



# ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT 2024



## VENUE

CMC&H, Ludhiana  
5-7th July, 2024

VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT- INDIA

**VISION2020: The Right to Sight- India** successfully organised the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Community Ophthalmology titled 'VISION2020 to 2030: Insights and Path Ahead' over three days on 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Christian Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana, Punjab. This year, there were two pre-conferences on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 on "Quality and Accreditation of Eye Hospitals" and "Skill Enhancement for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel". The conference was a significant success, drawing over 600 delegates, including heads of eye care organizations, program managers, ophthalmologists, optometrists, and students from across the country. The diverse participation underscored the importance of the event and highlighted the collective commitment to improving eye health.

## Introduction

The recent conference aimed to address eye care issues with a focus on reducing avoidable blindness through collaboration and knowledge-sharing. The broad goal of the conference was to enhance the capacity of the eye care fraternity. The conference also served as a pivotal platform for networking, upgrading technological use, and sharing best practices in eye health.

## Objectives

- 1. Increasing Capacity in Eye Care:** The conference sought to build the skills and knowledge of professionals in the eye care field to better address and reduce avoidable blindness.
- 2. Networking and Knowledge Upgradation:** A key goal was to foster networking opportunities among professionals and create an environment conducive to the exchange of knowledge and technological advancements. By connecting various stakeholders, the conference aimed to facilitate the sharing of innovative solutions and practices.
- 3. Sharing Experiences and Best Practices:** The conference provided a platform for sharing successful strategies and experiences in eye health care. This exchange of ideas was intended to enhance planning and implementation of eye care services, ensuring better outcomes and more efficient practices across the hospitals and the institutions.

## Key Highlights

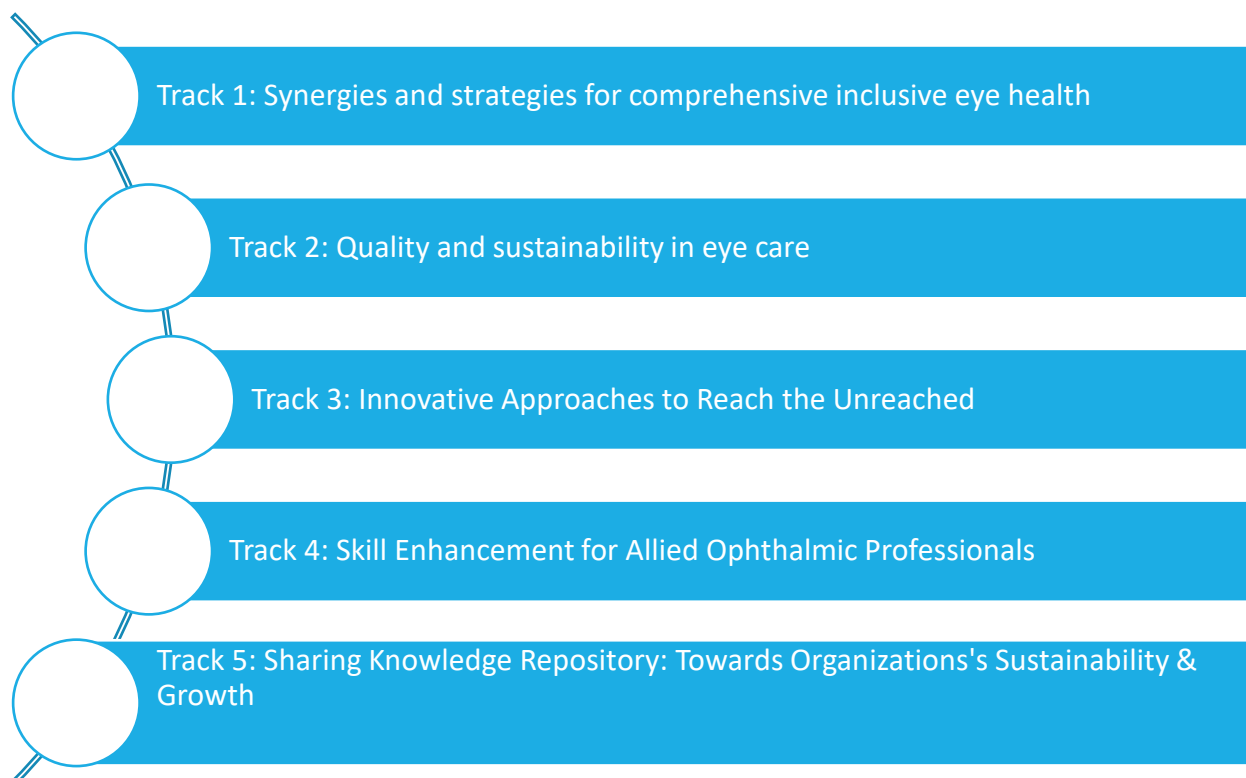
**Diverse Participation:** The broad spectrum of attendees, ranging from seasoned professionals to students, showcased a unified interest in advancing eye care practices. This diversity enriched discussions and fostered a more inclusive environment for learning and collaboration.

