NEWS LETTER

For the month of September, Year 2024

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY · SVU ·
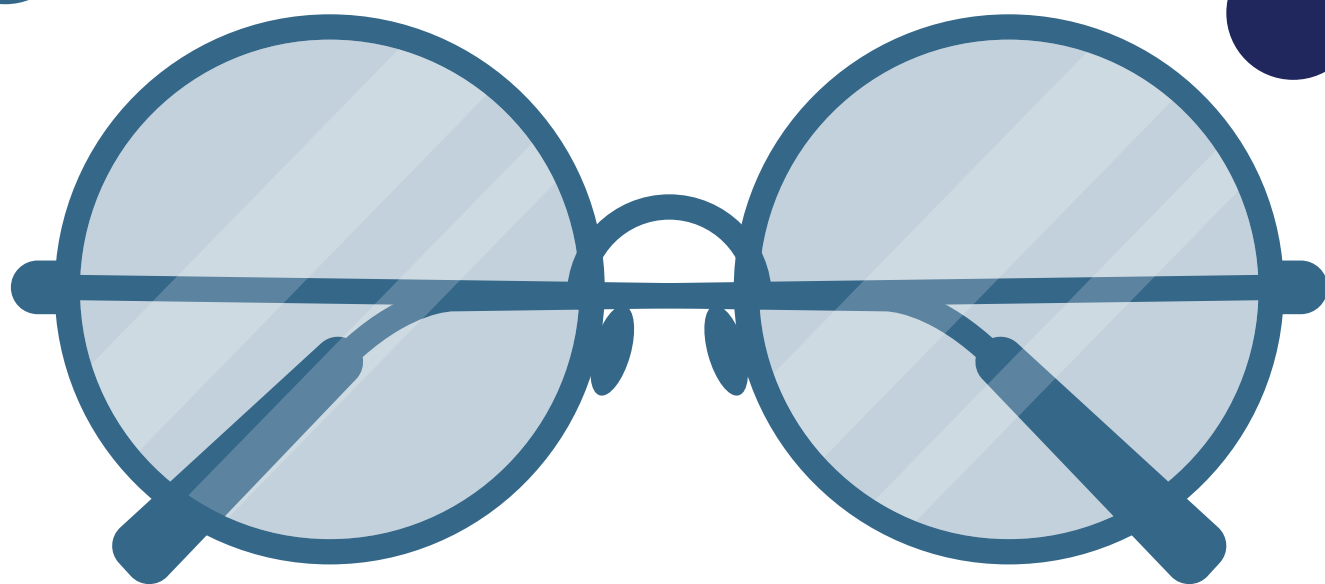
Department of Optometry

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
Swami Vivekananda University, Bara Kanthalia,
West Bengal 700121

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY
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DEPARTMENT OF OPTOMETRY
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
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Bara Kanthalia,
West Bengal 700121
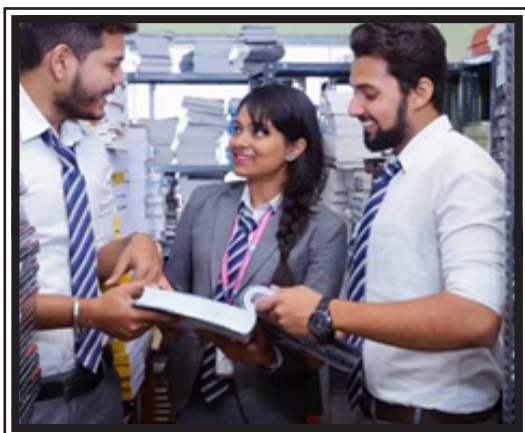
Optometry, the primary health care profession concerned with eye health consultation, diagnostics, disease management and primary eye disease treatment. B. Optometry is a four years graduation course including one year hospital internship program. During course pursuing students will learn about General & Ocular anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Physical & Visual Optics, Community health, Disease management & Pharmacology, Systemic disease & eye etc with practical industrial exposure to become a successful professional Optometric practitioner. During Course conduction Swami Vivekananda University also prefer to organize so many eye camps so that students will be skilled enough to handle community patients and providing spectacles. Expert guest lectures and seminars are also vital for students that will be helpful to know about recent practice, research & development. For this purpose Swami Vivekananda University organize seminars, webinars and hands on workshop within the campus and also guide students to attend seminars organized by renowned Eye Hospitals. To enhance dispensing skill Optometry department of Swami Vivekananda University also constructed Optical lab and outdoor patient unit so that students, all category stuffs, outside common people can avail free eye treatment and spectacles also in very cheap rate. Our mission & vision to develop standard and well equipped modern laboratories and also develop optometry education platform with full of practical exposure and increase internship options.

