



# SINDH INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISUAL SCIENCES (SIOVS)

## Newsletter

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### ACADEMIC SESSION ON ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

The Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS) successfully organized an academic session on **Advanced Health Assessment** at Seminar Hall on **17th March 2025**.

This was organized in response to a request from the Director Peoples Nursing School, LUMHS Jamshoro, and on the directives of the **Executive Director SIOVS, Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**.

The session was conducted by **Dr. Adnan A. Majeed Senior Registrar SIOVS** and **Mr. Zahid Hussain Laghari Orthoptist SIOVS**. MSN 1st-Year (2nd Semester) students from Peoples Nursing School LUMHS actively participated in the session and learned valuable insights into advanced health assessment techniques in Ophthalmology.



### MS. KATHARINE BECKER (GRANTS MANAGER, CBM INTERNATIONAL GERMANY) VISITED SIOVS HYDERABAD



On Friday 7th March 2025, **Ms. Katharine Becker (Grants Manager, CBM International Germany)** and **Dr. Zahid Awan (Senior Programme Manager, CBM)**, visited **Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences Hyderabad (SIOVS)**. Ms. Katharine Becker was warmly welcomed by the **Executive Director SIOVS Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**.

She visited various facilities of the institute, including the OPD Block, Ophthalmic Research Laboratory and Peds Clinic. Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur briefed her regarding eye care facilities available at SIOVS and its collaboration with Eye INGOs.

Ms. Katharine Becker appreciated the working of SIOVS and long term sustainable partnership with Eye INGOs

especially with CBM International. At the end Ms. Katharine Becker was decorated with traditional gifts.

## ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON BASIC PRINCIPLES OF SUTURING AND ITS USAGE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

On March 1, 2025, the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS), Hyderabad, organized a one-day workshop on the “Basic Principles of Suturing and Its Usage in Ophthalmology.” The workshop was conducted by **Dr. Fariha Sherwali, Assistant Professor & Unit Incharge SIOVS**, and facilitated by **Dr. Shahzad Memon, Assistant Professor & Medical Director SIOVS** along with **Dr. Asra Talpur, Dr. Saud Ul Hassan, Dr. Neelam Nizamani, Dr. Shehnilla Shujaat, and Dr. Adnan Abdul Majeed**. Postgraduate residents of SIOVS actively participated in this hands-on training session, designed to enhance their proficiency in ophthalmic suturing techniques. Dr. Fariha Sherwali provided in-depth guidance on proper suturing methods, ensuring that participants gained both theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

**Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur, Executive Director SIOVS Hyderabad**, appreciated the efforts of Dr. Fariha Sherwali, Dr. Shahzad Memon and Team on successfully organizing the workshop. SIOVS remains committed to fostering excellence in teaching, training and equipping future ophthalmologists with essential surgical competencies.



## MEETING WITH HONORABLE MINISTER HEALTH, GOVERNMENT OF SINDH

The **Executive Director** of the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS) Hyderabad, **Professor Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**, along with a delegation from CBM International comprising **Ms. Katharine Becker** (Grants Manager, CBM International Germany), **Ms. Fehmida Hassan** (Country Director, CBM Pakistan), and **Dr. Zahid Awan** (Senior Manager Programs, CBM Pakistan) had a meeting with the **Honorable Minister of Health, Government of Sindh Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho**, at her good office on 28th February, 2025.

During the meeting, the delegation briefed the Honorable Minister on various avoidable blindness projects jointly carried out by SIOVS and CBM International Germany. Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho the Minister appreciated the collaborative efforts of SIOVS and CBM International in the prevention and control of blindness across Sindh province. She assured the delegation that the Government of Sindh would extend maximum possible support to facilitate their initiatives, ensuring seamless execution of their programs for the benefit of underserved communities. Furthermore, the Minister expressed her keen interest to personally visit SIOVS and CBM-supported “**Peek Powered**” districts in Sindh. The meeting was also attended by **Mr. Jalil Ahmed Rajper, Deputy Director, Community Ophthalmic Services, SIOVS Hyderabad**.





## TWO MoUs SIGNED IN ONE DAY-STRENGTHENING EYE CARE IN SINDH

On February 27, 2025, the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS) signed two significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) aimed at enhancing eye care services and outreach programs across Sindh.

**MoU 1: SIOVS & Al-Ibrahim Eye Hospital (AIEH), Karachi.** This MoU was signed by **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** (Executive Director, SIOVS) and **Dr. Abdul Fattah Memon** (Director, AIEH Karachi). The agreement aims to strengthen joint efforts in preventing blindness and ensuring quality eye care across Sindh.

