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# Prof. Muralidhar Sengupta and Dr. B. K. Mitra pass away

OSWB mourns the irreparable loss of two stalwarts who influenced the development of Ophthalmology in West Bengal.



Obituary in pages 8 & 9

Extreme left : Prof. M. Sengupta :: Extreme right : Dr. B. K. Mitra

## CS Reshmi award for West Bengal again !



"Only thirty rupees for saving vision" by Dr. Asim Kr. Sil topped the "Top 9" videos list at Jaipur, at the All India Ophthalmological Conference 2009.

The 67th Annual Conference of AIOS "Marujyoti 2009" at Jaipur was flooded with plenty of scientific participation from West Bengal. Dr. Asim Kr. Sil of Vivekananda Mission Ashram, Haldia who is also the Jt. Treasurer of OSWB, has been awarded the C. S. Reshmi Gold Medal for the video titled *"Only thirty rupees for saving vision"*. The co-authors were Dr. Sanjib Bandopadhyay,

Dr. Subhra Sil and Dr. Indranil Deb.

The other members who have already won C S Reshmi award from West Bengal are Dr.Prasanta Chakraborty, Dr. Samar Basak, Dr.Suven Bhattacharjee and Dr.Arnab Biswas.

### Extraordinary achievement by Dr. Samar Basak

The American Academy of Ophthalmology has selected the video "Late Secondary Angle-Closure Glaucoma Following Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty" by Dr. Samar Kr. Basak for inclusion in a DVD called *Front Row View, Series 3: Video Collections of Eye Surgery* which the Academy will be producing and marketing. This is an excellent achievement and honour for Dr. Basak as well as OSWB. "Ophthabuzz" already reported in its previous issue that the



same video of Dr. Basak has won the best video award at AAO Annual Meeting 2008 at Atlanta and ESCRS Congress 2008 at Berlin. Well done Dr. Basak...keep it up!

# Editorial

### Bystanders' apathy.....

There are about eleven thousand members in All India Ophthalmological Society at present and out of them more than Six thousand participated in AIOC – 2009 at Jaipur. However, the General Body Meeting on the afternoon of 7th February, 2009 had to be adjourned due to lack of quorum and restarted after half an hour as per constitution with a sparse attendance of more or less one hundred members. All the vital decisions of the society had to be finalized in that adjourned meeting. The situation repeats every year and at every venue. To verify, one can go through the minutes of all the GB Meetings in the past.

In the Vice President election, approximately around one thousand votes were polled at Jaipur whereas the member registration was morre than six thousand. Our present President, Dr. Babu Rajendran, who had already thought over the issue, had a trial of an experimental e-voting system to overcome the problem. He communicated to seven hundrred members and out of them only seventy nine people rresponded for the trial.

The same scenario prevails in most of the state society affairs also. It reflects an apathetic mental projection of the common members in participating in the important decision / policy making processes of the society. The said apathy puts a serious question mark on the upliftment and maintenance of a society. The larger the society, the more glaring is the problem. The security and protection of the society get endangered in such situations and it becomes very vulnerable in maintaining its stability.

Members should strive to exert their power and rights for the benefit and well being of the society. The basic understanding that must never be forgotten is that the office bearers are only the representatives of the members of the society and they only execute the decisions of the majority of members. The situation can improve only by participation of the common members in greater numbers.

This issue invites a serious attention. The office bearers should try to communicate and incorporate the members in the decision making process by decentralizing the jobs. Ways should be worked out on the 'feel important' factor for the members. However, the key to the problem exists in the hands of the common members and only their active participation is probably the best and easiest solution.



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### Letters to The Editor

There was an enormous response and feed back after the first issue of 'Ophthabuzz' and they were either vocal through mobile or SMS. Detailed e-mail responses were also there but not so huge. We regret our



limitations of space constraints and publish a few analytical criticisms below.

**Dr. Tusar Hazra:** Very nice idea. There is a feeling of space constraints. Try to increase the size of the pictures. The text content may be reduced a little.

#### Dr. Samar Basak

Congratulations to the team for coming up with OSWB Newsletter "**Ophthabuzz**" in an excellent way. Content-wise, it has covered most of the areas and I think, it is the best way to communicate with near and dear colleagues.

