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SightLife and LV Prasad Eye Institute Celebrate First Corneal Transplant Surgeries in Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia (July 21, 2017)—Four corneal blind patients are about to become the first people in Liberia to receive the gift of sight through corneal transplants. Their transformation is the result of collaboration between L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) of Hyderabad, India and SightLife, a US-based global health organization focused on eliminating corneal blindness. Dr. Bhupesh Bagga of LVPEI will perform the transplant surgeries on July 24 and 25 at The Liberia Eye Center at John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital using corneal tissue provided free of charge by SightLife.

A ceremony to celebrate Liberia's first sight-restoring corneal transplants will take place on Sunday, July 23 (details below).

- Who:** Dr. Bhupesh Bagga, LVPEI corneal surgeon
Dr. G N Rao, Chair, LVPEI
LVPEI Representatives
The Liberia Eye Center at John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital
Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Liberia
Government of Liberia
- When:** Sunday, July 23; corneal transplant surgeries to follow on July 24 and 25
- Where:** The Liberia Eye Center at John F Kennedy Memorial Hospital
- Why:** Event will acknowledge the collaborative efforts of Liberian President Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Dr. G N Rao and LVPEI of Hyderabad, India, SightLife of Seattle, WA bringing sight-restoring corneal transplants to Liberia

About SightLife

Founded in 1969 and based in Seattle, SightLife is the only global health organization working relentlessly to eliminate corneal blindness worldwide by 2040. Sight restoration has a profound impact on recipients, their families and communities—no one should have to wait to experience the joy and possibilities that vision brings. With the launch of its subsidiary, SightLife Surgical in the fall of 2016, SightLife became a combination non-profit and for-profit organization. This mission-driven structure maintains the non-profit status of SightLife as the parent organization and adds a for-profit "engine" to power and accelerate achievement of the mission. With partners in 33 countries, SightLife is increasing the number of corneal transplants performed each year to transform millions of lives around the globe. www.sightlife.org.

About L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI)

Established in 1987, L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) is a comprehensive eye health facility with its main campus located in Hyderabad, India. A World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Prevention of Blindness, the Institute offers comprehensive patient care, sight enhancement and rehabilitation services and high-impact rural eye health programs. It also pursues cutting edge research and offers training in human resources for all levels of ophthalmic personnel.