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Press Release

KGMU UP Community Eye Bank Center of Excellence Successfully Provided Training to NPCB Counselors and Counselors from IGIMS Patna

~With 20 lakh people waiting for corneal transplants in India, There is huge need of trained eye bank professionals to eliminate corneal blindness. KGMU UP Community Eye Bank has launched center of excellence and successfully provided training to NPCB Counselors Placed in different medical colleges in UP and counselors from the IGIMS Patna

King George's Medical University in collaboration with SightLife launched KGMU UP Community Eye Bank as a center of excellence, which is operated by the global not-for-profit organization, SightLife and funded by The Hans Foundation. The center of excellence aided by the highly trained and skilled trainers. The center of excellence provides trainings to the Eye Donation Counselors, Eye Recovery Technicians, Tissue Evaluation Technicians and Eye Bank Managers throughout the Asia.

Eye bank has performed 965 sight restoring transplant surgeries since inception in Dec 2016 and become the first eye bank to reach the 1000 number of sight restoring corneal transplants in very short period time. Eye bank has established Hospital Cornea Retrieval program in King George's Medical University and in discussion with other medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh. 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 1100 cornea transplants were done, this is because the lack of trained eye bank professionals in UP and in India.

On 2nd October the center of excellence has successfully provided training and certify to the eye donation counselors and eye recovery technicians from the various medical colleges placed by NPCB. The certificates provided by the Prof. MLB Bhatt Vice Chancellor KGMU, Dr. Sangeeta Abrol DDG NPCB India, Mr. Atul Kapoor Vice President Asia SightLife and Dr. Arun Kumar Sharma Medical Director KGMU UP Community Eye Bank. The next training batch will be started in December 2018 Below are the name of the medical colleges from where trainees came to attend training.

**S N Medical College Agra
GSVM Medical College Kanpur
Moti Lal Nehru Medical College Allahabad
BRD Medical College Gorakhpur
IGIMS Patna**

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