#### Suggestions for further improvement:

- Photographs are to be larger in size and textual materials may be reduced in places.
  I think, you have been already communicated for that by otther colleagues.
- Some new sections may be added afterwards in phases as follows:
  - a. News from the Districts (Cover one district in each issue).
  - b. Highlights of previous Monthly meetings of OSWB (Already being done).
  - c. Non ophthalmological achievements by any OSWB member.
  - d. Young Ophthalmologists' forum (<35 years of age).
  - e. Name of the ophthalmologists of the Medical Colleges (with new posting, Head etc.). Also who is retiring from any medical college.
  - f. New member list (of course after ratification) Welcoming the new member.
  - g. Important announcement: ARC fellowship, Travel fellowship of AIOS, Forthcoming important meetings etc.
- Give the Calendar of the Forthcoming OSWB meetings – preferably for the whole year – including one day symposium, Mid term conference and next Annual conference, etc.
  - 4. "OSWB Notice board" for all important Announcements.
  - 5. Last but not the least, In last page Print 'Membership Form' as Tear-sheet and always make an appeal for membership drive.

Good going and let's go on and on.....

## A successful CME programme from Susrut on **Refractive Cataract Surgery**

Susrut Eye Foundation and Research Centre, Kolkata conducted an educational workshop, titled

"Refractive Cataract Surgery - Cutting Edge" on 14th December 2008 at ITC Sonar. It was a grand success with live surgery workshop and a huge participation of 225 delegates. Dr. Dushyantha Wariyapola, the leading cataract consultant in the Govt. sector of Srilanka, Dr. V. C. Mehta from Mumbai and Dr. Khurshid Khan from Lucknow were the speakers of the guest faculty. A live surgical demonstration of refractive (toric) IOL surgery transmitted from the operation theatre

> of Susrut at Salt Lake using the innovative optical data cable technology delivered crystal clear





Dr. V. C. Mehta from Mumbai

real time images before the delegates at ITC Sonar. A parallel film award session was also conducted on recorded eve surgery videos. There were eight participants and the best video prize was awarded to Dr. Arup Bhaumik for his video entitled "Comparison of rotational stability of Intra Ocular Lens"

Dr. Sunil Bagchi, the president of Susrut and ex-president of OSWB ceremonially unveiled the first issue of Ophthabuzz from the podium during his welcome address.

# **Educational Programme for DNB and** Post Graduate Students getting popular

The Department of Ophthalmology at Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Kolkata conducted a 2 hour (11-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M.) programme in Ophthalmology for the DNB and Post Graduate students on 8th December 2008 to share the latest developments in the field. Students of the teaching institutions of Kolkata attended the class.

#### The Speakers invited were

- 1. Dr. Janak M Shah (Consultant Eye Surgeon of Lotus Eye Hospital, P. G. Kher Institute & Satya Sai Hospital at Mumbai)
- 2. Dr. John D. Willer (Senior Consultant of Cascade Eye Center at Hood River County, Providence Newberg Medical Center & Providence Medical Plaza at Oregon in USA.)

#### The lectures were under the following headings:

- 1. Things nobody else told you about Surgery
- 2. Insight into Phacoemulsification
- 3. MSICS: Snare technique
- 4. Iris fixated lens
- 5. Gift of sight
- 6. Service to humanity is service to God

The programme was arranged by Dr. Bikas Bhattacharya and Dr. Manas Moitra



# Ophthalmologist archives songs of Rabindranath Tagore. An achievement unparalleled !

Dr. Purnendu Bikash Sarkar has created "Gitabitan Archive" where all the 2212 songs of Kabiguru, written in his lifetime have been compiled with an entertaining retrieval system. Born on 16th October 1955, Dr. Sarkar completed his schooling from Gobardanga of North 24 Parghanas and MBBS from Calcutta Medical College in 1980. After completion of his post graduate diploma in Ophthalmology in 1984, Dr.Sarkar started his practice at Salt Lake Eye Foundation, Kolkata.

Gitabitan Archive is a DVD based software which can be played easily on a computer. Clicking the "Icon"- a colorful window opens up where 2212 songs of Gitabitan have been arranged alphabetically. On clicking any of these songs, appears a list of artists who have sung the particular



song. Clicking the name of any artist from the list, the song starts playing and the picture of the artist is displayed in a frame. In the foot-note all possible information about the song, like category, sub-category, serial number, date of creation, age at which written, number in Swarabitan, detail of Sur/Tal & Raga and many more interesting details are available.

The Lyric, Notation, Time of first recording and all other necessary information of the song are available by clicking respective buttons. Several kinds of incorporated search options help locating a song of choice simple and easy.