**Innovative Sessions:** The conference featured a variety of sessions that addressed the latest advancements in technology, case studies, and evidence-based practices in eye health. These sessions were designed to enhance the attendees' understanding and application of new techniques and tools in their respective fields.

**Networking Opportunities:** The event facilitated numerous networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with peers, exchange ideas, and form collaborative partnerships. These interactions are expected to lead to ongoing collaborations and shared initiatives aimed at improving eye care services.

**Knowledge Exchange:** Through presentations, workshops, and panel discussions, attendees had the chance to share their experiences and learn from one another. This exchange of knowledge is crucial for identifying effective strategies and adapting them to different contexts and needs.

**The conference featured sessions under 5 tracks spread across three days – 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July**





## Scientific Committee

A four-member scientific committee with the help of four associates designed the scientific program:



**Dr Harpreet Kapoor**

***Chair- Scientific Committee***

***Regional Inclusive Eye Health Advisor (Asia), CBM***

***Director of Ophthalmology Max Super Specialty Hospital, Mohali***



**Dr. Padma Paul**

***Member- Scientific Committee***

***Professor- Outreach Services***

***Department of Ophthalmology,***

***Christian Medical College, Vellore***



**Dr Shalinder Sabherwal**

***Member- Scientific Committee***

***Director Public Health and Projects,***

***Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital, Delhi***



**Prof. (Dr.) Rupali Chopra**

***Member – Scientific Committee***

***Professor of Ophthalmology***

***Christian Medical College, Ludhiana***

## Associate Members



**Ms. Bharti Janiyani**

*Associate Scientific Member*

*Sr. Manager- Operations and Head of Community Ophthalmology, Education and Training, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal*



**Dr. Sumit Grover**

*Associate Scientific Member*

*Asst. Professor of Ophthalmology, Ocular Oncology Services, NCI-AIIMS, New Delhi*



**Mr. Arnab Sarkar**

*Associate- Scientific Committee*

*Asst. General Manager- Programs and Quality Assurance, Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital, Saran*



**Dharmendra Jena**

*Associate- Scientific Committee*

*Deputy Director (Health Care), Blind People's Association of India, Ahmedabad*

# Preconference Sessions- 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Preconference Session 1

### Quality and Accreditation of Eye Hospitals

Dr. Samina Faiyaz Zamindar, conducted full-day workshop focusing on the quality and accreditation processes within eye hospitals. The session aimed to enhance the understanding and implementation of best practices and standards in eye care facilities. The primary objectives of the workshop were to:

- Develop and refine Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Policies, and Protocols.
- Understand and apply Accreditation Standards relevant to eye care.
- Address key areas of Infection Control in eye care settings.
- Review International Patient Safety Guidelines.
- Establish a culture of Adverse Events Reporting.
- Improve patient care practices in surgical environments.
- Promote Continuous Quality Improvement through Key Performance Indicators and Internal Audits.



