Sankara Nethralaya Eye Care Professionals Receive Accolades in International Conference

Introduction

'Eye health in a changing world', an international virtual conference and trade fair was conducted by the India Vision Institute (IVI) between the 2nd and 4th October 2020. It covered a wide array of areas in Optometry and Vision science. The main agenda of the conference was to explore the future of eye care and eye health in these uncertain and rapidly changing times, especially after the impact of COVID-19 pandemic globally, which is the need of the hour for every eye care professional. This included discussions on recent developments, innovations, practice trends and way forward in eye care for community, clinic and private practice services and more so, hearing it all from the stalwarts themselves from the comfort of our home. The conference hosted participants from 37 countries around the world. There were 1,330 registered delegates comprising eye care professionals and students. The plenary and parallel sessions saw 199 speakers.

The conference featured several keynote addresses, talks, parallel sessions and panel discussions, simultaneously by prominent speakers in different fields of optometry. Workshops and talks were based on areas of clinical Optometry, community optometry, public eye health, binocular vision and pediatric optometry, contact lens, ocular diagnostics, vision science and topics related to eye care during and post COVID-19. It, above all, gave the students and practitioners, from all over the world the opportunity, to discover, exhibit and purchase the latest and recent advances in the optical and manufacturing industry through an exclusive online trade fair, which was first of its kind.

Every eye care professional across the globe were given the platform to network and interact with each other based on their areas of interests in optometry and the organization of the conference website and social media made the networking much easier and simpler for everyone. Also, this was a huge opportunity for optometrists and optometry students to submit their abstracts in the categories of oral presentation (case report/case series/ paper), poster presentation and quiz contests which helped in sharing knowledge in a common platform in a seamless and fun manner. The 'Student soapbox' was one another session allocated for optometry students to voice their thoughts and opinions from their perspective, the role of optometrists in global eye health.

SN Wins Accolades

From Sankara Nethralaya, Dr. Rizwana represented the scientific committee of the conference involving in planning and reviewing abstracts, and also served as a panel member for the Public health – children section. Dr. Anuradha Narayanan served as a panel member for the Public health – General section and also was part of the IAPB- Panel discussion on world report on vision. Dr. Viswanathan moderated the session on refractive error management. Dr. Kalpa Negiloni served as the reviewer for abstract selection. From SN, 18 individuals including optometrists and graduate optometry students submitted abstracts, and presented in the conference.

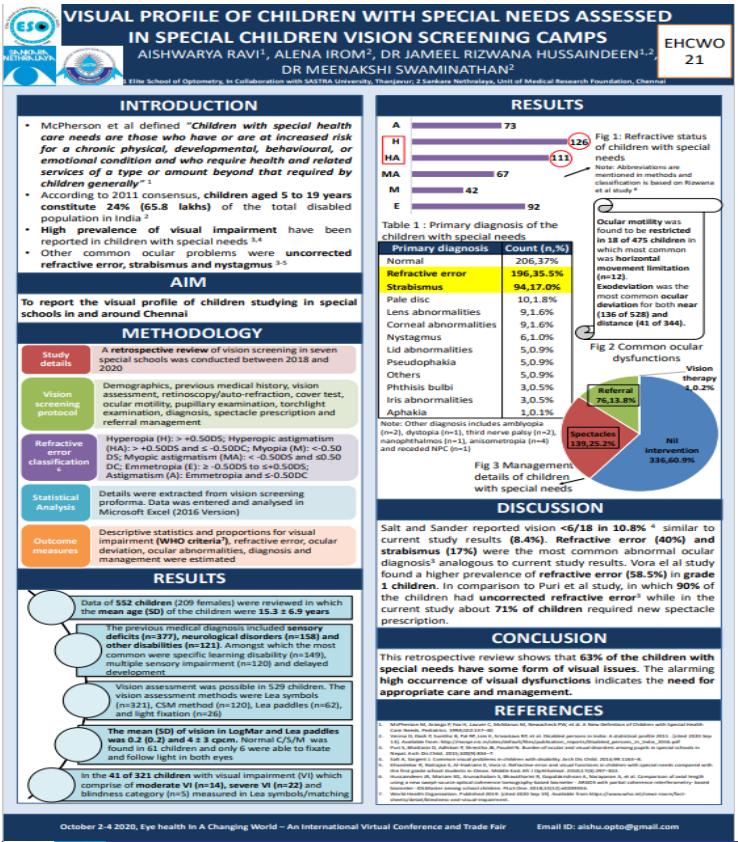
The list of participants who presented their work in the conference and a display of the submitted posters are given below:

