



DGFG

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR
GEWEBETRANSPLANTATION

GEMEINNÜTZIGE GESELLSCHAFT mbH

6th South African Tissue Bank Association Congress (SATiBA)
11. - 13. November 2022 | Stellenbosch, Capetown

Expanding eye donation network in North-India

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DGFG – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Gewebetransplantation

German Society for Tissue Transplantation
is an independent non-profit organization

Our tasks:

- support **tissue donation nationwide 24/7**
- provide **professional support for tissue preparation** in the tissue bank
- organize the **distribution of tissue transplants**
- support **research** for better patient care
- **public relations** for tissue donation
- founded 2007, and owned by 4 public university hospitals and a diaconal clinic
- largest **tissue network** in Germany
- provides patients with corneal transplants, amniotic membrane, heart valves, blood vessels and bone grafts



DGFG network

non profit, university driven

- 30 locations
- 50 coordinators
- >100 donation clinics
- 13 tissue banks
- >120 transplant centers for cornea
- 35 transplant programmes for heart valves and vessels
- 40 transplant centers for amnion



Core processes at the DGFG

← Mutual communication →



donation

- Donor screening
- Communication with the clinic
- Next-of-kin interview
- If approved → retrieval



processing

- processing of the tissue in tissue bank
- microbiological tests
- Storage and preservation



allocation

- allocation of transplant
- logistics of transport
- management of the communication between transplantation centers



2021: Collaboration SCEH - DGFG

- In **India**, the most densely populated state is **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Large proportion of corneal blindness due to cornea infections, ocular trauma, and (chemical) burns.



Lack of availability of
donated cornea is a
public health challenge.

VISION

Contributing to the elimination of avoidable blindness in India, by supporting people impaired by corneal damage or disease can receive corneal transplants in the right time to make them see again.

IMPROVE

Current infrastructure at the Dr. Shroff's Eye Bank in Delhi.

SHARE

Knowledge, processes and best practices in eye donation and banking.

Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital

50% of the treatments
are free of charge



- SCEH is one of the **oldest** and largest eyecare institutions in India
- Provides services through 38 vision care centers
- One central eye bank in Delhi
- Eye Collection Centers
- Hospital Corneal Retrieval Program at HCRP hospitals
- Voluntary Eye Donation Program
- 75 Transplant Centers for Cornea
- **1400 Transplants** in 2021 making it the largest eye bank in Northern India

Dr Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital Eye Bank

Registered & Recognized in 2005



- SCEH started operations in **2004** as an Eye Donation Center with only 1 HCRP hospital on panel
- 1st Year cornea collection was just 28 (in 2005)
- Maintaining an annual utilization rate of above 65%
- Among the top 3 Eye Banks in the Country