The workshop featured hands-on activities, interactive discussions, and group exercises to facilitate sharing of experiences and collaborative problem-solving in healthcare quality enhancement.

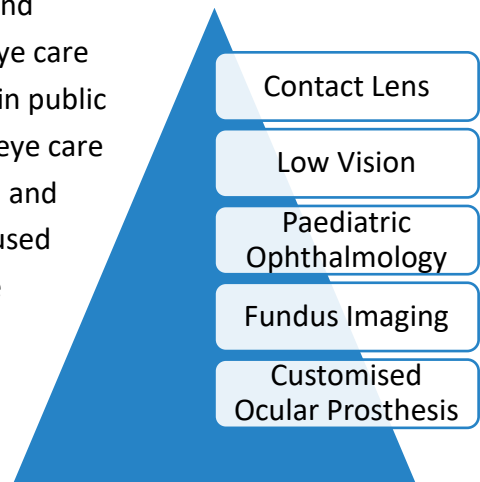
The workshop successfully met its objectives, equipping participants with valuable knowledge and skills to improve quality and accreditation practices in eye hospitals. Continued efforts and training in these areas are essential for maintaining high standards of care and patient safety.



## Track 4: Skill enhancement for Allied Ophthalmic Professionals

Allied Ophthalmic Professionals, including optometrists and ophthalmic assistants, are integral to the continuum of eye care from primary to tertiary levels and play a significant role in public health research. To maintain and enhance the quality of eye care services, it is imperative to provide continuous education and skill development. This year's annual conference has focused on various specialized workshops aimed at advancing the skills of these professionals.

The pre-conference workshops successfully provided Allied Ophthalmic Professionals with critical updates and practical skills in various specialized areas of eye care. By focusing on contact lenses, low vision, pediatric ophthalmology, fundus imaging, and customized ocular prostheses, the workshops have equipped attendees with advanced knowledge and techniques necessary for enhancing patient care and contributing to the broader field of ophthalmology.





## Scientific Sessions- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July

The Scientific sessions were spread across four parallel running tracks and a common session with two speakers. All the sessions were designed by the expert scientific committee. The sessions were led by experts in eye care as well as speakers from government sector along with speakers from NGOs who are highly experienced in the field of eye care and community ophthalmology.

- ❖ 2030 in Sight- ending avoidable sight loss
- ❖ Integration to achieve Universal Eye Health
- ❖ Excellence & Equity in Eye Care
- ❖ Inclusion in Eye Health
- ❖ Cross sector partnerships for Clear Vision India
- ❖ Uncorrected refractive errors- challenges & strategies to address the unmet need
- ❖ Beyond Cataract- extending speciality eye care to the marginalized
- ❖ Evidence driven Eye Healthcare Planning and service delivery
- ❖ Bridging the gap to reach the unreached

### Track 1: Synergies and strategies for comprehensive inclusive eye health

In line with the 'Right to Sight,' the central principle of the VISION 2020 program, this track focused on the necessary synergies and strategies to enhance access to high-quality, comprehensive eye care services for everyone, including marginalized groups. Key insights and challenges from the past 20 years of implementing these strategies and outlining future directions were central to this track. Individual speakers and panel discussions addressed the broad themes listed in the box.



## Track 2: Quality and sustainability in eye care

The track facilitated dynamic learning, enhancing quality in line with accreditation standards and beyond. To achieve organizational excellence, it's crucial to sustain both human and financial resources while also being mindful of our environmental responsibilities. This track was designed to address the balance between maintaining quality standards and the eye care sector's role in environmental sustainability. This track aimed to inspire hospital management to adopt best practices. The track also included highlights of successful practices developed over the past two decades in both quality improvement and environmental stewardship.

