

Drashticon 2019 optometry conference in Dahod

The noted Ophthalmic Mission Trust in Dahod, Gujarat, has been providing preventive and curative ophthalmic care, free of cost or at affordable rates with a priority on the safety and well-being of the individual, since it was found in the 1990s. It operates out of Drashti Netralaya, its base hospital, and through numerous outreach programmes such as mobile eye camps, hospital, school visits, door to door services, and a rural referral network. The location in Dahod is strategic as it is in the district of the



DR SHREYA AND MEHUL SHAH LIGHTING THE INAUGURAL LAMP

second largest tribal belt of India, to the extreme east of Gujarat, bordering Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Drashti Netralaya works with the local community to create awareness among the population. The mission and vision of the organisation is to



SANJAY ARORA TALKING ABOUT SOFT AND KERASOFT CL FITTING



OPTOMETRIC FRATERNITY ATTENDING DRASHTICON



PS REKHI DELIBERATING ON CONTACT LENS INDUCED DRY EYE



USMAN MEMON GIVING A PRESENTATION ON SPECIALITY CONTACT LENSES

provide quality eye care, technological advancement and treatment at the lowest possible cost, with a single standard of care for all, irrespective of their economic status.

The Trust's International Training & Research Centre conducts clinical and operational research as well as training by international faculty on a regular basis to combat the huge gap in the demand of eye professionals.

Drashticon-2019, a national optometry conference organised by Drashti Netralaya at Dahod on 5 May 2019, drew an excellent response with the participation of more than eight optometry colleges. More than 200 optometrist reviewers across the country shortlisted the best papers for oral and poster presentations. Expert speakers at the conference shared their knowledge as well as the latest in the fields of optometry and vision science with the gathering of 250 delegates.

The event was inaugurated by Mr Vijay Kharadi, Collector of Dahod, the host organisation's medical director Dr Mehul Shah, administrative director Dr Shreya Shah and education director Mr Ashwin Shah in the presence of the guest speakers, delegates and other members of the faculty.

The various sessions covered contact lenses and management, binocular vision and orthoptics; refractive error management and low vision rehabilitation. PS Rekhi deliberated on contact lens induced dry eye and its management. Sanjay Arora's talk was on soft and keraSoft contact lens fitting; Yogita Rajgandhi discussed innovation in low vision management; Usman Memon's topic was speciality contact lens; Keyur Sharma detailed the physiology of BSV sensory and motor evaluation; while Nirav Mehta and Ankit Varshney addressed the success and failure of PALs, and orthokeratology, respectively.

An evidence-based workshop for students and professionals by Yogita Rajgandhi of the Rajgandhi Eye Care Institute and Sanjay Arora from Shroff Eye Hospital, Delhi delineated keratoconus contact lenses fitting and low vision to high mission. These were conducted through live demonstrations of low vision devices and patient evaluation.

A free scientific paper competition, video competition and poster competition, a poster exhibition and workshops gave further depth to the conference. The winners of the each



DEMONSTRATION OF LOW VISION DEVICES

category in the competitions received certificates. The event was sponsored by Akriti Eye Care and Ben Franklin Optician.

Not only was the conference a great learning experience for all the participants, it was also quite an accomplishment for the hosts to organise such an important event in the small city of Dahod.



WINNER OF THE COMPETITION RECEIVING CERTIFICATE