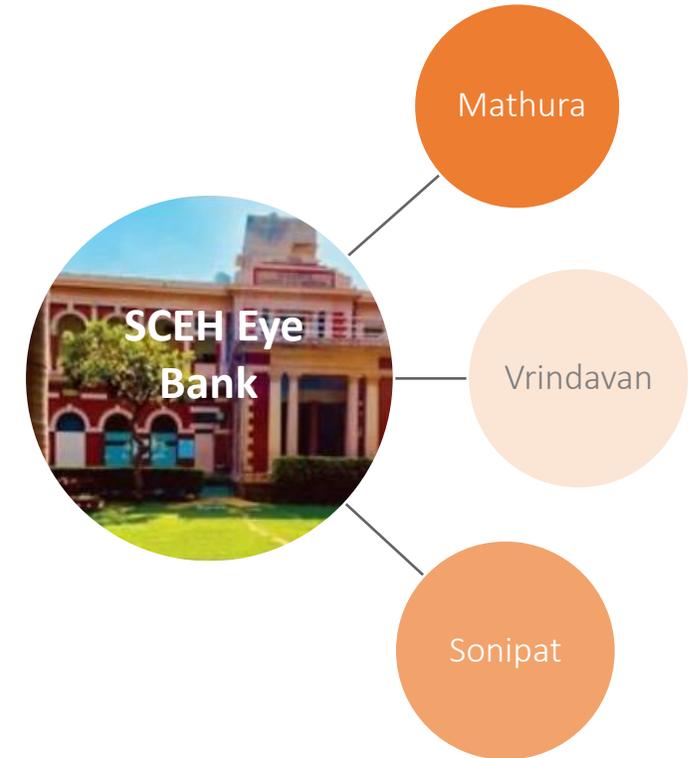
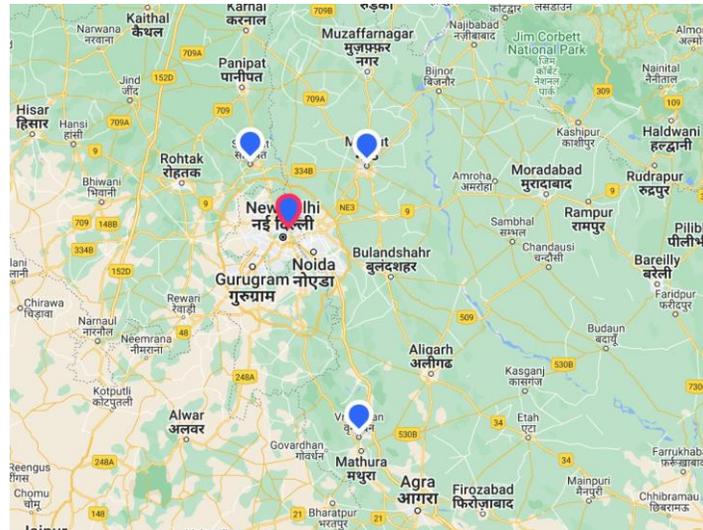


2005
22 Tissue

2021
1410 Tissue

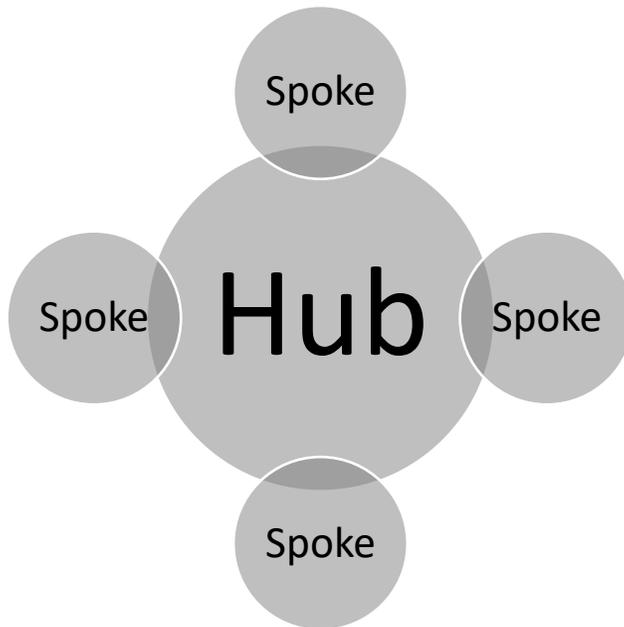
Structure SCEH-Eye Bank

- 1 Eye Bank
- 3 Collection Centers
- 35 HCRP Hospitals
- 5 Mortuaries
- 9 Eye Donation Counselors



SCEH work on a hub and spoke model with Eye Bank in Delhi and 3 Eye Collection Centres.

HUB and SPOKES



DGFG

- **HUB - Headquarters in Hannover**
- **DGFG Management (CEO, HR, Administration, RnD, PR)**
- **allocation office = interface role between donation and processing**
 - donations are allocated to a bank according to current capacity
 - **Distribution to Tx centers:** central management of stock in all tissue banks; central waiting list
- **Quality Management ensures reliable and compliant quality standards** that enable exchange between tissue banks

SCEH

- **HUB - Eye Bank in Delhi linked to the Dr. Shroff's hospital**
- **Eye collection centers linked to secondary or tertiary care hospitals in the region**
- **Close to mortuaries**
- **Counselors are supervised by the eye bank manager – operations**
- **central distribution and QM**

