



King George's Medical University, Lucknow Promotes Eye Donation Fortnight and Eye Donation to Eliminate Corneal Blindness

~With 2 lakh people waiting for cornea transplants, we need community awareness to increase eye donation. Cornea donation is only the top layer of the eye, not the whole eye. And by dialing 1919 to report deaths to eye bank 24x7, you can give sight to a blind person~

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (4th September, 2017) – King George Medical University (KGMU) held a community awareness event to recognize the annual Eye Donation Fortnight. Chief guest included Dr. Mahendra Singh, Honourable Minister State Medical & Health, Rural Development, Overall Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh. Guest of Honour was Shri Sulkhan Singh, Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh. King George's Medical University and Prof MBL Bhatt hosted the event.

The KGMU UP Community Eye Bank, which is operated by the global not-for-profit organization, SightLife, and funded by The Hans Foundation, is located inside the trauma centre at KGMU. Aided by the highly trained and dedicated 24x7 staff, the Community Eye Bank has advanced microscope technology for precise determination of cornea suitability. The facility is integrated with the national helpline number 1919 which connects all the enquiries directly to the community eye bank. Leaders requts families report all deaths to the eye bank 24x7 so they can discuss eye donation with an eye bank coordinator.

Eye bank has performed 207 sight resotring transplant surgeries since inception in Dec 2016. Eye bank has established Hospital Cornea Reterival program with Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, Balrampur Hospital and shayam prasad Mukherjee hospital. Currently eye bank team reaches to Lucknow, Sitapur, Raebareli, Barabanki & Lakhimpur districts for reterival.

"Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India, with two-thirds the population of the U.S.," explained Atul Kapoor, Vice President of Asia, Global Programs for SightLife. "The U.S. performed almost 50,000 transplants last year, whereas in UP only 650 cornea transplants were done. The cornea is only the top layer of the eye – not the entire eye and can help cure blindness for a person waiting in blindness. Simply report all deaths to the eye bank by dialing 1919 24x7".

"With increased awareness and community support, we can remove corneal blindness in our state" states Dr. Arun K. Sharma, Associate Professor of KGMU, Ophthalmology Department and KGMU UP Community Eye Bank Medical Director. "Join us in this great endeavor of eliminating corneal blindness."

Attendees at the fortnight event included Dr. Mahendra Singh, Honourable Minister State Medical & Health, Rural Development, Overall Rural Development, Uttar Pradesh. ~~Shri Sulkhan Singh, Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh.~~ Prof MLB Bhatt, KGMU Vice Chancellor. Dr. Vinita Singh, KGMU Ophthalmology HOD. Mr. Atul Kapoor, SightLife Vice President of Asia. Dr. Madhu Bhaduria, CMO, Sitapur Eye Hospital. Dr. Poonam Kishore, Professor Conrea Unit. Dr. Arun K. Sharma, KGMU Associate Professor and Eye Bank Medical Director.



About SightLife

Founded in 1969 and based in Seattle, SightLife is the only global health organization working relentlessly to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040. Sight restoration has a profound impact on recipients, their families and communities—no one should have to wait to experience the joy and possibilities that vision brings. With partners in 33 countries, SightLife is increasing the number of corneal transplants performed each year to transform millions of lives around the globe.

About KGMU

King George's medical University, for a while known as Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj Medical University, is a medical school located in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India. It came into being after the upgrade of King George's Medical College (established in 1911) into a university act passed by government of Uttar Pradesh on 16 September 2002. Located in Lucknow, it serves the over 2 million people of the city and Prof. Ravi Kant serves as Vice Chancellor.

About The Hans Foundation

The Hans Foundation (THF) is a charitable trust fund created to provide a source of endowment of funds for nonprofit organizations in India. THF is committed to strengthening India by addressing the areas of health care, education, and disability. It holds a powerful vision of India where human suffering is alleviated and a strong foundation for the future is built.

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For further information, please contact

Dr. Arun K. Sharma
KGMU Associate Professor &
Eye Bank Medical Director
94150 10832
drarunksharma@gmail.com