It contains all the information & complete lyric of 4 'Nrityanatya', 3 'Geetinatya', 86 songs of Gitanjali and 433 Brahma Sangeet in this Archive. 242 'Bhanga gan' have been listed in this Archive, where the original song can be compared with the respective Rabindrasangeet. The DVD is a treasure house of 9 songs & 17 recitations in Tagore's own voice.



The untiring job of research and compilation has been done by Dr. Sarkar and the DVD is commercially published by "SAREGAMA HMV". Gitabitan Archive was officially inaugurated by Smt. Suchitra Mitra & Dwijen Mukhopadhyay on 5th May 2006 at Bangla Academy. It has also been demonstrated at Detroit Banga Sanmelan (USA), and many other places . On 15th Oct 2008, Dr. Sarkar was felicitated at Rabindra Sadan for his Gitabitan Archive by "Mohordhara". Gitabitan Archive has been collected by more than 5000 people in India & abroad. Now it has become a 'Collector's Item'.

#### Here is an interview with Dr. Sarkar, exclusive for "Ophthabuzz" only.

#### How did you conceive the idea?

I use computer in every sphere of my life since 1995. And like every Bengali, I love Rabindrasangeet from the core of my heart. From 2002, I started collecting Rabindrasangeet and stored them in my laptop. Simultaneously I was going through the research about every song written by Tagore. I wanted to preserve the songs in such a media that everybody can enjoy any song of his choice.

#### What were the early inception events?

I started the project as a personal hobby only. Gradually it turned the way to a creative work. I collected the data in my laptop; collected the songs both common and rare ones, edited them through different softwares, and started developing the Gitabitan Archive software.

#### What is the actual purpose?

- 1. To listen to any Rabindrasangeet, immediately just with a mouse click.
- 2. To get detailed information about every song.
- 3. To augment interest about Rabindrasangeet in the younger generation (through a media that is compatible with the time and generation).
- 4. Preservation of entire Gitabitan & Rabindra Sangeet.

#### Your message to the readers of Ophthabuzz?

"Karmanyay wadhikarastay maa phalesu kadachanah". I started it as my hobby and continued only being in love with the job. I am grateful to the people that my humble effort becomes useful to them.

## **Seconds Mart**

Following pre owned equipments are for sale at the residence cum clinic of late Dr. Haranath Chakraborty at NSB Road, Tarbangla, Raniganj, Burdwan.

1. Auto-Keratometer: KM-500 (Nidek) – One

- 2. Phacoemulsification machin: Sovereign Compact upgraded to Ice Tech. (AMO)- One
- 3. Yag Laser (Zeiss) - - One
- 4. Biometry Unit (Alcon) -- - One

Please contact Ms. Arumita Chakraborty (Wife of late Dr. Haranath Chakraborty) for further detail. Ph: 0341-2445117

Dr. Ranjan Nandi Kolkata Greens 9432312012 Interested to purchase Appassamy make Slit Lamp

Disclaimer : This column is for selling or buying second hand Ophthalmology equipments for personal use. OSWB furnishes the information only and is no way responsible for any dispute related to the quality of equipments or transaction deal.

Please contact Dr. J. Bhunia (bhunialine@hotmail.com)/ Dr. S. Home (drsubhankar2@rediffmail.com) for your advertisement in the next issue.

## -Vacancy Board-

Positions available at Sunetra Family Eye Care Centre 1050/1 SurveyPark, Kolkata 700075 ,India [Tel: +91 33 24188223; Mbl: +91 9830006769]

1) Full-time / Part-time

- a) Ophthalmologists in the departments of Vitreo-Retinal surgery, Cornea, Oculoplasty, Squint, Neuroophthalmology, General & Community Ophthalmology
- b) Anesthetist / Physician
- 2) Optometrist
- 3) OR Nurse & Technician

Attractive compensation packages. Contact within 15 days at / 033 24188223.

Optometrist Required: One full-time optometrist for a charitable eye clinic in Rajarhat One part-time optometrist in the evening session in Rajarhat. Please contact: Eye Foundation and Research Center P-1 Manicktala Main Road :: H S – XII, Scheme No: VII-M Kolkata – 700054 Ph: 033-23550333 :: Cell: 9830157081





## 2<sup>nd</sup> Academic meeting of OSWB at Calcutta National Medical College

OSWB's 2nd Academic Meet was successfully held at Calcutta National Medical College on 16th December 2008 at 2.30 p.m. The perfect atmosphere of the classical afternoon clinical meeting with an interactive discussion made the session quite enjoyable.

