

### **National Eye Donation Fort Night**

**KGMU- Uttar Pradesh Community Eye Bank** is a state of the art facility and has capacity to collect 3,000 corneas annually. Through the expert advice from SightLife, the eye bank is adopting all latest technology and processes. The eye bank is actively promoting eye donation and working closely with the families of patients died in hospitals through its flagship Hospital cornea retrieval program (HCRP). Eye bank has also launched a toll free eye donation help line number 1919 (27x7). Families who wish to donate eyes after their loved one's death can call at 1919 at any time. A team under the supervision of Medical Director of eye bank Dr. Arun K Sharma working 24x7 with full dedication to eliminate corneal blindness from UP.

As you are aware that corneal blindness is one of the major causes of Blindness in India and according to estimates, India need to perform around 150, 0000 transplantations every year to eliminate corneal blindness, but only 47, 144 corneas were collected in 2012-12 (NPCB-2012-13). In Uttar Pradesh, the problem is more compounded as there are only few functional eye banks. In 2015-16, 650 corneal transplants were performed in UP and this indicates the severity of problem and urgency with which it needs to be addressed. To improve the cornea collection in Uttar Pradesh, King George Medical University opened a world class eye bank facility through the support received from SightLife, USA and The Hans Foundation, India. The eye bank was inaugurated by Honorable Governor Shri Ram Naik on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016, and we have collected 307 corneas and performed more than 200 corneal transplants so far. The eye bank continues to be committed to eliminating corneal blindness as we continue to provide high-quality corneal tissue for transplant to surgeons and their patients and we will continue to honor donor families and the "gifts of sight" their loved ones give to make cornea transplants possible in UP.

To commemorate the National Eye Donation Fortnight starting from 25<sup>th</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September, we are organizing a felicitation and awareness creation events in the form of

- Eye donation awareness Rally-27<sup>th</sup> August
- Eye donation awareness camps Saharaganj Malls, Fun Republic Mall and Wave Mall-28<sup>th</sup> August till 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Eye donation debate in college- 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Painting competition in school-1<sup>st</sup> September
- Donor families and recipients meeting-
- Eye donation stickers on police vehicles and public transport-
- Awareness camps at university campus-26<sup>th</sup> August onwards
- Inviting celebrity to promote eye donation

Media spokesperson:

Dr. Arun K Sharma

Medical Director KGMU UP Community Eye Bank