Vision of the department

To be known globally as a centre of excellence for optometry and vision science education, innovation, interdisciplinary research, and practice for enhancing eye health.

Mission of the department

1. Establish state of art facilities for world-class optometry education and interdisciplinary research.
2. Collaborate with the health care sector for curriculum design and best practices.
3. Involve students in community health programs to develop lifelong learning and communication skills.

Faculties of Department Optometry

| Dr. Dipanwita Ghosh | Dr. Manas Chakraborty | Dr. Prabirendra Nath Sinha | Mr. Arup Saha |

| Ms. Anusuya Das | Ms. Srimanti Sarkar | Mrs. Rikta Paul |

Message From our Head of the Department

Dr. Dipanwita Ghosh
Assistant Professor & Head,
Department of Optometry

Dear Students, Faculty, and Esteemed Colleagues,

It is with great pride that I reflect upon the remarkable progress our Optometry Department has made over the past year. Together, we have achieved significant milestones in both academic and clinical excellence, positioning ourselves as leaders in the field of vision science. Our commitment to delivering high-quality education, fostering a research-driven environment, and providing exceptional patient care continues to drive our success.

Progress and Achievements

Our department has seen a notable increase in the enrollment of students, demonstrating the growing interest in optometry as a career choice. We have expanded our curriculum to include the latest advancements in optometric science, including digital eye care, tele-optometry, and advancements in refractive surgery. Additionally, our students and faculty have actively contributed to groundbreaking research, tackling key issues such as myopia control, ocular disease prevention, and the integration of technology in eye care.

The clinical training facilities have been further enhanced, offering students hands-on experience with cutting-edge diagnostic equipment and treatment techniques. Our partnership with local clinics and hospitals has allowed us to broaden the scope of patient care, ensuring that our students gain practical exposure to a diverse range of cases.

Future Goals

Looking ahead, our focus will be on continued innovation in both education and patient care. We aim to integrate emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality into our teaching and practice, preparing our students to meet the challenges of the future. Additionally, we will work on expanding our research programs, with an emphasis on global eye health and addressing the vision care needs of underserved populations.

We are also committed to strengthening our ties with international institutions to foster exchange programs, collaborative research, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. By doing so, we hope to continue developing leaders in optometry who will shape the future of eye care worldwide.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated faculty, staff, and students for their hard work, passion, and commitment to excellence. The achievements of our department would not be possible without your collective efforts. Together, we will continue to strive towards excellence in education, research, and clinical practice, ensuring that the future of optometry remains bright and full of promise.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Exploring the Heart of Education: Our Board of Studies

Dear Readers,
In this edition, we shine a spotlight on the driving force behind our academic excellence: the Board of Studies. Composed of dedicated educators and experts, the Board plays a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape of our institution. Here's a glimpse into their structure and function:

1. Who We Are
Members: Our Board of Studies comprises of
- Mrs. Dipanwita Ghosh (HOD)
- Dr. Prabirendra Nath Sinha (Academic coordination)
- Dr. Manas Chakraborty
- Mr. Arup Saha
- Ms. Srimanti Sarkar
- Ms. Sudha Prasad
- Ms. Rikta Paul
- Ms. Anusuya Das

- **Chairperson:** Dr. Somnath Ghosh, leading with vision and expertise, guiding our efforts towards academic innovation and excellence.