Eye Bank Refrigerator**24 Hours Temperature Monitor****Slit Lamp Biomicroscope****Specular Microscope****Cold Storage Medium**



4 point Scalability strategy for improving eye bank performance and productivity



Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme through EDCs



Telephonic Screening by Tele-counselors



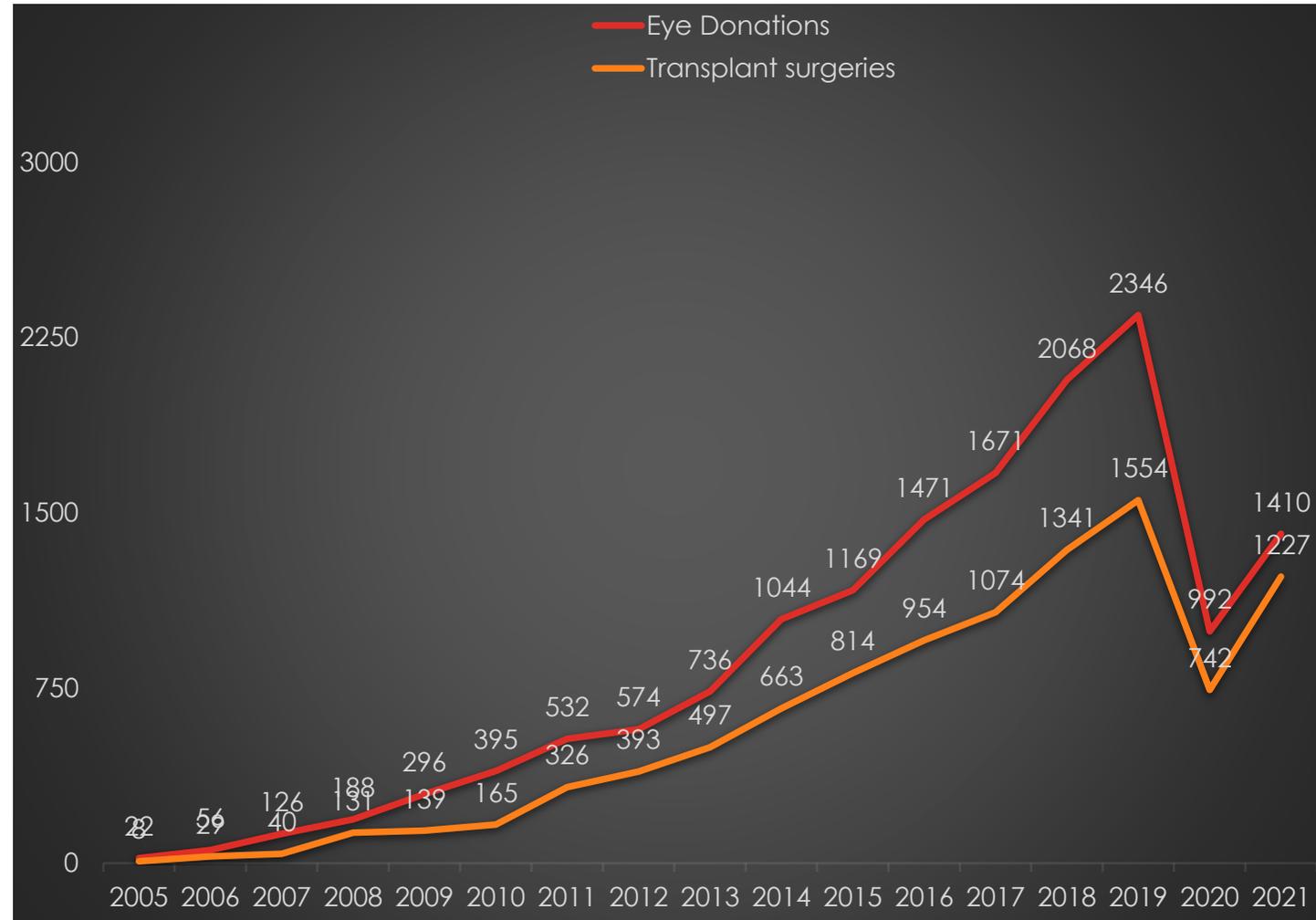
Building up Nodal Centers in Urban Agglomeration within 3hours of travel distance from Eye bank



Voluntary donations



SCEH Eye Bank Journey...