### Key Areas of Collaboration:

- Cataract Surgery Support
- Diabetic-related Visual Problem Management
- School Screening Programs
- Research & Development in Ophthalmology
- Human Resource Development & Training

### MoU 2: SIOVS & Special Olympics Pakistan

This MoU was signed by **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** (Executive Director, SIOVS) and **Ms. Asma Hasan** (Board Member, Special Olympics Pakistan).

The partnership focuses on eye care services for athletes with intellectual disabilities under the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes – Opening Eyes Program.

### Key Areas of Collaboration:

- Eye Screening & Treatment for Special Olympics Athletes
- Provision of Venue, Equipment, and Medical Volunteers for screening events
- Awareness Campaigns & Public Engagement on eye health challenges for individuals with disabilities
- Joint Coordination for Media & Public Relations to increase visibility and support for the program.

The signing ceremony was well attended by notable dignitaries, including:

- **Prof. Dr. Saleh Memon** (Director/Co-Founder, AIEH Karachi)
- **Dr. Ahmed Waliullah Kazi** (Vice Chancellor, ISRA University Hyderabad)
- **Prof. Dr. Hameedullah Kazi** (ISRA University Hyderabad)
- **Prof. Dr. Anwar Ali Shah** (Professor Emeritus, University of Sindh Jamshoro)
- **Dr. Mahwash A. Khan** (Head of Community Eye Care, LRBT Karachi)
- **Dr. Zeenat Isani**
- **Prof. Dr. M. Azeem Almani**
- **Ms. Samina Nawab** (Chairperson, Angel Welfare Trust)
- **Dr. Shahid Memon** (Deputy Director General Health Services Hyderabad)



## MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OF POSTGRADUATE TRAINEES



On the directives of **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**, Executive Director, SIOVS, the PG Focal Person, **Dr. Adnan Abdul Majeed**, successfully conducted the Monthly Assessment for postgraduate trainees on 15th February, 2025 at Lecture Hall, SIOVS. These assessments are instrumental in monitoring progress, reinforcing key concepts, and equipping students for future challenges.

## HEC INSPECTION/ACCREDITATION TEAM VISIT SIOVS.

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad's Inspection/Accreditation Team visited the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS), Hyderabad on February 22, 2025.

During the visit, the team thoroughly inspected various sections and units of SIOVS, accompanied by Executive Director SIOVS, **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**.

A formal meeting was held in the Committee Room, where

**Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** presented a brief presentation highlighting SIOVS' achievements. The team engaged with our faculty members and administrative staff to discuss key aspects of the program and institutional standards.

The HEC team highly commended **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** and faculty for their dedication and efforts in establishing SIOVS as a leading center for teaching, training, and research in ophthalmology in Sindh.

SIOVS appreciate the HEC team's visit and look forward to continuing its mission to provide quality education and eye care services to underprivileged community.



## EXCELLENCE IN PARAMEDICAL TRAINING

Under the visionary leadership of **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**, the Executive Director SIOVS, to produce talented and qualified technicians, and to fulfill the mission and vision, High-quality teaching and training is being provided through paramedical courses conducted by Directorate of Academics, Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS) Hyderabad. The students enrolled in the Refraction Technician and Ophthalmic Technician courses undergo hands-on training under the guidance of experienced Optometrists, including Mr. Zahid Lagahri. A team of senior optometrists, comprising Mr. Imtiaz Ali, Ms. Sumbal, Mr. Sajjad Laghari, and Mr. Toufiq actively contributes to comprehensive technical, theoretical, and practical training. To ensure academic excellence, the Deputy Controller of Examinations/In-charge Academics, Ms. Durnaz Bugti strictly monitors the syllabus schedule, student regularity, and punctuality.





## VISIT OF MS. ASMA HASAN, BOARD MEMBER, SPECIAL OLYMPICS PAKISTAN, & DR. MAHWASH A. KHAN HEAD OF COMMUNITY EYE CARE. LRBT PAKISTAN



On February 11, 2025, **Ms. Asma Hasan**, Board Member, Special Olympics Pakistan, and **Dr. Mahwash A. Khan**, Head of Community Eye Care, LRBT, visited SIOVS Hyderabad. They were welcomed by **Mr. Jalil Ahmed Rajper**, Deputy Director, Community Ophthalmic Services at SIOVS.