- **Acedemic Expert:** Dr. Somnath Ghosh & others from various fields of expertise, ensuring a comprehensive perspective in curriculum development and educational policy.

2. Collaborative Approach
- Meetings and Decision-Making: Regular meetings facilitate constructive dialogue and informed decision-making, ensuring alignment with our institution's mission and values.

3. Achievements and Future Directions
- Recent Initiatives: Highlighting successful curriculum updates, innovative teaching methods, and student-centered initiatives.
- Future Goals: Anticipating new challenges and opportunities in education, from technology integration to global learning initiatives.

Students of Swami Vivekananda University, Department of Optometry participated in Smart India Hackathon 2024 and Technovation 2024

We are proud to announce that students from the Department of Optometry, Swami Vivekananda University, have actively participated in the prestigious Smart India Hackathon 2024. The Smart India Hackathon is an initiative by the Government of India that brings together students, entrepreneurs, and professionals to work on solving real-world problems through innovative tech-based solutions. This year, our talented team of optometry students took part in this exciting event, showcasing their skills, creativity, and passion for technology.

The event aimed at creating innovative solutions for problems related to various sectors, and our students participated in the hackathon with great enthusiasm. They worked on developing solutions that could improve visual healthcare,We are proud to announce that students from the Department of Optometry, Swami Vivekananda University, have actively participated in the prestigious Smart India Hackathon 2024. The Smart India Hackathon is an initiative by the Government of India that brings together students, entrepreneurs, and professionals to work on solving real-world problems through innovative tech-based solutions. This year, our talented team of optometry students took part in this exciting event, showcasing their skills, creativity, and passion for technology.

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In a stunning display of talent, seven out of eight teams from the department were selected for participation in the hackathon, marking a milestone in the department's contribution to healthcare technology and innovation.

The seven selected teams worked on a range of innovative projects, which included:
Developing new tools for early detection of vision disorders using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).
Creating mobile-based solutions that allow remote consultations and diagnosis for individuals in rural or underserved areas.
Enhancing accessibility for individuals with visual impairments through smart assistive technologies.
Improving patient care through better data management and diagnostic tools for optometrists.

Each of these projects addressed the critical need for enhancing eye care in both urban and rural areas, highlighting the department's dedication to improving quality of life through technological advancements in optometry.

**Collaborative Effort and Faculty Involvement**

A key factor in the success of these teams was the strong collaboration between the students, faculty members, and industry experts. Faculty members from the Optometry Department played an instrumental role in guiding and mentoring the students throughout the hackathon process. Their expertise, combined with the students' creativity, ensured that each project was not only technically viable but also aligned with the practical needs of the healthcare industry. The multidisciplinary approach also enabled the integration of knowledge from fields such as computer science, healthcare, engineering, and design. This collaborative environment fostered the development of solutions that were both innovative and sustainable, with the potential to create lasting changes in the field of optometry.

Impact of the Selection

The selection of seven teams out of eight for the Smart India Hackathon is a testament to the quality of education and mentorship offered by the Optometry Department. This achievement not only enhances the department's reputation but also motivates students to pursue excellence in their respective fields.