- ❖ Evidence for Community Interventions in Screening for Eyecare priorities
- ❖ Retinopathy of Prematurity: Triumphs and Challenges
- ❖ Teleophthalmology and AI in Primary Eye Care
- ❖ Innovation for the Visually Impaired
- ❖ Comprehensive Eye Care: Innovations, Roles and Partnerships
- ❖ Integration of Eye Care with Health Care: Models for IPEC
- ❖ Diabetic Retinopathy Screening: Walking the Last Mile
- ❖ Innovations to Strengthen Primary Eye Care
- ❖ Patient Communication, Education and Counselling: Key to Success of IPEC

- ❖ Improving Surgical Outcomes
- ❖ Focus on Patient Safety
- ❖ Climate Action and Eye Care
- ❖ Continuous Quality Improvement
- ❖ Ensuring Comprehensive, Quality Eye Care for All
- ❖ Towards Organizational Financial Sustainability
- ❖ Quality Assurance in Primary Care
- ❖ Infection Control in OT
- ❖ Medico-legal cases in eye care

## Track 3: Innovate approaches to reach the unreached

This track was focused on innovative ways to achieve Universal Eye Health through Integrated People Centred Eye Care (IPEC) and role of technology. Cost effective approaches of outreach generated with 20 years of implementation experience realizing IPEC principle were the focus in this track. Strategies for Vision 2030 in Sight focussing the unreached was the core of this track.

## Track 5: Sharing Knowledge Repository: Towards organization's sustainability & growth

Under this track there were free oral presentations based on abstracts reviewed and selected by the Scientific Committee. The speakers were a mixture of presenters from various organisations as well as students. There was a total of 111 paper presentations over two days with broader themes mentioned in the box. There was an extensive response in Poster Presentation as well.

One hundred and eleven abstracts were presented under oral presentation spread over 10 sessions in Day 1 and Day 2 of the conference. The Best of the Best winner was selected from best paper from each session.

The best paper presentation in each session was given memento as well as certificate. The BEST OF THE BEST was announced: **Mr. Sathish Nagappan, CBM India Trust** for his paper ***"Social Return of Investment (SROI) of 51 Inclusive Vision Centre in three states of India"***.

The 'best of the best' awardee would enjoy:

- Waive off registration fee for next annual conference.
- Get sponsored for full travel support to participate next annual conference.

- ❖ Session 1: Strategies for Reaching the Unreached
- ❖ Session 2: Vision Centres: The Way Forward to Vision 2030
- ❖ Session 3: Technology in Community Ophthalmology
- ❖ Session 4: School screening and Refractive Errors
- ❖ Session 5: Strategies to Improve Visual Outcome Post Cataract Surgery
- ❖ Session 6: Universal Eye Health
- ❖ Session 7: Target: Inclusive Eye Health
- ❖ Session 8: Role of Optometrist in Community Ophthalmology
- ❖ Session 9: Achieving Quality & Sustainability in Eye Health
- ❖ Session 10: Evidence Practice
- ❖ Session 11: BEST OF THE BEST



## Poster Presentation

There were poster presentations as well which were displayed and each participant presented the same in the presence of the judges. The judges of the poster presentation were Dr. Asim Sil and Dr. Promila Gupta. The winners were recognized for the poster presentation and certificate was provided.

- a. First- M Vikky Kumar (Aravind Eye Hospital)
- b. Second- Subhadip Bhattacharya (Operation Eyesight Universal)
- c. Third- Shikha Jhalani (Globe Eye Foundation)



## Common Session

Ms. Karuna Bhatia, Head- Sustainability SCB & GBS India, introduced the audience to “Standard Chartered Bank- Seeing is believing initiative to deliver quality eye care to achieve VISION 2020 India goal”. She mentioned that ‘Seeing is Believing’ by Standard Chartered supports Vision Centre-Based Community Eyecare Project and Eye Care Education Academies. These projects help establishment of VCs within the communities and hard to reach areas, develop skilled human resource and innovation to enhance eyecare services and much more to support eye health. After outlining the role of Standard Chartered, Ms. Bhatia encouraged the audience to discuss both the problems and potential solutions related to community eye health. This led to a discussion about key challenges, such as low awareness. Suggestions from the audience included incorporating eye health education into school curricula and employing a brand ambassador to boost awareness.

