Guest Editorial

Dr R Krishnakumar

During the recent 3rd ESO’s International Vision Science and Optometry conference organised by Elite School of Optometry, one of my friends, who is also an optometrist, from Tripura shared with me the documents of 1920s which carried the information about the first school of optometry (Indian College of Optics) in Calcutta by Mr K. D. Dutta in the year 1927. Until 1978, the focus of 2-year optometry programme was to prepare refractionists for the country. In the year 1985, the visionary Dr S.S. Badrinath started the first modern school of optometry called Elite School of Optometry (ESO) which started offering degree programme. Since then the extended role of optometrists started evolving and today we could see indispensable role of optometrists in eye hospitals and optical showrooms. The first masters programme was started in the year 1996 and later on opening for doctorate and fellowship also were started. Today, to the best of my knowledge, there are 30 universities all over the country offering optometry programmes either as undergraduate or along with postgraduate programme. Many of the optometrists with higher degrees take up academic and research roles in many of the universities and the leading eye research centres in the country.

This special edition will be an opportunity to introduce to the readers, the comprehensive role of optometrists in eye hospitals, status and innovations of socially accountable optometric education, upcoming technologies in estimating refractive errors, unique role of occupational optometrist in the industries, update information about ophthalmic lenses and an interesting case report by optometrist in collaboration with ophthalmologist.

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