Looking Ahead

The journey does not end with selection. The teams will now participate in further stages of the Smart India Hackathon, where they will fine-tune their solutions, receive feedback from judges, and collaborate with industry experts to bring their ideas to life. The department is immensely proud of its students' achievements and is eager to see how their projects evolve in the coming months.
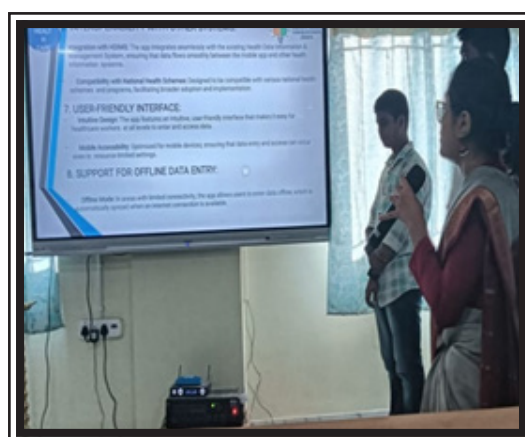
Students of Swami Vivekananda University, Department of Optometry celebrated Teacher Day on 10th September, 2024

The Department of Optometry celebrated Teachers' Day on 10th September, honoring the selfless dedication and hard work of educators who shape the future of students. This special day, observed in memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, was an occasion for students to express their heartfelt gratitude to the teachers for their constant guidance and support. The celebration was filled with joy, creativity, and memorable performances, making it an event to remember.

A Festive Start to the Celebration

The Teachers' Day celebration kicked off with a warm welcome address by one of the students, who highlighted the significance of the day and the important role teachers play in shaping not just academic knowledge, but also the character and future of their students. The students expressed their deep appreciation for the teachers, acknowledging their commitment to excellence in education.

Cultural Extravaganza: Dance and Music Performances
The highlight of the celebration was a vibrant cultural program, where students showcased their talent through a variety of performances. The event featured a lively dance performance, where a group of students took the stage and performed a graceful, energetic routine that captivated the audience. The dance, filled with enthusiasm and energy, was a beautiful tribute to the teachers and their unwavering support.

The students also presented a singing performance, with some singing soulful songs that conveyed deep respect and appreciation for the teaching staff. The songs resonated with everyone in the room, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie. The blend of music and dance filled the event with joy, and the performances were met with applause and cheers from both students and faculty alike.
Teachers' Reflections and Gratitude
A special segment of the celebration included teachers sharing their personal reflections on their journey in education. Teachers spoke about the challenges and rewards of shaping the next generation of optometrists, and how their passion for teaching drives them to continue guiding students toward success. Their words of wisdom were heartfelt, inspiring, and left a lasting impression on all those present.

Expressions of Appreciation
The students also expressed their gratitude through heartfelt gifts and personalized cards for each teacher, as a small gesture of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. The teachers were visibly touched by the thoughtful expressions of gratitude and affection from their students.

Swami Vivekananda University, Department of Optometry participated in International Conference on Healthcare Research and Technology (ICHRT) by School of Allied Health Sciences on 25th & 26th September 2024

The Department of Optometry at Swami Vivekananda University had the honor of participating in the prestigious International Conference on Healthcare Research and Technology (ICHRT), organized by the School of Allied Health Sciences. The conference took place on 25th and 26th September 2024, bringing together an array of leading experts, researchers, academicians, and professionals from various healthcare disciplines. The event aimed to foster collaboration and innovation in the rapidly evolving field of healthcare, with a special focus on research and technology.

Event Highlights
The two-day conference featured a robust schedule of keynote speeches, technical sessions, panel discussions, and workshops, all aimed at exploring the latest advancements in healthcare technologies. Renowned speakers shared their insights into cutting-edge healthcare practices, technological innovations, and their impact on improving patient outcomes.

Department of Optometry's Contribution

The Department of Optometry at Swami Vivekananda University actively participated in several facets of the conference. Faculty members and students from the department were involved in presenting research papers, engaging in discussions, and attending workshops on the integration of technology in optometry and the latest trends in eye care.

Faculty members shared their research findings on topics such as innovations in diagnostic tools, advancements in vision correction technologies, and the role of artificial intelligence in optometry. Their presentations received positive feedback, emphasizing the department's commitment to cutting-edge research in the field.