GIZ Hospital Partnerships funding program

- supports the transfer of knowledge and experience between health organizations in Germany and medical institutions in low and middle-income countries
- organized by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



www.hospitalpartnerships.org

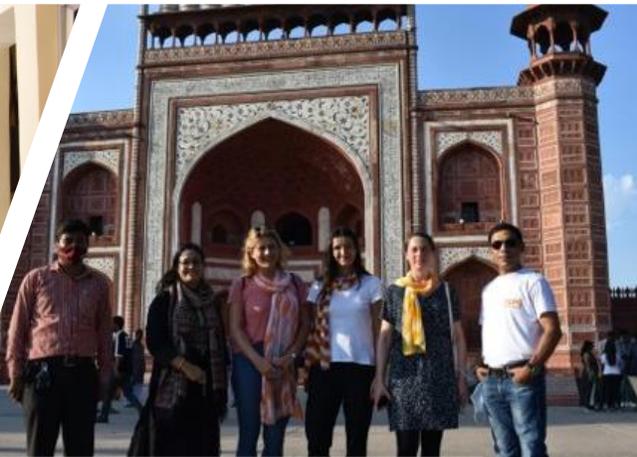


OBJECTIVES

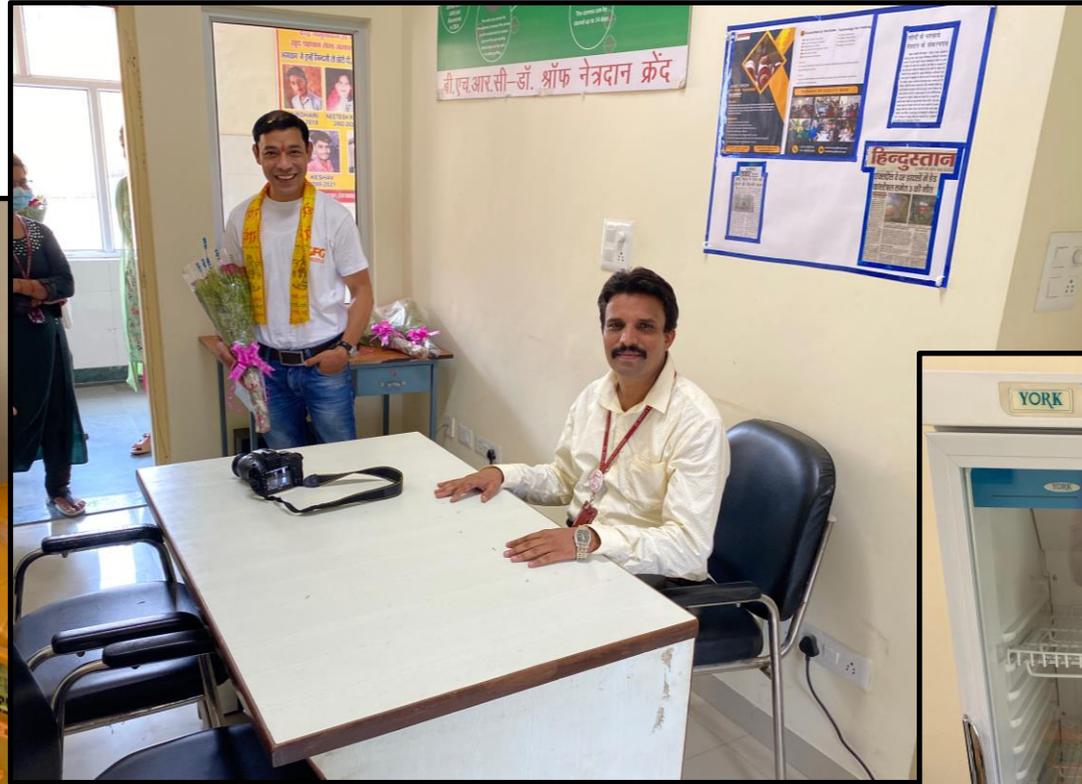
Increasing Cornea Donation and
Enhancing Data Management