The primary objective of their visit was to meet with **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** Executive Director SIOVS, to discuss potential collaboration between Special Olympics Pakistan and SIOVS for conducting eye screenings in special schools.

During their visit, they expressed appreciation for the Institute's infrastructure and operations. They commended the Executive Director and his team for their dedication and outstanding efforts, both within the institute and in community outreach initiatives.

## VISIT OF DELEGATION FROM AL-IBRAHIM EYE HOSPITAL (A.I.E.H) KARACHI



A delegation from Al-Ibrahim Eye Hospital (AIEH) Karachi comprising **Dr. Abdul Fattah Memon**, **Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Soomro**, and **Mr. Sikandar Shaikh**, visited SIOVS on February 6, 2025. The delegation was warmly welcomed by **Mr. Jalil Ahmed Rajper**, Deputy Director of Community Ophthalmic Services at SIOVS. During their visit, the team toured various departments, the Scientific Ophthalmic Research Lab, the OPD Block, and the ICT Cell. The Executive Director **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** briefed them on the Institute's recent developments. Dr. Abdul Fattah Memon expressed his admiration for the institute's infrastructure and operations. He highly appreciated the Executive Director and his team for their dedication and performance, not only within the institute but also in

community outreach initiatives across different districts of Sindh, in collaboration with international organizations. Furthermore, it was also discussed how to collaborate the activities of SIOVS & AIEH in the general benefit of community.

## ANOTHER REMARKABLE FEAT OF SIOVS

SIOVS continues to uphold its tradition of excellence as Three (03) of its candidates successfully passed the FCPS Part-II (Ophthalmology) examination. This outstanding result proves the high standard of teaching & training being provided to postgraduate residents at SIOVS. The Executive Director SIOVS, **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** pays immense attention to produce highly skilled professionals in ophthalmology along with top-quality patient care, research & community service.

**Congratulations to all three candidates:**

1. **Dr. Adnan Abdul Majeed**
2. **Dr. Sandeep Kumar**
3. **Dr. Wazir Hussan**

These young ophthalmologists are a valuable asset to the community and the future of eye care. The entire SIOVS team, especially the Executive Director, extends their best wishes for their continued success and a bright career ahead



## IAPB YOUNG SYSTEM LEADER AWARD WINNER 2025

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2025 Young Systems Leader Award. After a rigorous review of nominations from around the world, nine exceptional individuals were selected by the IAPB Regional Chairs and Executive Committee for their outstanding contributions to eye health.

**Recongnizing Excellence in Eye Health Leadership** Among the distinguished winners is **Mr. Mehran Memon**, Assistant Director IT at the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS). Mehran has been honored with the Young Systems Leader Award for 2025 in recognition of his innovative approaches to improving eye health access, particularly among young populations.



#### Achievements and Impact

Mehran's notable achievements include the successful deployment of Peek Capture technology across over 5,700 schools, linking more than 80 health facilities, and revolutionizing eye health access for young populations. This initiative has:

- Screened over 1.3 million individuals
- Referred more than 150,000 to specialized care
- Developed and implemented a safeguarding policy at SIOVS
- Integrated of the Washington Group of Questionnaires within SIOVS's Hospital Management Information System
- Mehran's commitment to community-centered healthcare has earned recognition from Pakistan's National Committee for Eye Health, which has adopted his model as a district-level initiative. This testament to his profound influence on the future of eye health in Pakistan and beyond.

#### ■ Congratulations and Acknowledgement

The Executive Director of SIOVS, **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** extends his warmest congratulations to Mr. Mehran Memon on this outstanding achievement. This recognition is a proud moment for SIOVS, acknowledging Mehran's dedication and innovative spirit in advancing eye health.

<https://www.iapb.org/learn/iapb-young-systems-leader-awards-2025-winners/>



## MEETING OF THE EYE PATIENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION (EPWA )-SIOVS

On January 30, 2025, the Executive Director of SIOVS, **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur** chaired the meeting of the Eye Patient Welfare Association (EPWA) at the Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences (SIOVS), Hyderabad.

The meeting was attended by the following esteemed Member

- Prof Dr. Anwar Ali Shah
- Mr. Abdul Haq Shaikh
- Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur
- Mr. Muhammad Shoaib
- Dr. Iqbal Haroon
- Mr. Zulfiqar Halepoto
- Dr. Samiullah Shaikh
- Mr. Muhamamd Farooq Shakhani
- Mr. Aslam Banway
- Mr. Zulfiqar Qadri
- Mr. Arif Memon
- Dr. Nisar Abbasi
- Mr. Sikandar Rajput

The members unanimously appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur and congratulated him on his re-appointment as Executive Director.