Dr. Debnath Chattopadhyay delivered an informative lecture on "Prevention of posterior segment blindness". Dr. Khondakar Fakruddin under the guidance of Dr. Swapan Samanta presented 4 interesting cases of



different types of Optic Atrophy. Dr. Dayal Majumdar under the guidance of Dr. Jyotirmoy Datta presented 4 different cases of Corneal decompensation.

# 3rd Academic meet of OSWB... a meet to reminisce for a long time.



The 3rd academic meet of OSWB was one with a difference! It was a show of excellent clinical and other award winning videos producced by members of OSWB. It was befittingly titled "For Your Eyes Only" and screened at "Rangmanch", Swabhumi on 17th January 2009 at 7.30 p.m. Award winning video at AAO and ESCRS by Dr. Samar Basak was the special attraction and 139 strong attendance made it a grand success.

#### The videos were:

- 1. Late secondary Angle Closure Glaucoma following Descemet Stripping Endothelial Keratoplasty and its Management by Dr. Samar Basak.
- 2. Bhattacharjee's Genie it's a Chopper, converts to a spatula and injects OVD too! by Dr. Suven Bhattacharjee.
- 3. Lifting the Bleb by Dr. Sumit Chowdhury.
- 4. The Agony and The Ecstacy: Phacoemulsification in Ectopia Lentis by Dr. Ajoy Paul.
- 5. Two videos as (a) Orbit Medial Wall Fracture: Fate or Miracle of Nature? and (b) Reverse Cattle Trucking: A New Clinical Sign by Dr. Arnab Biswas

The programme ended with fellowship dinner courtesy M/s Avesta, a division of Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Limited.

# OSWB academic meet provides useful platform for the post graduate students.



4th academic Meet of OSWB was successfully held at 2.30 PM at Sambhunath Pandit Hospital on 19th February 2009, Thursday. The DNB and post graduate students of Kolkata presented few important and interesting cases. This was a noble approach of OSWB to encourage the practice of academic presentations and improving the delivery and presenting ability of the post



graduate students in ophthalmology.

- 1. Dr. Soumen Chanda presented "Reiger's Axenfeld anomaly".
- 2. Dr. Gitika Chanana presented "Retinitis Pigmentosa".
- 3. Dr. Somnath Moulik presented "An unusual indication of Nd YAG Laser Coreoplasty".

A lot of thanks to Dr. Bikas Bhattacharya and Dr. Manas Moitra for organising the academic meet. Thanks to 41 members present who were there to encourage our young speakers.



# OBITUARY ·

We have lost two of our members in the recent past

### Prof. Muralidhar Sengupta. OSWB Membership No: S – 427 Born on: 12<sup>th</sup> December 1911

## Expired on: 28<sup>th</sup> November 2008

The most influential personality of Ophthalmology in West Bengal bellowed his first cry in a doctor's family... that of Dr. Jogesh Ch. Sengupta, in the shivering cold winter of Munger in Bihar. His father was

in the transferable job of Bengal Medical Service. Hence he had his schooling at severral places and finally received his School Leaving Certificate at Khulna. He completed his I. Sc. at Rajsahi.

An extraordinary brilliant student with a family background of medical profession, he joined Calcutta Medical College to serve the suffering humanity. He completed his MBBS in 1937 and got wedded to Dr. Aruna Sen who was also his classmate and a good friend. As a studious fellow he earned the Government College Scholarship, Gold Medal in Surgery, Duke of Edinburgh prize in Surgery and Honours in Pathology. He passed DOMS (London) in 1949 and became the fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences in 1963.



Nilmadhab Sinha; S. Ahmed Sitting: Dr. P Sengupta; Miss. Aruna Sen; Dr. U P Basu Dr. A K Bose; Dr. Miss. G Aggarwalla; Dr. J Sarker

He worked in the General Surgery Department of Calcutta

Medical College from 1937 to 1941. His blooming career in Ophthalmology started after this initial spell when he was spotted by General Kirwan and he joined the Eye Department of Calcutta Medical College on his instruction. He joined as House Surgeon, matured himself through the responsibilities of Registrar, Resident Surgeon and Assistant Professor and gracefully retired as a guiding personality in the field of Ophthalmology in West Bengal as the Professor and the head of the Institute of Ophthalmology in 1971. As an exceptional teacher he was taken back to the Calcutta Medical College even after his retirement as Emeritus Professor of Ophthalmology. For a short spell he was transferred to N R S Medical College and his midas touch and planning saw the birth of the Department of Ophthalmology there.