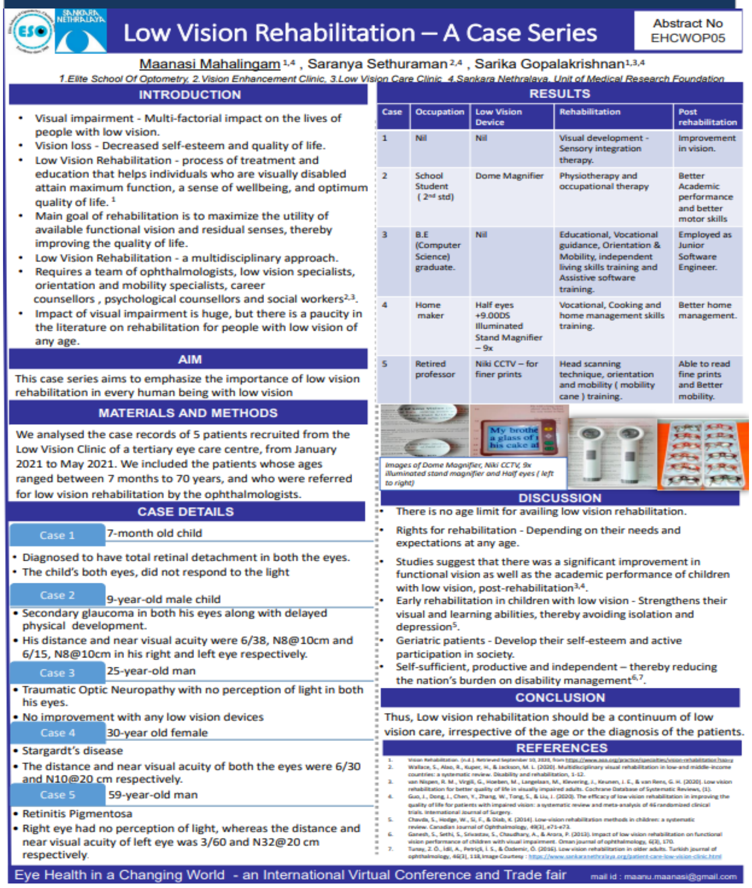
Report compiled by Ms. Jannet Philip

Oral presentations

S.NO	NAME	CATEGORY	AREA	TOPIC
1	S. Robin (M.Optom student, ESO)	Case report	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Improving spectacle adaptation in hyperopic accommodative insufficiency by vision therapy
2	Nandini Ravi (BV fellow, SN)	Case report	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	PROSOPAGNOSIA – What else to look for? – A CASE REPORT
3	Sushmitha AD (M.Optom student, TSNA)	Paper	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Validation of HEARTS (Hand-Eye Attention Reaction Time Software) to assess Anti-saccades and Visual reaction time
4	Arnab Banerjee (BV optometrist, SN Kolkata)	Paper	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Efficacy of Vision Therapy in Non-responder Amblyopic Children
5	Aparna. G (PhD Scholar, Myopia clinic)	Paper	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Agreement between Cycloplegic and Noncycloplegic Open field refraction Among Children in South India
6	Pritam Dutta (M.optom Graduate, TSNA)	Case report	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Visual snow syndrome: A case series
7	Jannet Philip (M.Optom student, ESO)	Case report	Pediatric optometry and binocular vision	Role of early intervention in habilitating children with cerebral visual impairment - A case report
8	Mehal Rathore (M.Optom student, ESO)	Paper	Ocular diagnostics	Effect of IOP fluctuations in ocular blood flow parameters using OCT Angiography - A Pilot Study
9	Hadiya Farhath.P (Research Optometrist, SN)	Paper	Ocular diagnostics	Comparison of Aqueous Flare by Photometry with That of Sun Grade in Normals And Uveitis Patients
10	Soumen Sadhu (M.Optom student, TSNA)	Paper	Ocular diagnostics	Evaluation of Meibomian Glands and Tear Film Parameters in Dry Eye Disease caused by Various Etiologies- A Pilot Study
11	Gnanapoonkodi.B (M. Optom student, TSNA)	Paper	Vision science	Analysis of visual function in individuals with low vision using Samsung Gear-Pilot study
12	Alisha Regmi (M.Optom student, TSNA)	Paper	Public health	Changes in work pattern during COVID-19 lockdown and its impact on the Eyes and Body.

