

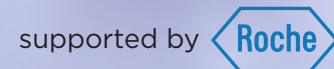
Words of Encouragement

India today is the blindness capital of the world with one-third of the world's visually impaired population living here. It places a huge burden on the society and has far-reaching health and economic implications for the nation. The irony is nearly 80% of the visual impairment is preventable. As retina fellows about to enter clinical practice, you have a bigger opportunity in reducing this burden. LEAP Ophthalmology will be an excellent opportunity to challenge and motivate you to arrive at solutions that can become the new standard of retina care in the future. Whether it is the integration of generative AI in diagnostics, the dawn of new age therapy options, the next leap in robotic-assisted surgery, or patient-centric care models, your greatest instrument would be your creativity and adaptability to drive better patient outcomes.

**Dr. Kim Ramasamy,**  
Chief Medical Officer, Aravind Eye Hospital,  
Madurai and Past President, VRSI

Disease management in retina care is getting more complex by the day and demands out-of-the-box thinking. This is where programs like LEAP Ophthalmology, a unique problem-solving and learning engagement platform can make a difference - challenging young minds to arrive at new, innovative solutions to real-world retinal challenges. Behind every disruptive leap is a person waiting to see the world more clearly. That could be you!

**Dr. Mahesh G,**  
Head, Vitreoretinal Services, Giridhar Eye Institute,  
Kochi and General Secretary, VRSI



**Rewards\*** **Final Winners** (the ones with the most innovative, impactful solutions) **Win LEAP scholarships** worth up to **3 lakhs\*** each



To participate  
Register now for  
**LEAP Ophthalmology**

**Your Innovation Journey Starts Here**

Or visit <https://www.rocheindia.com/about/leap-ophthalmology>  
Any queries on LEAP, write to us at: [india.leapophtha@roche.com](mailto:india.leapophtha@roche.com)

**ABOUT VRSI**  
**Vitreo Retinal Society of India (VRSI)** was founded in the year 1992, by a small group of 20 Vitreo-Retinal specialists under the presidentship of (late) Dr. TN Ursekar and Dr. Rumi P Jahangir as the 1st Hon. Secretary. Over the next 25 years, this exclusive group has expanded to over 1700+ Vitreo-Retinal specialists, with over 90% of India's actively practicing Vitreo-Retinal specialists being its life members. A majority of the members actively participate in the annual conference.

**ABOUT ROCHE**  
A healthier future. It's what drives us to innovate.  
For over 128 years, we have taken on some of the most complex challenges in healthcare, listening and responding to the ever-changing needs of people around the world. That's what makes us Roche.  
In India, Roche has been dedicated to improving lives, evolving from vitamins in the late 1940s to the advanced medicines for treating different forms of cancer, ophthalmology, neurology and blood disorders today. We are focused on bringing transformative medicines, innovative diagnostics and harnessing India's talent for global solutions.  
More info: [www.rocheindia.com](http://www.rocheindia.com)

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\*VRSI and Roche reserve the right to make minor changes to the program structure as deemed necessary.

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FOREWORD

The most valuable asset of any nation is its next generation, and the future of that nation is shaped by the thinking capacity of its youth. In the era of artificial intelligence, nurturing new ideas and original thought is more critical than ever—lest we risk a generation that stops questioning, innovating, and creating.

We are living in a time that demands solutions—solutions that we own, that are tailored to our unique environment, and that are developed and implemented locally for our own population.

The Vitreoretinal Society of India (VRSI), in collaboration with the Retina Fellows Retreat (RFR), and with Roche as a corporate partner, is proud to announce the “LEAP Retina” program for vitreoretinal fellows.

Vitreoretina, as a specialty, is uniquely challenging—it requires strategic thinking, innovation, and the ability to develop cost-effective alternatives to advanced technologies. LEAP Retina aims to empower fellows to think critically and develop innovative solutions under the guidance of experienced mentors.

The program is structured to encourage meaningful interaction between fellows and mentors from VRSI, including two in-person engagements during the year at RFR and VRSI meetings.

Through a pyramid-style selection process, the top five proposals will be recognized with awards and financial support at VRSI. Promising proposals will be advanced for further development through research and development or clinical trials. The overall winner of LEAP Retina will be invited to submit a detailed research proposal to VRSI and will be given priority consideration for research funding.

**Dr Vishali Gupta**  
President-VRSI and Professor and Chief of Retina and Uvea Services,  
Advanced Eye Centre PGIMER, Chandigarh

Program Overview

LEAP-Ophthalmology is a unique problem solving and learning engagement program designed by the country's top Retinologists at **Vitreoretinal Society of India (VRSI)**, supported by Roche to inspire innovation among **Medical and Surgical Retina Fellows** on the cusp of entering clinical practice.

Designed to foster innovation among the next generation of retina specialists, LEAP-Ophthalmology aims to inspire innovative thinking by challenging participants to solve real-world problems in patient care across different retinal diseases.

Through structured learning, mentorship, and peer collaboration, LEAP provides fellows an opportunity to develop practical, scalable solutions to real-world problems that can become the new standard of retina care in the future. The most impactful and practical solutions will get mentored by industry experts and will be recognised with LEAP scholarships and potential real-world implementation.