Having a tremendous foresight on the legal aspects, he was instrumental in having the Cornea Grafting act passed and then established the first eye bank in West Bengal. He masterminded the planning of the "School of Optometry" and the "Retina Clinic" in the "Eye Infirmary" building which later became the "Regional Institute of Ophthalmology". Under the guidance of Capt. Kiran Sen he devoted himself to retinal surgery and started the Retina Research Clinic at Medical College.

Honours and responsibilities kept this popular personality busy throughout his life. The following are only a few to mention...

- 1. Hony. Secretary and President of OSWB.
- 2. Chairman of the editorial board of Bengal Ophthalmic Journal of OSWB.
- 3. President of AIOS.
- 4. Hony. Secretary and President of the Association for the Prevention of Blindness.
- 5. Fellow of State Medical Faculty of West Bengal.
- 6. Vice President of Light House for the Blind.
- 7. President of Eye Care and Research Centre.
- 8. President of Eye Donation Society.

His wife Dr. (Mrs.) Aruna Sengupta who was the Deputy Director in heath services, expired in 1993. He is survived by his able son Dr. Dipankar Sengupta, well known surgeon in Gastroenterology and daughter in law, the reputed Ophthalmologist of Kolkata Dr. (Mrs.) Juthika Pal. Last but not the least the 4<sup>th</sup> generation doctor in the family is his grandson Dr. Raja Sengupta who has just completed his MBBS from Calcutta National Medical College.

May his soul rest in peace.

## OBITUARY-

### Dr. Balai Krishna Mitra. OSWB Membership No: M - 259 Born on: 5<sup>th</sup> July 1921

#### Expired on: 31<sup>St</sup> December 2008

*"Dikay dikay sei baarta rati galo kromay".* Thanks to the SMS alert facility that hass been introduced by the new Executive Committee of OSWB, the newss of the sad demise of the father figure of the ophthalmic fraternity of West Bengal spread like wildfire on the morning of the last day of the year. His affectionate student, Dr. Amarnath De walked down the memory lane to pen the following lines.....

The bestowed son of undivided India, Sri Balai Krishna was born in the district of Khulna as the second son of Sri Amritalal and Smt. Binapani Mitra. 'Binapani', being the mythological deity of education, aptly gifted a talented 'Baraputra' (bestowed



Picture taken by the editor, Dr. J. Bhunia only three weeks before the demise

son) to the mother earth. He completed matriculation from his village school and I Sc. from Khulna Sadar College.

He entered Medical College, Bengal (presently Calcutta Medical College) in 1938 in the last batch of the 6 year course of MB. After the successful completion of the bachelor degree, he gained experience as Houseman in the departments of Surgery, Medicine and Ophthalmology. As an active member of the Students' Union, during this period, he led the movement of demand for stipend for the housemen and succeeded in a historical start.

Capt. Kiran Sen, the principal of Lake Medical College offered him to work there in 1947 and he accepted. Lake Medical College, situated on the banks of present Rabindra Sarobar was the usual structure of army-barrack along Southern Avenue. It was a glamorous teaching school for the army doctors of that time. Capt. Sen made him prudent under his affectionate guidance and encouraged to complete the DOMS course of two years at Calcutta Medical College. "Teaching is one of the best ways of learning" and Dr. Mitra sharpened his knowledge in Ophthalmology participating in the teaching programmes at the Lake Medical College.

After passing DOMS in 1952, he joined Calcutta Medical College as Hony. Junior Visiting Surgeon. Except for a short spell of 6 months when he was transferred to N R S Medical College, he spent a period of 30 years in Calcutta Medical College and was promoted from Hony. Junior Visiting Surgeon to Hony. Senior Visiting Surgeon and retired as Hony. Reader. He was a teacher as well as examiner for both the under graduate and post graduate courses in the University. As an established academician he has many publications and lectures in various conferences abroad.

Honours and responsibilities flowed into his charismatic persona and in 1977 he became the president of OSWB and that of AIOS in 1980. However the dedicated *Vaishnabite* man believed in devotion to work and faith in the divinnity of Lord *Srikrishna Chaitanya* and said *"Iha Bajhya"* (This is meaningless).

Well known for his punctuality in class as well as the academic sessions of conferences, he also had a popular image for his sense of wit. The life long bachelor did love his students as his sons and daughters so much that they started an award in OSWB during his lifetime.

Soul is immortal. So the immortal soul of this magnanimous personality will live in our hearts forever. Sir! You will remain here eternally and continue to love and bless us. We will miss you during the academic meets and conferences but we know very well that your blessings will continue to shower upon us the same way for ever. May your soul rest in eternal peace.

