

MAHARASHTRA OPTOMETRY ASSOCIATION *LAUNCHED WITH CLEAR AGENDA*

The MAHA Optometry Association (MOA), the first for the state, formally registered in Aurangabad on 30 December 2020 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, operates mainly from Mumbai. In the lead up to its formation and since, the MOA has formulated its rules for membership, conducted virtual executive board meetings to discuss its agenda, and developed its website, social media accounts and electronic communication, to reach out to all aspiring members.

The MOA's tagline is 'Empowering Optometry for Quality Eye Care'. Its logo has been designed keeping in mind the symbol of the State and the tricolour of the Indian flag, where each colour represents sacrifice, peace and prosperity.

The organisation's aim is to address the welfare of aspiring, new entrants and senior optometrists, with membership open to all professionals who have practiced in the state for a year. It hopes to give its members a voice, support their common goals, advocate for them with other organisations, and liaison with state governments and national organisations.

Its objectives are the standardisation, cultivation and promotion of optometry as a profession, the



KISHORE BHANDARY
PRESEDENT



NAGSEN DAWANE
VICE PRESIDENT

development of preferred practice patterns, research and manpower development with a view to render community service by various means such as organising scientific and clinical work, and promoting community oriented service, research in optometry and eye care, and teaching and continuing education to upgrade optometry. It will also be looking at raising finances through contributions, and through members' subscriptions.

The various categories are life membership, student membership, ordinary, honorary and associate, with different criteria and guidelines to be followed as per the rules and regulations of the Societies Act.

The association is framing bylaws, rules and regulations and will amend, add, alter or delete these as and when necessary. It will also cooperate with other recognised medical and allied health bodies. Activities planned include exhibitions of machinery, implements, tools, appliances, etc., pertaining to optometry and eye care. Also on the agenda are charitable activities and public programmes to increase awareness about the various



HAMZA QUERSHI
FOUNDING MEMBER

eye diseases, their prevention and treatment.

According to eminent optometrist Yogita Rajgandhi, who has been part of all its meetings and actively involved in contributing to its agenda, the MOA will soon organise a seminar as well as a webinar.

The seven founder executive committee members are: Kishore Bhandary – president, Nagsen Dawane – vice president, Md. Oliullah Abdal – secretary, Prashant Bhatkar – joint secretary, Soumik Dey – treasurer and founding Committee members Yogita L Rajgandhi and Hamza Quershi. The tenure of the committee members is for three years.

The association has been endorsed with the Optometry Council of India (OCI) along with various other optometry associations on 'The Myopia White Paper'. It looks forward to support from the optometry fraternity, institutions, industry, other state and national associations and corporates to further its development.



MD OLIULLAH ABDAL
SECRETARY



PRASHANT BHATKAR
JOINT SECRETARY



SOUMIK DEY
TREASURER



YOGITA L RAJGANDHI
FOUNDING MEMBER