Poster presentations





Visual profile of children with special needs assessed in special children vision screening camps

Ms. Aishwarya Ravi, (M.Optom student, ESO)

Low vision rehabilitation- A case series

Ms. Maanasi Mahalingam (M.Optom student, ESO)

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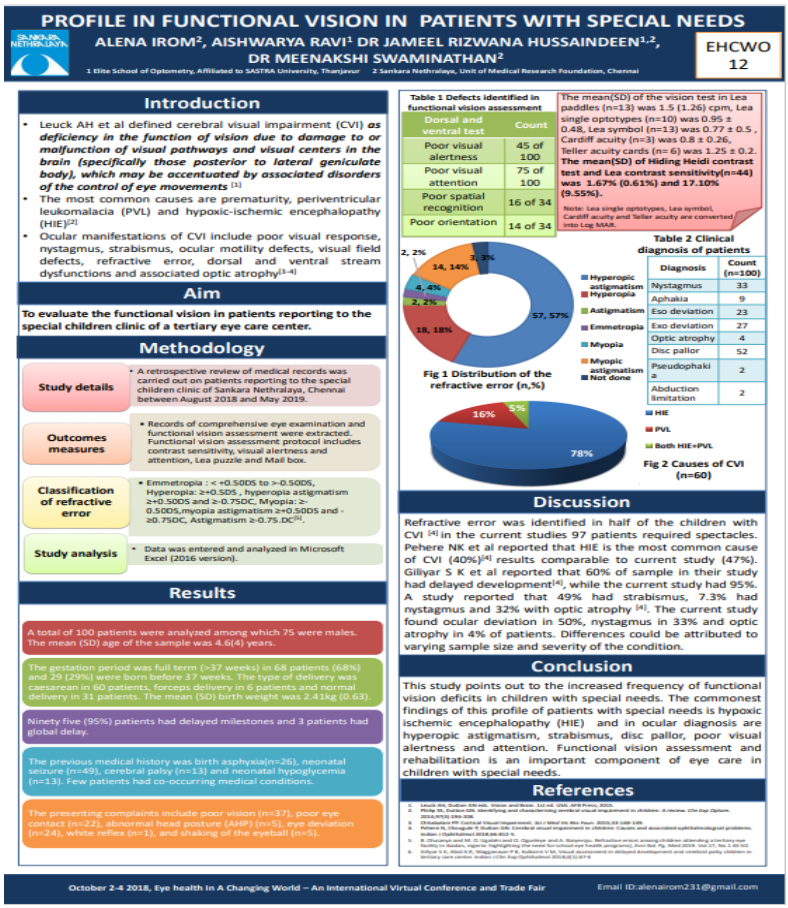
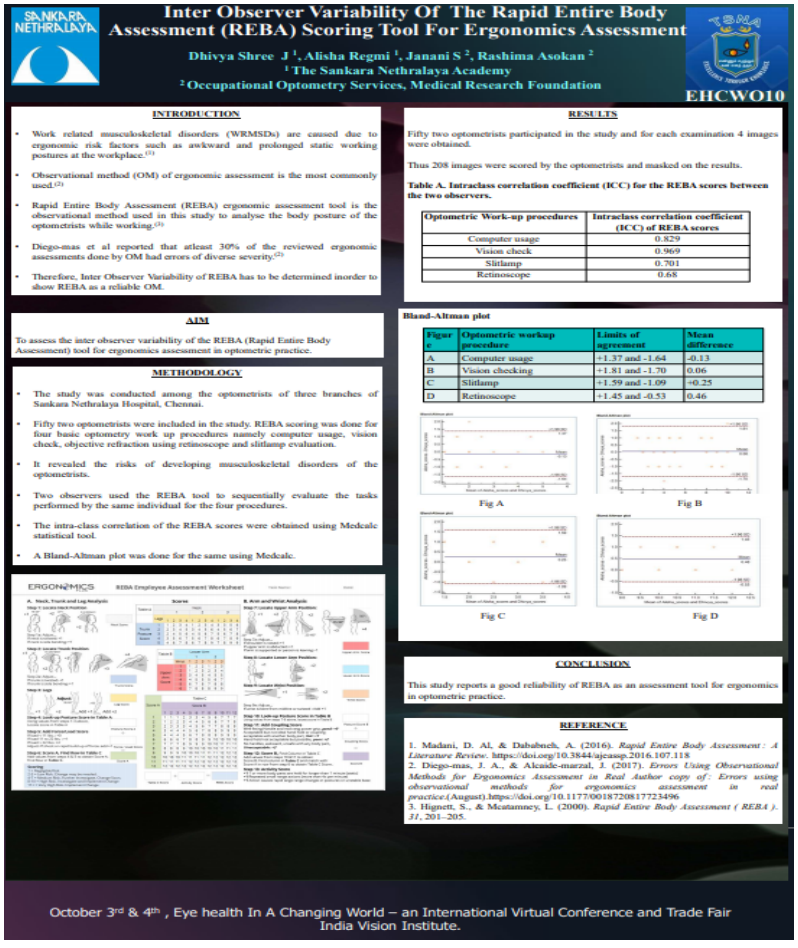