**Mr. Deepak Prabhu Matti,** CEO- Cognizant Foundation, spoke about the “Cognizant Foundation current and future investment for sustainable eye health”.





## Inauguration of the Annual Conference

The conference was formally inaugurated in the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 at 1800 hrs at Children's Park, CMC Campus by Chief Guest, Member of Parliament, Shri Amrinder Singh Raja Warring.

## Award Presentation

Life-Time  
Achievement  
Award for the  
Year 2023

**Shri D Nagarajan**



Guru  
Dronacharya  
Award for the  
Year 2023

**Shri RD Thulasiraj**



VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- INDIA recognises its member hospitals for their exemplary work in the field of eye care. The following institutions have been recognised with felicitation ceremony. A three-member jury assessed the applications received for these awards.



**Shri S N Shah Award** for Equity for Providing Comprehensive Primary Eye Care Screening with a Focus on Women & Children for the Year 2024

Sri Sankaradeva Nethralaya, Assam

**Shri Sant Hirdaram Sewa Award** for Innovative Eye Care Practices for the year 2024

Sankara Nethralaya, Tamil Nadu





**Lotus Award for Holistic Development of an Organisation to Serve Community better for the year 2024**

**Blind People's Association (India),**



**Dr. Jordan Kassalow VisionSpring Award for reaching the unreached through eyeglasses for the Year 2024**

**Gomabai Netralaya, Madhya Pradesh**



**Shri. G D Agrawal Gomabai Netralaya Award for Sustainable community eye health approaches towards integrated people-centered eye care (IPEC) for the year 2024**

**Samaritan Social Service Society, Madhya Pradesh**





**Women Lead in Eye Health  
2024-**

This honor recognizes women based on their influence, excellence, contribution, and commitment to the field of eye care, especially in community ophthalmology.



**Young Achiever Award  
2024- Mr. Shekhar  
Konegari – LV Prasad Eye  
Institute**

This honor recognizes young persons who have had special accomplishments in the field of eye care.

**Eye Health  
Champion Award  
2024- Ms. Meera  
Sharma- Dr RP  
Centre, AIIMS**





**Eye Health Champion Award  
2024- Mr. Amrit Pal Singh-  
Orbis**



**Eye Health Champion  
Award 2024- Mr. Joseph  
Mollah- Siliguri Greater  
Lions Eye Hospital**

**Eye Health Champion  
Award 2024- Mr. Nakka  
Appalaraju- Sankar  
Foundation Eye Hospital**



**Eye Health  
Champion Award  
2024- Mr. Sandeep  
Dayal- LV Prasad Eye  
Institute**



## Felicitation

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- India felicitated its founding members, past hospitals/institutions who have hosted the annual conference, the first president of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- India and the former colleagues of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight- India.





## Impact and Future Directions

The conference has made a notable impact by:

**Strengthening Professional Capacity:** Attendees left with enhanced skills and knowledge, better equipped to address the challenges of visual impairment and improve eye care services in their regions.

**Fostering Collaboration:** The networking opportunities and collaborative spirit fostered during the conference are expected to lead to continued partnerships and joint efforts in advancing eye health.

**Promoting Best Practices:** The sharing of experiences and successful practices has provided valuable insights for better planning and implementation of eye care services, which will contribute to more effective and efficient eye health programs.

## Conclusion

The conference successfully met its objectives of increasing capacity, fostering networking, and sharing best practices in eye care. The strong participation and engagement of delegates reflect the commitment of the eye care community to improving visual health outcomes. Moving forward, the insights and connections gained from the conference will play a crucial role in advancing eye care practices and addressing the global challenge of visual impairment.