Additionally, students had the opportunity to interact with experts, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights into the latest technological advancements in the healthcare sector. This experience not only enhanced their academic knowledge but also exposed them to potential career opportunities and research collaborations.

Networking and Collaboration
One of the key benefits of attending ICHRT 2024 was the opportunity to network with leaders and innovators in the healthcare industry. The Department of Optometry used this platform to engage with other institutions, researchers, and healthcare professionals to explore collaborative research opportunities. Discussions revolved around interdisciplinary partnerships, potential academic exchange programs, and ways to incorporate emerging technologies into optometry practice.The event also facilitated interaction with professionals from related fields such as medical devices, rehabilitation sciences, and healthcare informatics, highlighting the interdisciplinary nature of healthcare research and the vital role that optometry plays within this broader context.

Key Takeaways for the Department of Optometry
The participation in ICHRT 2024 was an excellent opportunity for the Department of Optometry to:

Showcase its Research: The department highlighted its ongoing research in optometry, demonstrating its contribution to the advancement of eye care practices and technologies.

Expand Academic Horizons: The department's faculty and students were able to learn about the latest research methodologies and technologies, which will be beneficial in their ongoing academic and practical pursuits.

Foster International Collaborations: The department established new connections with other academic institutions and industry leaders, laying the foundation for potential future collaborations in both research and clinical practice.

Promote Technological Integration: The discussions emphasized the growing importance of technology in healthcare, including in areas such as tele-optometry, artificial intelligence, and digital diagnostics.The department is poised to integrate these advancements into its curriculum and research initiatives.

Swami Vivekananda University, through its Department of Optometry, continues to embrace opportunities that promote research excellence and technological advancement in healthcare. The participation in ICHRT 2024 is a testament to the department's dedication to staying at the forefront of the optometry field and its commitment to providing the best education and training for its students.

With an eye on the future, the department aims to further its role in the global healthcare conversation, ensuring that students and faculty are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to advancements in eye care and healthcare technology.

Vision quest 2024 organised by Susrut eye foundation and research center

On 29th September 2024, the Susrut Eye Foundation and Research Centre proudly organized Vision Quest 2024, a landmark event aimed at advancing awareness and education in the field of eye care. The event brought together esteemed professionals, students, and vision care enthusiasts to explore the latest developments in ophthalmology and optometry, while also highlighting the importance of eye health and vision preservation. Vision Quest 2024 was a dynamic and comprehensive initiative, featuring a series of workshops, presentations, and interactive sessions led by renowned experts in the field of eye care. The event aimed to engage participants in discussions on the latest trends, technologies, and research that are shaping the future of vision science. Key Highlights of Vision Quest 2024: Expert-Led Workshops and Sessions: The event featured a variety of workshops and educational sessions designed to enhance participants' understanding of eye care. Experts discussed a wide range of topics, including advancements in cataract surgery, early detection of glaucoma, emerging technologies in optometry, and vision rehabilitation techniques. These sessions provided valuable insights for both professionals and students interested in expanding their knowledge of the field. Interactive Panel Discussions: A highlight of Vision Quest 2024 was the engaging panel discussions, where industry leaders and experienced ophthalmologists discussed the challenges and opportunities within the field of eye care. Topics such as public health initiatives for vision care, the role of artificial intelligence in ophthalmology, and advancements in retinal research were explored in-depth, offering attendees a holistic view of the future of eye care. Student Involvement and Presentations: As part of the event, students from various optometry and medical colleges participated by presenting their research and clinical projects. This provided them with an excellent opportunity to showcase their work, exchange ideas, and receive constructive feedback from professionals. The student presentations also demonstrated the growing involvement of the younger generation in shaping the future of vision science. Hands-On Demonstrations and Technological Exhibits: Participants had the chance to engage with cutting-edge vision care technologies during the hands-on demonstrations. Various equipment, from diagnostic tools to surgical instruments, was displayed, allowing attendees to better understand the technological advancements in the field. These demonstrations provided a practical perspective on the implementation of new tools in clinical practice. Networking and Collaboration: Vision Quest 2024 also provided a unique platform for networking, allowing professionals, students, and researchers to meet and exchange ideas. This collaborative environment encouraged the sharing of experiences, fostering partnerships and collaborations that will continue to drive innovation in the eye care sector. Awareness Campaign on Eye Health: In addition to the technical sessions, Susrut Eye Foundation also launched an awareness campaign focused on the importance of regular eye check-ups, preventive measures, and early intervention. The campaign aimed to educate the public on the significance of maintaining good eye health, especially as the prevalence of vision-related conditions continues to rise globally.