Profile in functional vision in children with special needs

Ms. Alena Irom (Optometrist, Special children clinic SN)



Inter observer variability of the Rapid Entire Body Assessment (REBA) scoring tool for ergonomics assessment

Ms. Dhivya Shree (M.Optom student, TSNA)

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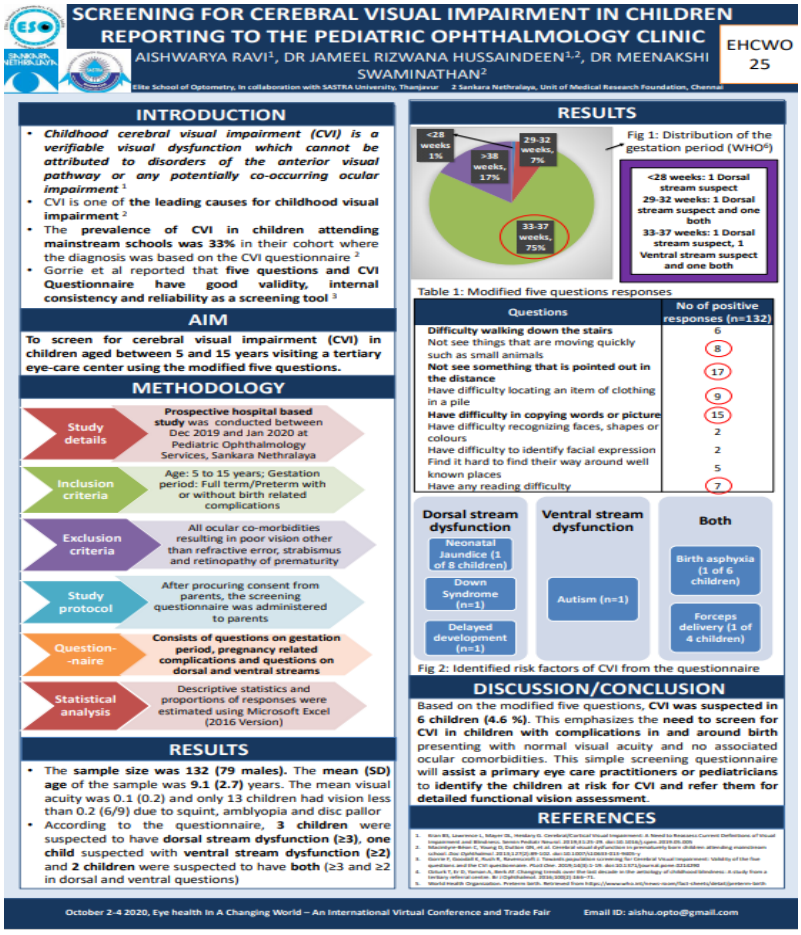
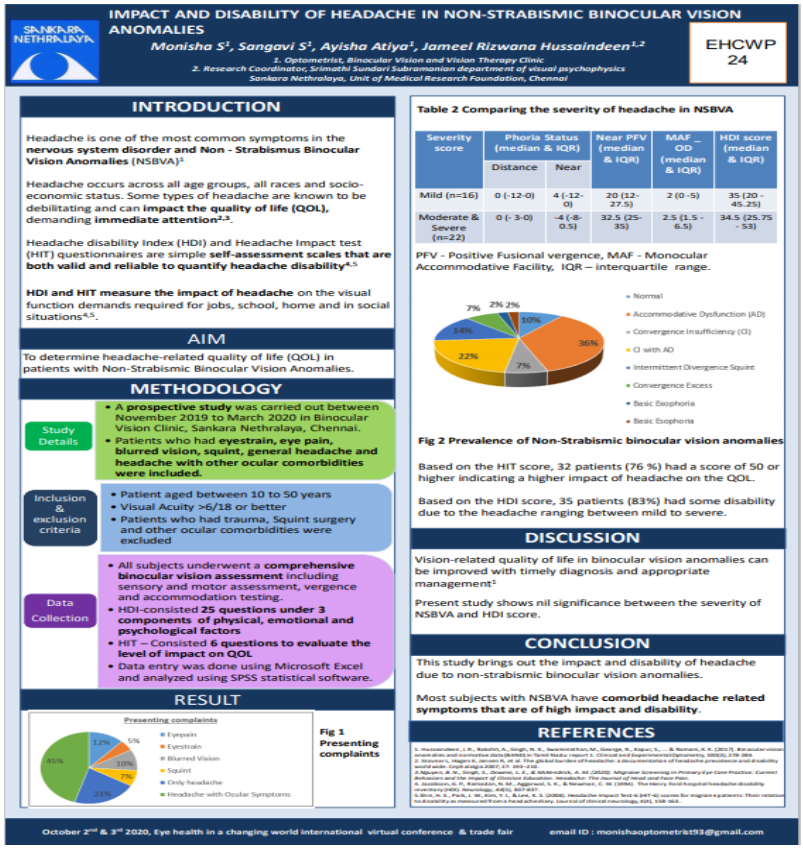


Screening for Cerebral visual impairment in children reporting to pediatric ophthalmology clinic

Ms. Aishwarya Ravi (M.Optom student, ESO)



Impact and disability of headache in non-strabismic binocular vision anomalies

Ms. Monisha. S (Optometrist, BV clinic, SN)