## The Architects

**Advisory Board:** Visionaries Shaping the Future of Retina Care.



**Dr. Vishali Gupta**  
VRSI President and Professor and Chief of Retina and Uvea Services, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh



**Dr. Karobi Lahiri**  
VRSI Vice President and Consultant, Bombay Hospital and Medical Research Centre, Mumbai



**Dr. Mahesh G**  
VRSI General Secretary and Head, Vitreoretinal Services, Giridhar Eye Institute, Kochi



**Dr. Mudit Tyagi**  
VRSI Scientific Convenor and Head, Smt. Kanuri Santhamma Centre for Vitreo-Retinal Diseases, LVPEI, Hyderabad



**Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair**  
Director, Chaithanya Eye Hospital and research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram



**Dr. Mohit Dogra**  
Assistant Professor, Retina and Uvea Services, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh



**Dr. Simar Ranjan Singh**  
Asst Professor, Retina and Uvea Services, Advanced Eye Centre, PGIMER, Chandigarh

## Program Objectives

Empower young minds in retina care to ideate and develop disruptive, innovative, yet practical solutions to address pressing challenges in retinal care in India

Provide Retina Fellows (Medical & Surgical) with a dynamic platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation

The program brings together emerging specialists, seasoned mentors, and leading experts to foster a rich ecosystem of knowledge exchange and cross-disciplinary engagement

## Program Phases

**Phase 1 (April-June):** Registration and Submission of Solutions

Medical and Surgical Retina Fellows register for the program. They can then submit their innovative solutions to various real-world challenges related to retinal care in India on the LEAP portal by 30 June 2026

**Phase 2 (July):** Screening and Shortlisting

Top 20-25 solutions are shortlisted by the Advisory Board and presented to the Jury.

**Phase 3 (July):** Evaluation

The competition intensifies as the Jury narrows down the most promising solutions to the Top 10 National Finalists.

**Phase 4 (August)** Mentorship

Each of the 10 finalists is paired with an esteemed expert from our VRSI Mentor Panel, ensuring your project is refined by the best minds in the field.

**Phase 5 (September)** Presentation

Top 10 finalists present their evolved solution to the distinguished Jury in a virtual session. Top 5 solutions are selected.

**Phase 6 (December)**

**Final Round at The Grand Stage and recognition**

The Top 5 Solutions earn an exclusive invitation to the VRSI Annual Conference for a face-to-face presentation before the grand Jury. To honor this achievement, the Fellows and their Mentors will receive complimentary registration to the conference, providing unparalleled networking opportunities with the country's leading retina specialists

The journey culminates in a prestigious Felicitation Ceremony at the VRSI Annual Conference. Final Winners will be recognized and awarded LEAP Scholarships worth up to Rs 3 Lakhs\* each.

\*VRSI and Roche reserves the right to make minor changes to the program structure as deemed necessary

## Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria to participate in LEAP-Ophthalmology:



Be a **Medical or Surgical Retina Fellow** who will be in training as of 30 June 2026, duly certified by the Fellowship Director



Be proposed/recommended by an Institute Faculty member who is a member of the VRSI



Be willing and able to travel and actively participate in all stages and engagements of the program

## Theme for the Inaugural edition

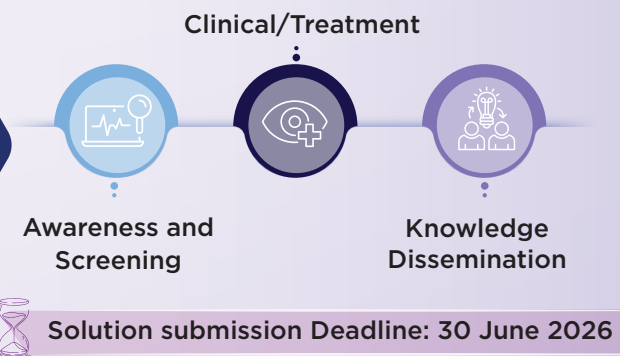
For its inaugural edition, the program focuses on **Diabetic Retinopathy (DR)**.

As DR is a leading cause of preventable vision loss in India, LEAP aims to shift the narrative from reactive treatment to proactive, solution-based interventions.

## Challenge Buckets

Challenge Statements are organized into **three Buckets**, each targeting critical intervention points in the patient journey:

Retina Fellows are invited to reimagine retinal care through solutions that are innovative, impactful and implementable in real-world settings. Synergize advanced systems-level thinking with cutting-edge technological integration to develop transformative solutions that can redefine excellence in patient care. This is a call to transcend traditional boundaries and confront the most pressing challenges across the retinal landscape with bold, disruptive thinking.



## The Custodians of Excellence

**Jury:** Experts Evaluating Innovation in Retina Care



**Dr. Mangat Dogra**  
Director, Grewal Eye Institute, Chandigarh



**Dr. Kim Ramasamy**  
Director, Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai



**Dr. A Giridhar**  
Medical Director, Giridhar Eye Institute, Kochi



**Dr. Padmaja Kumari Rani**  
Network Head, Tele-Ophthalmology, Consultant—Smt. Kanuri Santhamma Retina Vitreous Service, Kallam Anji Reddy Campus, LVPEI, Hyderabad



**Dr. Anand Rajendran**  
Chief, Retina and Vitreous Services, Aravind Eye Hospital, Chennai



**Dr. Dinesh Talwar**  
Retina and Vitreous Services, Centre for Sight, New Delhi



**Dr. Muna Bhende**  
Senior Consultant Vitreoretinal Services, Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai



**Dr. Dhananjay Shukla**  
Director, Retina and Vitreous Services, Ratan Jyoti Netralaya, Gwalior