The meeting commenced with a presentation by Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur, highlighting the progress and achievements of SIOVS. He also informed the members about the re-election process for the EPWA President and invited nominations from among the members.

Following discussions, the EPWA officials and the Executive Committee unanimously elected Prof Dr. Anwar Ali Shah as the new President of EPWA.

The newly elected president, **Prof. Dr. Anwar Ali Shah (Professor Emeritus at University of Sindh, Jamshoro)**, expressed gratitude to all members for their trust and confidence. He assured his full commitment to supporting EPWA's initiatives and contributing to the growth and success of SIOVS, in alignment with its vision and mission.



## COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Four (4) outstanding candidates from SIOVS have successfully passed the prestigious FRCS examination, a testament to the world-class teaching and training provided at the SIOVS. This achievement highlights SIOVS commitment to maintaining international standards in ophthalmology teaching & training.

The Executive Director SIOVS Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur, is dedicated to developing high-quality human resources at all levels. Alongside exceptional patient care, research, and impactful community service, SIOVS remains at the forefront of excellence in ophthalmology, setting benchmarks in teaching, training, research and patient care.

Heartiest congratulations to the successful candidates:

- **Dr. Asra Talpur FRCS Glasgow**
- **Dr. Mohsin Iqbal FRCS Ed**
- **Dr. Saud ul Hassan FRCS Ed**
- **Dr. Adnan Abdul Majeed FRCS Glasgow**

These talented individuals represent the future of our community and are a source of pride for SIOVS. The entire SIOVS team, especially the Executive Director, extends their best wishes for their future careers.



## SIOVS TEAM PARTICIPATES IN THE 7TH PIONEERING INNOVATION IN OPHTHALMOLOGY (PIO) CONFERENCE



The Sindh Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (SIOVS) had active participation in the 7th Pioneering Innovations in Ophthalmology (PIO) Conference held in Karachi on January 26, 2025. This remarkable event brought together distinguished ophthalmologists and vision scientists from across the globe to discuss advancements and breakthroughs in the field of ophthalmology.

The SIOVS team, led by the honorable **Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur**, honored to be invited to this annual conference, which focused on **“Advancements in Retina & Diagnostics.”** The event featured expert talks, hands-on workshops, and engaging discussions on critical topics such as Diabetic Tractional Retinal Detachment, cutting-edge diagnostic techniques, and innovative treatment approaches.

Our participation features SIOVS’s commitment to staying at the forefront of ophthalmic teaching, training, research and patient care. Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur, Executive Director, SIOVS along with the dedicated members of the SIOVS team including **Dr. Shahzad Memon Associate Professor & Dr. Mohsin Iqbal Assistant Professor** with their Postgraduate Trainees, actively engaged in the sessions, enriching their expertise and exploring collaborative opportunities with leading professionals from seven countries, including the USA, Saudi Arabia, Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Tunisia, and the UAE.

The conference was vital platform for knowledge exchange and professional networking, enabling our team to gain insights into the latest advancements in ophthalmology and reinforce SIOVS’s mission of delivering exceptional eye care and contributing to the global eye health community.

We extend our gratitude to the Hasmanis Group of Hospitals for organizing such events and fostering a collaborative environment for innovation and excellence in ophthalmology.

## ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ON AWARENESS OF PEDIATRIC OPHTHALMOLOGY AND KERATOPLASTY AT SHAHEED MOHTARMA BENAZIR BHUTTO MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, CHANDKA MEDICAL COLLEGE, LARKANO.



Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur, Executive Director of SIOVS Hyderabad and National Coordinator for the Prevention and Control of Blindness in Pakistan, was invited as a Speaker at the One-Day Symposium on Awareness of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Keratoplasty. The event was held at Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University, Chandka Medical College, Larkano, on Saturday, 18th January 2025.

Dr. Shahzad Memon, Associate Professor at SIOVS Hyderabad, also participated as a speaker at the symposium.

During the event, Prof. Dr. Khalid Iqbal Talpur and Dr. Shahzad Memon were honored with the traditional Sindhi Topi and Ajrak. At this occasion Mr. Jalil Ahmed Rajper, Deputy Director Ophthalmic Community Services also accompanied with them.

They were also presented with shields in recognition of their contributions.