

Honors & Awards

India's only eye institute with four Bhatnagar awardees

Dr Santosh G Honavar, Associate Director and Head, Ophthalmic and Facial Plastic Surgery, Orbit and Ocular Oncology received the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Medical Sciences in September 2009 for his work on retinoblastoma, the most common eye cancer in children. He is part of the Ocular Oncology Team that manages retinoblastoma at the L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad.

The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes are awarded annually by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, for outstanding research, applied or fundamental, in Biological, Chemical, Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary, Engineering, Mathematical, Medical and Physical Sciences. LVPEI is the only eye institute in India with four Bhatnagar awardees on its rolls – Director of Research, Padmashri Dr D Balasubramanian (Chemical Sciences, 1981), Dr Anil K Mandal, Head, Jasti V Ramanamma Children's Eye Care Centre (Medical Sciences, 2003) who was the first ophthalmologist to receive the award, and Dr Virender Singh Sangwan, Associate Director and Head, Cornea and Anterior Segment and Ocular Immunology and Uveitis Services for his work on stem cell transplantation, 2006.

Ramalingaswami Fellowship

In recognition of his outstanding research contributions, **Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj**, Scientist and Associate Optometrist, has been awarded the prestigious Ramalingaswami Fellowship by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India for the year 2009-2010. He is the first eye researcher to receive the coveted award. Prof Ramalingaswami was one of LVPEI's founding trustees and an ardent supporter of LVPEI. Dr Bharadwaj has a PhD in Vision Science from the University of California – Berkeley School of Optometry, USA, and a post-doctoral fellowship from the Indiana University School of Optometry, USA. He returned to India last year to set up the Visual Optics and Psychophysics Laboratory at LVPEI, to study the development of vision in infants.

Subhabrata Chakrabarti

Chosen as a Young Affiliate of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS) from the Central and South Asian Region, and invited to present his work at its annual meeting at Durban, South Africa in October 2009

Santosh G Honavar

Senior Achievement Award, American Academy of Ophthalmology

Subhadra Jalali

Nominated member of the World Council of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Gullapalli N Rao

- ◆ Elected Chair of the Board of Australia-based International Centre for Eye Care Education (ICEE) at its meeting in Sydney, Australia on April 23, 2009. ICEE is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization working towards elimination of needless blindness in Asia, Pacific Islands, Australia, Africa and Latin America.
- ◆ Received the AAO-Essilor Award 2009 from the American Academy of Optometry for significant and extraordinary advances in optometry and eye care internationally. Usually reserved for optometrists, the award is an affirmation that Dr Rao's contributions have gone beyond his native discipline of ophthalmology to impact eye care at large.

Ashok Kumar Reddy

Appointed Associate Editor, International Research Journal of Microbiology

Geeta K Vemuganti

- ◆ Invited to be a reviewer for project proposals on Translational Research submitted to the Medical Council Research Committee (Translational Stem Cell Research Committee), UK
- ◆ Elected ARVO (Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology) Program Committee member (Anatomy/Pathology Section) 2009 for 3 years; in the last year she will be chair of the section

LVPEI shortlisted for BMJ award: LVPEI was one of the top 5 organizations shortlisted for the Global Leadership in Health Care Delivery Award by the British Medical Journal award in the Global Leadership category. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation won the prestigious award. (April 2009)

International

Mohd Javed Ali

A long-term fellow in ophthalmic plastic surgery at LVPEI, Hyderabad, he received a scholarship for the International Congress of Ocular Oncology (ICOO) 2009 in Cambridge, UK. This is the first time such a grant has been offered at an International Society of Ocular Oncology (ISOO) meeting.

D Balasubramanian

Re-elected member of UNESCO's International Basic Science Programme Panel, Paris, France (April 2009-March 2012)

Subhabrata Chakrabarti

- Invited to continue on the editorial board of International Glaucoma Review – 2009-2010
- Invited to join the editorial board of Diabetes Review Letters
- Invited to Chair the Genetics Session at the third World Glaucoma Congress in Boston in 2009

Taraprasad Das

Re-elected Chairman, Scientific Committee of the Asia Pacific Vitreo Retinal Society (APVRS)

Subhash Gaddipati

Received Nature Publishing Group Travel Award to attend the Gordon Research Conference – Biology and Pathobiology of The Cornea at Ventura, CA, USA, and presented a poster. March 2010

Prashant Garg

Elected to the Executive Committee of the Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group, USA. He is the first Indian ever on the committee.