Golden Era Confarence 2024 organised by Optometric Association of India (OAI)

The Golden Era Conference, hosted by the Optometric Association of India (OAI), was a significant event in the field of optometry, bringing together professionals, researchers, and students to discuss the latest advancements and future directions of eye care. This year, students from Swami Vivekananda University (SVU) played an integral role in the event, contributing with their research, insights, and active participation in various sessions.

Conference Overview
Held over two days, the Golden Era Conference offered a dynamic platform for optometrists and students to engage in discussions about the future of optometry. The conference featured a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops, and research presentations by experts in the field. Topics ranged from the latest advancements in ocular diagnostics to innovative treatment methods for refractive errors and vision rehabilitation.

Student Contributions from Swami Vivekananda University
Swami Vivekananda University's students made notable contributions to the conference, showcasing their academic achievements and enthusiasm for the field of optometry. Several students presented their research papers and findings in the student presentation sessions, covering a range of topics such as:
Emerging trends in contact lens technology
Early detection of ocular diseases
Vision therapy and rehabilitation techniques

Their presentations were well-received by industry experts, reflecting the high academic standards and innovative spirit of SVU's optometry program.
Interactive Workshops and Hands-On Learning
The conference provided a valuable opportunity for both students and professionals to enhance their practical knowledge. Workshops led by experienced optometrists and vision care experts covered hands-on training in areas such as advanced diagnostic tools, contact lens fitting, and ocular health management. Students from Swami Vivekananda University actively participated in these sessions, gaining first-hand experience with the latest instruments and technologies.
These workshops proved to be an invaluable learning experience, allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, and equipping them with skills that will be essential in their future careers.

Networking Opportunities for Students
Beyond the academic sessions, the conference also provided ample opportunities for networking. Students from SVU had the chance to meet with leading professionals in the optometry field, creating connections that could benefit them in their future endeavors. The interactions also fostered collaboration between students from various institutions, encouraging the exchange of ideas and research.

Inspiring Future Optometrists
The participation of Swami Vivekananda University students at the Golden Era Conference highlighted the university's commitment to fostering a strong, innovative, and future-ready optometry community. By engaging with industry leaders, learning from experts, and presenting their research, the students gained invaluable insights into the evolving world of eye care.

Academic Administrative Infrastucture

1.   Development of clinical lab

Dispensing lab:

This lab contains ophthalmic frames and lenses of different types, lens fitting and measurement instruments.

Key features are Advanced prescription analysis, Figuring intermediate power , Figuring near power, Determining whether slab-off is needed, Addressing spectacle problems, Addressing major reference point placement, Addressing seg height placement, Addressing frame alignment, Addressing vertex distance, Addressing face form , Addressing visual acuity problems , Advanced spectacle fitting, Adjusting multifocal eyewear, Adjusting spectacles with occupational lenses, Intra pupillary distance measurement.

Binocular vision and vision therapy lab:

This lab consists of instruments to diagnose strabismic and non-strabismic binocular vision disorders. Also contains instruments for vision therapy.

Clinical refraction lab: Clinical refraction lab consists of all the instruments necessary for refraction and eye health examination. We have developed this clinical lab that includes advanced A scan ultrasonography of eye also along with other investigative instruments.