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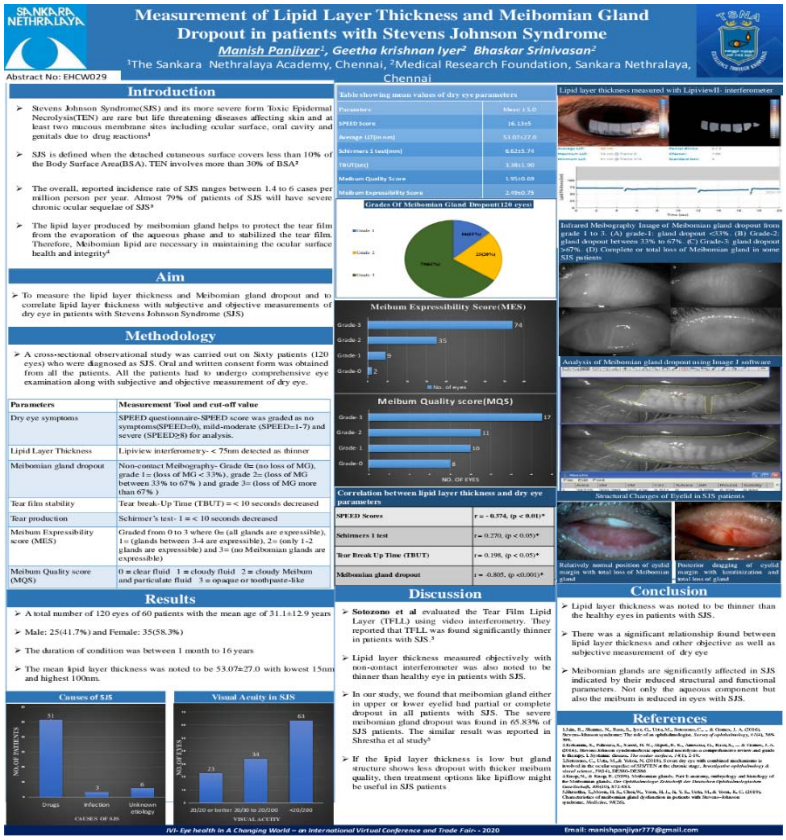
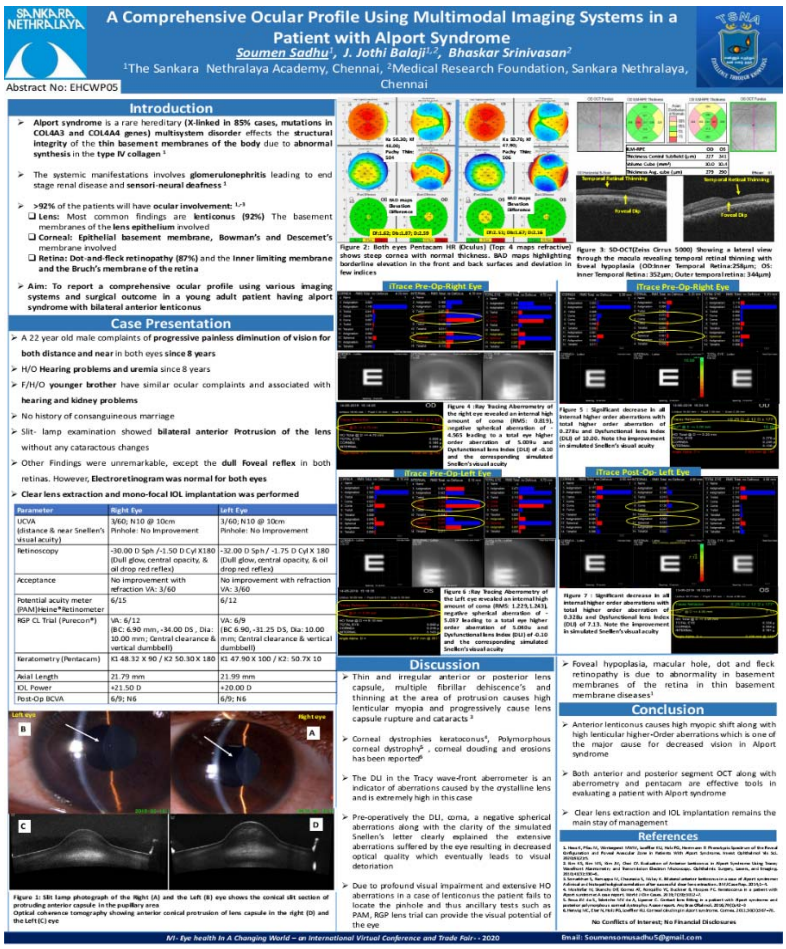


Measurement of Lipid layer thickness and meibomian gland dropout in patients with Steven Johnsons syndrome

Mr. Manish Panjiyar (M.Optom student, TSNA)



A comprehensive ocular profile using multimodal imaging systems in a patient with Alport syndrome

Mr. Soumen Sadhu (M.Optom student, TSNA)

Report compiled by Ms. Jannet Philip

Winners of the conference

Team Sankara Nethralaya as usual gave a rocking performance at the conference and won laurels. Ms. Mehal Rathore, Ms. Aparna G and Ms. Alisha Regmi won the award for best paper presentation in the oral category in ocular diagnostics, pediatric optometry and binocular vision and public health respectively. Ms. Jannet Philip won the award for best case report in the oral category.

The SN management extends its congratulations to all the participants and the winners for their active participation and top-notch performance at the conference. This conference on the whole was indeed an interactive, crucial and worthwhile, virtual learning experience and a much needed one at this time to share with the world the future of eye care and what next.

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