcommittee Padmashri Dr S Natarajan on the virtual platform. Other topics covered in the 1st module of LDP- The Commerce of Ophthalmology were What drive me? The source of motivation and self-improvement by Dr Swati Agarwal, Finance Management-Metrics to assess your practice by Dr Lav Kochgaway, Infrastructure development and locating your practice by AIOS Vice President and mentor to OSWB-LDP subcommittee Dr Partha Biswas, Balancing Quality with Cost by AIOC Past President and mentor to OSWB-LDP subcommittee Dr Debasish Bhattacharya, The Art of Negotiation by Dr Arnav Mitra, Capacity building from Tangibles to Intangibles by Dr Sudipta Mitra. Dr Sayantan Das, Dr Nandini Chandak, and Dr Sagnik Surya Das spoke on the Commercial aspects of Part-time Institute practice, Part-time private practice; Starting your own clinic and Essentialities of opening a new hospital respectively. This landmark event heralded a wonderful start to Leadership Development at OSWB and paved the way for upcoming modules based on Patient Care and Operations, Optimizing Practice Management, Ethical Marketing, and an outstation weekend program based on sharpening the leadership skills.

We celebrated the National Eye Donation Fortnight on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Durgapur in 4 phases. All the four phases had been master-minded and led by our Past President Dr Monoj Hazra, who had always been a father-figure in our Society activities over the years. Over a period of 2 days, a total of 4 mega events had been organized for increasing awareness and serving the community.

Phase I was School Eye Check-up Camp at Domra in association with Durgapur Ophthalmological Society, Durgapur Blind relief society, and Durgapur Eye Bank.

The need for cornea is unfathomable, and the impact of eye donation is beyond imagination. Eminent personalities came forward to motivate us. Dr. Siddhartha Neogi, Director of Health Services, Govt. of West Bengal Health Services, Dr. Sk Md Unus, CMOH, Paschim Bardhaman, Padmashree Dr. S. Natarajan, renowned retina surgeon, Dr. Ratish Paul, President OSWB, Dr. Monoj Hazra, Past President OSWB, Dr. Sekhar Nath Sarkar, Past President, OSWB, Dr. Parag Mukherjee Past President OSWB, Dr. Sujoy Mukherjee, President Durgapur Ophthalmological Society, Dr. Kushal Banerjee, Secretary, Durgapur Ophthalmological Society, Mrs. Anindita Chatterjee, Mayor, Durgapur and many more graced the occasion.

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Phase-II was the Scientific Session on Prevention and Control of Blindness on 26th August 2023 from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm at City Residenci, Durgapur. Total turnover of eminent ophthalmologists and others was 64. The Chairperson was Dr. Dwijapada Dandapath. The Co-Chairpersons were Dr. Sekhar Sarkar and Dr. Parag Mukhopadhyay. The Chief Guest was Dr. Siddhartha Neogi (Director of Health Service ex officio Secretary Govt. of West Bengal) Padmashree Dr. S. Natarajan. The Special Guests were Dr. Sk Md Unus, (CMOH, Paschim Bardhaman), Mr. Sourav Chatterjee (WBCS, EXU, S.D.M Durgapur). The Expert Panelists were Dr. Mousumi Banerjee, Dr. Biswarup Roy, Dr. K.P. Baidya, Dr. Jayangshu Sengupta, Dr. Sunil Surana, Dr. R. K. Gupta. The Moderator was Dr. Debashis Das and the welcome address was given by Dr. Sohini Ghosh.

The Speakers were Dr. Monoj Hajra, Dr. Ratish Ch. Paul, Padmashree Dr. S. Natarajan, Dr. Supriya Singh, Dr. Sagar Bhargava, Dr. Kushal Banerjee, Dr. Anik Das, Dr. Krishna Kanta Roy, Dr. Soumen Chakraborty, and Dr. Rupak Kanti Biswas.

Phase-III was the ALOK YATRA, the Awareness Walk of 2.5 kms on 27th August 2023 from 8.00 am to 10.00 am at Chaturanga Maidan, Durgapur. A Total of 700 people, including School and College Students, SDM Durgapur, WBCS Executive Mr. Sourav Chatterjee, CRPF Jawans 50, Students of Purva International school 100 with Principal, Band party 15, Members of Durgapur Blind Relief Society, eminent ophthalmologists and many more gathered to celebrate the gift of donation and walk a step ahead in making India blind free.

Phase-IV was Free Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Detection Camp on 27th August 2023 from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm at MAMC, Rotary Complex, Durgapur. Total Turnover was 38 patients of which diabetic retinopathy was detected in 23 patients. To commemorate National Eye Donation Fortnight, each section of the society came forward to spread light and gift of vision. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Siddhartha Neogi (Director of Health Service ex officio Secretary Govt. of West Bengal). The patients were examined by Dr K P Baidya and Dr Krishna Kanta Roy. My heartfelt gratitude to all our members for making these programs successful.

We had our District Outreach Program at Berhampore on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Hotel Fame which was attended by 35 of our members from the Murshidabad district.

We also had a Community Ophthalmology program on Diabetic Retinopathy screening at Jiaganj on the same date in the morning from 10 am to 2 pm.

I am extremely happy to note the stream of activities undertaken by our Society, which signifies that our younger generation has been actively participating to make the Society vibrant and rocking.

Long Live OSWB! Long Live my dream!

*Debashis Das*

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