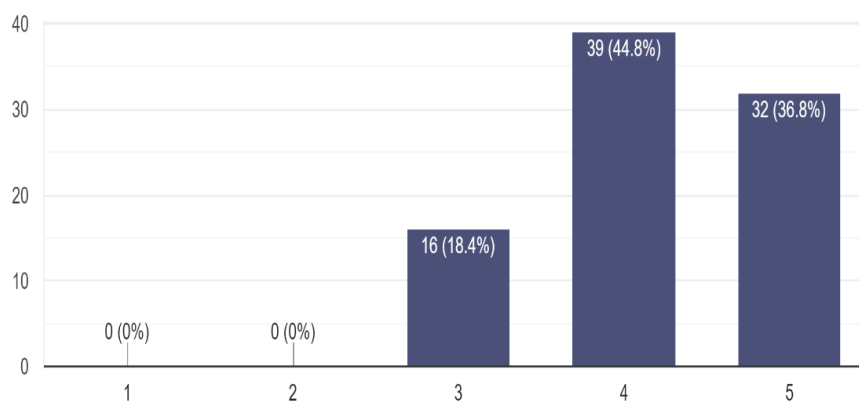


## Participant's Feedback Report

The feedback was received by 87 participants and 68 per cent were male and 32 per cent were female respondents. About 92 per cent of the respondents attended both the sessions. Majority of the respondents felt that there is no need to change the registration fees for the annual conference. The participants were requested to share their responses on a scale of 1-5 where scale was defines as (1- Very Poor, 2- Poor, 3- Good, 4- Very Good and 5- Excellent). The responses shared by the participants for rating the scientific tracks are mentioned below:

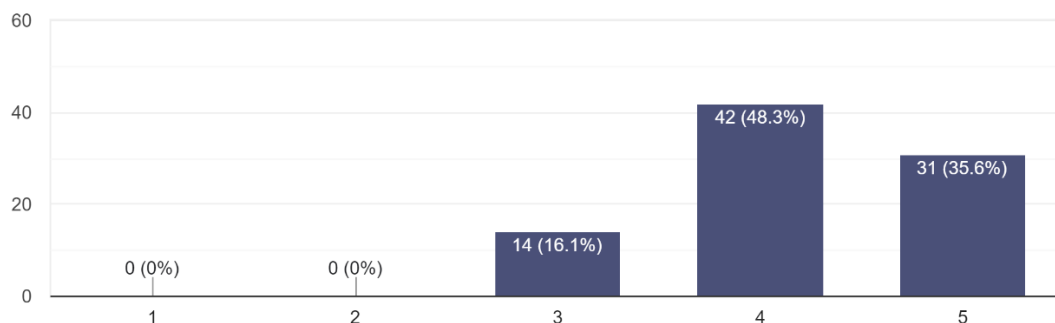
1. How well do you think the scientific program is designed?

87 responses



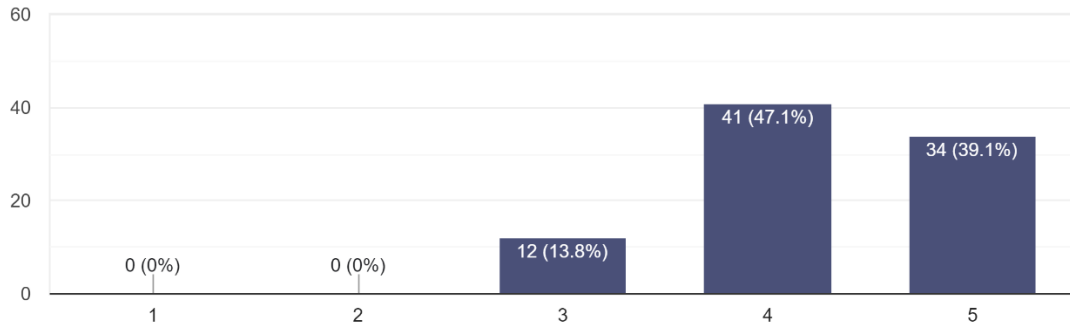
1. How will you rate the track titled 'Synergies and Strategies for Comprehensive Inclusive Eye Health'?