We deeply mourn their sad demise and pray for the eternal peace of their souls. We express our heartfelt sympathies for the members of the bereaved families.

# Book for the common people by Dr. Purnendu Bikash Sarkar

A new book "Chokher Katha", authored by Dr. Purnendu Bikash Sarkar and published by Ananda Publishers has been inaugurated at a Press Meet in Press Club, Kolkata on 25th February 2009 by eminent film personality Sri Sabyasachi Chakraborty. In "Chokher Katha', Dr. Sarkar has discussed about many common eye diseases in a very simple way for common people. This book will help to create awareness among the general population about the maintenance of basic health of the eye. The appendix features the addresses and email ids and telephone numbers of leading Ophthalmic Institutions of India and West Bengal.



# Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata inaugurates their new establishment at Mukundapur



Chief Minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya inaugurated the new building of Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata at Mukundapur on 20th January 2009 in a ceremonial programme in the evening. Health Minister Mr. Suryakanta Mishra, Dr. S. S. Badrinath and many other dignitaries witnessed the ceremony on the dais. Sankara Nethralaya, Kolkata was functioning in the temporary set up near Wellington square till now and gradually the services will be shifted to the new venue.

The "Tele Ophthalmology Service Facility" of Sankara Nrthralaya at Kolkata was also inaugurated by The Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi on 22nd Januray in a formal inauguration ceremony at Spring Club.

Annual Conference of Kolkata Academy of Ophthalmology was held at Eastern Zonal Cultural Center on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

## Indian Alumni Group of ICEH, London dissolved and a New Organisation of Community Ophthalmology emerges in the Indian horizon.

The Indian Alumni Group of ICEH (International Centre for Eye Health), London conducted their 9th Annual Meet at Hotel Countyy Inn at Jaipur on the 3rd and 4th February 2009. At their Extended Managing Committee Meeting on the evening of 3rd February, it was decided to dissolve the existing Alumni Group

and to form a new society titled "Indian Association of Community Ophthalmology" utilizing the existing member strength. The necessary constitution was formulated accordingly and the participation and membership was opened to all the ophthalmologists who work for community ophthalmology. The idea is to widen the participation keeping pace with same sort of associations in the neighboring countries like Pakistan Association of Community Ophthalmology (PACO) and Bangladesh Community



Ophthalmology Association (BCOA). The goal of the society will be advocacy of Community Eye Health services in the Indian subcontinent. Previously the association was only for the Alumni of the ICEH, London.

The two day programme was packed with many scientific presentations. Members from Bangladesh and Nepal and eminent personalities of Community Ophthalmology Service in India participated in the meeting. Dr. C. Balakrishna (Kadappa Medical College, Andhra Pradesh) was installed as the President and Dr. Pannalal Saha (Kolkata) as the President elect.

For further details and enrolment of membership please contact the Hony. General Secretary, Dr. Swapan Kr. Samanta at swapan\_samanta@hotmail.com :: Cell - 9474066978

It was decided that the first Annual Scientific Meet of Indian Association of Community Ophthalmology will be held at Kolkata in 2010.

# 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Vitreo-retinal Society of India "VRSI 2008" successfully organized at Ffort Raichak

"VRSI 2008" was organized from 4th to 6th December 2008 at The Ffort Raichak, West Bengal. This was the 17th Annual Congress and West Bengal was chosen for the first time in Eastern India to host the programme. It was organized by the Vitreo Retinal Society of West Bengal under the able leadership of Dr. D N Chattopadhayay.



A total of 355 delegates from different parts of the country and abroad attended this meeting. Prof. Frank Koch from University Eye Clinic, Frankfurt, Germany delivered his latest concept on "Intrectomy" during

this scientific session. Dr. Cesare Farloni from Revenna, Italy, Dr. Rajat Aggarwal from California, USA and Dr. P Singh from USA, talked about newer advancements in vitreo-retinal surgery.

Newer advancements in the sectors of micro-incisional vitero-retinal surgery and anti VEGF therapy were the hot topics of discussion. In the general body meeting it was unanimously agreed to opt for a "Nation wide registry system" for



Retinitis Pigmentosa patients and it was decided that Dr. Lingam Gopal, Medical Director, Sanakara Nethralaya, Chennai, will head that body.

It was not only about academics. The delegates enjoyed the fun filled river cruise and the sumptuous dinner on the Ganges. Everybody appreciated the warmth of Bengali hospitality and fellowship.



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