Usha Gopinathan

Nominated Vice President of the Association of Eye Banks of Asia (AEBA) at its first Council Meeting held during the ACS international meeting in Tokyo, Japan. June 26, 2009

Santosh G Honavar

Best Video Award at the Film Festival of the Asia Pacific Association of Ophthalmology–American Academy of Ophthalmology Joint Congress 2009 at Bali, Indonesia. May 2009

Inderjeet Kaur

Awarded DST International Travel Grant for attending ARVO meeting. May 2009

Ramesh Murthy

Member of the champion team at the IQ Ophthalmic Quiz, Asia Pacific Association of Ophthalmology – American Academy of Ophthalmology joint congress at Bali, Indonesia. May 2009

Flag bearer in combating ROP

LVPEI's participation in the Second World ROP Congress at New Delhi (November 21-23, 2009) was substantial, and indicative of its leadership role in combating ROP. Four faculty and 1 fellow made a total of 6 invited and free paper presentations. Of the 90 presentations, 10% were by LVPEI faculty and alumni. **Dr Subhadra Jalali** was an invited member of the Host Committee, Program Committee and Scientific Committee of the Congress, in recognition of her contribution to ROP in the region.

National

D Balasubramanian

Received the Biospectrum Life Time Achievement Award in Biotechnology 2009 for immense contributions to the development of biotechnology in the country at the 7th BioSpectrum Awards (a part of the Cyber Media group) at Bangalore. December 2009

Soumyava Basu

Received BOYSCAST (Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology) fellowship for the year 2009-10 from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, to work on 'Molecular diagnostics for ocular tuberculosis' with Dr Narsing Rao at Doheny Eye Center, Los Angeles, USA.

Manjula Gurram

Won Young Scientist 'Ganne Subba Laxmi Endowment' Award at 27th Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists – AP chapter meeting, Eluru. September 11-13, 2009

Pravin V Krishna

"Polished apple" award for Best Speaker at Eye-PEP, LVPEI, Hyderabad. September 23-27, 2009

Shiv Prasad Hardia award for Best Paper in Refractive Surgery, All India Ophthalmological Society meeting, Kolkata. January 21-24, 2010

Anil K Mandal

Elected Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences



Naresh Polisetti

Young Scientist Gold medal for Best Oral Paper presentation by student at the International Symposium on Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health, 3rd annual convention of Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. December 19-21, 2009

Ashok Kumar Reddy

Silver Jubilee Medal for Best Paper in Parasitology for his work on microsporidia at the 33rd National Congress of the Indian Association of Medical Microbiologists, Mysore. November 2009. This is the third prize for LVPEI.

Sirisha Senthil

Best Video award at the annual Glaucoma Society of India 2009 meeting at Bangalore. November 2009. LVPEI's Central Audio and Video Unit also received acclaim for the high quality of the video.

**Savitri Sharma**

- Presented the 'Lifetime Achievement award in Microbiology' by the Indian Association of Pathologists and Microbiologists (Orissa chapter)

- Received 'AIOS-IJO Platinum award' for the year 2009 for the LVPEI publication of the article "Gopinathan U, Sharma S, Garg P, Rao GN. Review of epidemiological features, microbiological diagnosis and treatment outcome of microbial keratitis: Experience of over a

decade. Indian J Ophthalmol 2009; 57:273-9



LVPEI fellows **Surbhi Joshi** won Best Scientific Paper Award for her presentation and **Mohd Javed Ali** won Best Scientific Poster Award at the 31st Annual Conference of the Association of Radiation Oncologists of India, Hyderabad. November 2009. Both the paper and poster awards went to ocular oncology, a non-mainstream subspecialty, and both to LVPEI.

Geeta K Vemuganti

- Elected Fellow of Indian College of Pathologists and chosen as guide for a 6-month Fellowship Program in Ophthalmic Pathology at LVPEI, under the College's aegis
- Senior Scientist Gold Medal for Best Oral Presentation by faculty at the International Symposium on Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health, 3rd annual convention of Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. December 19-21, 2009

Regional**Taraprasad Das**

Received first Prof B Rajguru Oration award conferred by the Orissa State Ophthalmic Society held, Bhubaneswar. November 2009

Vidya Parsam

Young Scientist Runner-up Award, K V Rao Scientific Society Annual Research Awards 2009

Geeta K Vemuganti

- Association of Biotechnology & Pharmacy Senior Scientist Award at the International Symposium on 'Emerging Trends in Biomedical and Nanobiotechnology: Relevance to Human Health' at Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. December 2009
- Four Decade Trust Oration on 'Stem cell research: How do we make the bench to bedside journey?' at SMS Medical College, Jaipur. December 2009

'Green' awards



Hyderabad campus

The Institute's **Kismatpur** and **Kallam Anji Reddy campus**, Hyderabad city, gardens won the first and second prize respectively in the category 'Gardens Maintained by Private Institutions', at the Andhra Pradesh Horticulture Department competition (December 2009). Mr Basha has been the constant gardener, with support from Mrs Mani Kumari and the other garden staff!



Mr Basha receives the trophy

The **Bhubaneswar campus** won two awards: the Dr P K Singhsamanta Memorial Running Trophy prize for the Best Landscaped Garden and the Third Prize for Best Teaching Institution Garden in the Flower Show 2010 Festival, organized by the Plant Lovers Association, Bhubaneswar. January 2010.

The campus also received the 'Pollution Control Excellence Award' under the category 'Health Care Units' from the State Pollution Control Board, Orissa.



Mr Bikash C Mohanta, Administrator, LVPEI receiving the award