- I. **by establishing two new eye collection centres**
- II. **by technically improving the data management of the eye bank,
and its cornea collection centers**

DGFG team visited Eye Bank at Delhi and eye collection center at Vrindavan



Eye Collection Center



**Indicator**

Increase the number of cornea donations for the SCEH eye bank through two new eye collection centers

**Baseline value**

Current number of cornea donation for SCEH eye bank (ca. 2300 in 2019 / 850 in 2020 YTD)

Target value

Increase of approx. 200 cornea donations within two years

Status quo

Collection Centers identified

- i) Meerut (6 donations, 5 usable for Tx)
- ii) Sonipat (47 donations, 37 usable for Tx)

Status Sept. 2022

Evidence

Analyze the donation numbers on quarterly basis. Keeping log of consent rate for donation and keeping log of utilization rate of cornea for transplantation.



OBJECTIVE I

Increasing cornea donation numbers

Opening two new eye collection centers

SCEH team visited DGFG in Hannover



Collaborative publications & presentations

Expedited Publication, Review Article

Risk of SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission from donor corneal tissue: A review

Anna K Salz, Manisha Acharya¹, Nicola Hofmann, Ilka Wittmershaus, Virender Sangwan², Martin Börgel, Umang Mathur³

Since the outbreak of respiratory coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, there is an ongoing discussion about whether the virus could be transmitted through corneal transplantation from donor to recipient. The purpose of this review was to summarize the current knowledge in the scientific community to provide aid in risk evaluation for potential virus transfer by corneal transplants. Literature was searched in PubMed.gov for relevant articles on coronavirus in conjunction with cornea

Access this article online
Website: www.ijo.in
DOI: 10.4103/ijo.IJO_3249_20

Donor Selection: Eye banking and transplantation rests on the selection and consent of donors. This session is dedicated to putting donors front and centre, and providing technical and practical information to help build donation programs.

Host: EEBA

This is a joint lecture presentation featuring:

Martin Börgel (Germany) - Chair

Anna Salz (Germany)

Gary Jones (Italy)

Manisha Acharya (India)

Sandra Verter (South Africa)



Hall - B Saturday, 19.02.2022 06:00pm - 07:30pm (IST)

AIOS - International Eye Banking Session

Chairperson

Maj. Gen. Dr JKS Parihar

Co- Chairpersons

Dr. Samar Basak

Dr. Radhika Tandon

Convenors

Dr. Ritu Arora

Dr. Rishi Mohan

Dr. Namrata Sharma

Moderators

Dr. Rajesh Sinha

Dr. Swati Tomar

Experts' Panel

Dr. Rajib Mukherjee

Dr. Manisha Acharya

Dr. Rekha G. Gyanchand

Dr. Rakesh Shah

Dr. Nilesh Mohan

Speakers

Dr. Graeme A. Pollock
Adverse Reactions and Early Graft Follow-Up

Dr. Kevin Corcoran
Status Update of EBAA

Dr. Anna Salz
DGFG network for tissue medicine

Dr. Erik Hellier
Need for sustainable eye banking in the face of tissue constraints

Dr. Josie Noah
Strengthening the Continuum of Care to Eliminate Corneal Blindness

Dr. Neeti Gupta
Small Changes in eye bank policies can have a huge impact on HCRP

Dr. Namrata Sharma
Eye Banking in COVID TIMES & Beyond

Rakhi Nathawat
Advocacy & Policy Planning to Target the Goal of Eliminating Corneal Blindness by 2030

THANKS to the DGFG & SCEH
and TO YOU for your attention!

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youtube.com/user/gewebenetzwerk