87 responses



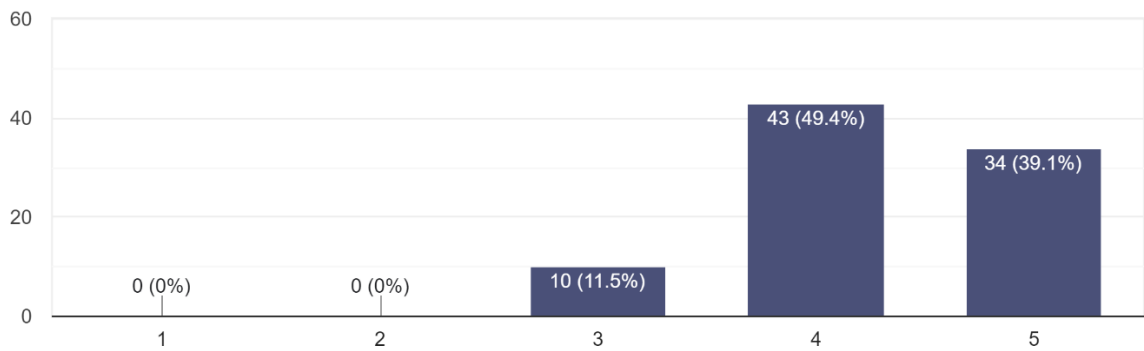
2. How will you rate the track titled 'Quality and Sustainability in Eye Care'?

87 responses



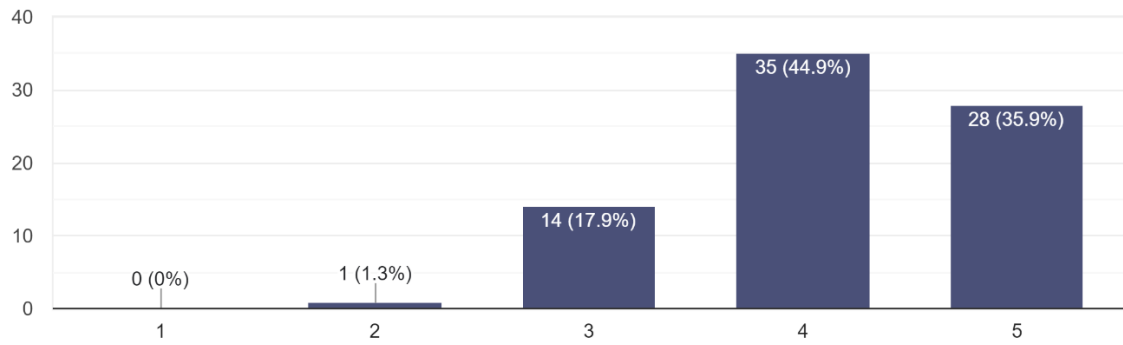
3. How will you rate the track titled 'Innovative Approaches to Reach the Unreached'?

87 responses



4. How will you rate the pre-conference session 'Skill Enhancement for Optometrists & Ophthalmic Assistants'?

78 responses





## THANKS

*The conference would not have been possible without the able support of The scientific committee and associates who gave their precious time for meetings and coordination and brainstorming to design the programme.*

*CMC Ludhiana College and Hospital: Dr. William Bhatti, Director, CMC&H, Ludhiana, Mr. Nitin Batra, Organizing Chairman, Prof& Head Dept. of Ophthalmology, CMC&H, Ludhiana and the dedicated team of volunteers of CMC&H, Ludhiana who worked round the clock to ensure that all went without a hitch.*

*We thank our Corporate Advisory Board for supporting us for this skill transfer initiative.*