

From the Desk of the Chairman, Scientific Committee- OSOS

November 2021 - November 2025

Dear Esteemed Members of OSOS,

***"Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others."*¹ — Dr. S.S. Badrinath**

As I reflect on my tenure as Chairman of the Scientific Committee spanning four transformative years, I am filled with immense pride at the remarkable talent flourishing within our society. The emergence of promising young ophthalmologists in our midst represents not just the future of OSOS, but the future of eye care in our region.

Nurturing Our Rising Stars

*"The greatest wealth is to live content with little, the greatest gift is to share knowledge, and the greatest legacy is to nurture talent."*² — Dr. G.N. Rao

The abundance of talent among our younger colleagues calls for structured mentorship programs. We have witnessed their enthusiasm, technical aptitude, and fresh perspectives. What they need now is guidance from experienced practitioners who can help them reach their full potential.

As Dr. Namrata Sharma, Chair of Scientific Committee, AIOS and Director of Cornea, Cataract & Refractive Surgery at Dr. R.P. Centre, AIIMS, eloquently states: *"The growth of Indian ophthalmology depends on how effectively we transfer skills and wisdom to the next generation of doctors."*³

The sky is truly the limit for these passionate professionals when provided with the right mentorship. Dr. Mahipal Sachdev, Chairman and Managing Director of Centre for Sight and Past President of AIOS, reminds us that *"Excellence in ophthalmology is not just about mastering techniques; it's about igniting the spark of curiosity and determination in those who follow."*⁴

Dr. Partha Biswas, current President of AIOS, emphasizes that *"Mentorship creates not just skilled practitioners but visionary leaders who will shape the future of Indian ophthalmology."*⁵

Ocular Trauma Management: A Call for Self-Sufficiency

*"The eye is the lamp of the body; handle with care and restore with confidence."*⁶ — Dr. P. Namperumalsamy

I wish to emphasize the critical importance of developing comprehensive ocular trauma management capabilities throughout our membership. Our aim should be to minimize referrals by equipping every ophthalmologist with the skills to confidently handle trauma cases. This requires:

- One-to-one mentorship focusing specifically on trauma management
- Development of standardized protocols for various trauma scenarios
- Regular hands-on workshops for skill enhancement
- Multidisciplinary collaboration with neurosurgery, maxillofacial surgery, and emergency medicine departments

Dr. Santosh G. Honavar, current Honorary Secretary of AIOS and Director of Ophthalmic & Facial Plastic Surgery and Ocular Oncology at Centre for Sight, advocates: *"The comprehensive management of ocular trauma requires not just technical expertise but a coordinated ecosystem of care. This should be our goal at both individual and institutional levels."*⁷

Educational Reform: Early Trauma Training

Dr. Santosh G. Honavar, current Honorary Secretary of AIOS and Director of Ophthalmic & Facial Plastic Surgery and Ocular Oncology at Centre for Sight, wisely notes: *"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire – especially in ocular emergency management."*⁸

I propose that ocular trauma management be introduced during the very first semester of residency programs. Early exposure will:

- Build confidence in handling emergency situations
- Establish foundational skills that can be refined throughout training
- Improve emergency department outcomes
- Reduce referral burdens on tertiary centers

As Dr. Partha Biswas, current President of AIOS states: *"The foundation of ophthalmological excellence is laid in the first days of training. Start with emergencies, and everything else follows."*⁹

Elevating Our Scientific Discourse

To take our scientific deliberations to the next level, we must foster more interactive sessions during our meetings. Dr. Namrata Sharma, Chair of Scientific Committee, AIOS, advocates: *"The future of ophthalmology lies not in what we know, but in how we challenge and refine that knowledge through rigorous scientific exchange."*¹⁰

Dr. Vanathi M, Editor of Indian Journal of Ophthalmology, states: *"Our scientific forums must evolve from passive presentation platforms to dynamic think tanks where evidence is scrutinized and innovation is nurtured."*¹¹

I encourage:

- Case-based learning with active participation
- Debate formats for discussing controversial approaches
- Simulation-based learning environments
- Peer-to-peer teaching opportunities for residents

Dr. Lalit Verma, Director of Retina Services at Centre for Sight, reminds us that *"The collective wisdom in a room of engaged ophthalmologists is greater than any textbook or journal."*¹²

The strength of OSOS lies in our collective knowledge and our willingness to share it. By creating more dynamic platforms for exchange, we enhance not only individual learning but also our strength as a cohesive professional community.

Together, we can build an ophthalmological society that stands as a beacon of excellence, innovation, and compassionate care. As Dr. T.P. Das so beautifully expressed: *"We restore vision not just with our hands and instruments, but with our hearts and minds."*¹³

With warm regards and hopeful vision for our future,

Dr Sharmistha Behera
Chairman, Scientific Committee
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