

- ❖ **Name & Designation** : Dr. Vikas Veerwal, Junior Resident
- ❖ **Address** : Deptt. Of Ophthalmology, Guru Nanak Eye Centre, MAMC, Maharaja Ranjeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110002
- ❖ **Name of the International Conference/ Seminar/Symposium/ Workshop** : American Academy of Ophthalmology 2014
- ❖ **Title of the abstract accepted** : 1. Complication of corneal collagen crosslinking in keratoconus in young patients with VKC.
2. Deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) in children with advanced keratoconus.
- ❖ **Date & Venue** : Chicago, USA, 18-21st October 2014.
- ❖ **Money sanctioned** : ₹ 94,804/-
- ❖ **Money reimbursed** : ₹ 90,288/-

The American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) in conjunction with European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) organised the AAO 2014 meeting which is the world's most prestigious conference in this field. Having participants from all over the world, it provides a platform to Ophthalmologists to come together and discuss the latest developments in Ophthalmology, to showcase their work and learn from world's most renowned and experienced Ophthalmologists. Comprising more than 100 sessions and 12 instruction courses over a span of 4 days, it provided the most comprehensive coverage of the latest research in the field.

American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 2014 conference held in Chicago, Illinois, USA from 18th-21st October, 2014 was a complete amalgamation of latest developments and research as well as reviewing the basics of every aspect of Ophthalmology. Spread over 4 days, it provided an opportunity for Ophthalmologists all over the world to present their work, learn from the experience of others and to interact with the most renowned and reputable names in the field. I was fortunate to have been provided the chance to present my poster titled 'Complication of corneal collagen crosslinking in keratoconus in young patients with VKC', at the conference. Working in this field, AAO 2014 provided me an opportunity to present my work as well as to review the work of others associated with Keratoconus. Instruction course at the meeting titled 'Keratoconus: The 2014 Protocol', provided a complete update on the latest happenings in the field, best approach to a patient with this disease and the latest treatment options available to give the best possible result to our patients. The session was enlightening in many aspects. Along with this, sessions on collagen crosslinking, its latest protocols and applications helped me understand about this treatment modality and how to use it in the most effective manner. I am sure I will be able to apply the knowledge I gained in the conference for treatment of patients here in India where this disease has a much higher prevalence.

Participant's Contribution to the Conference Attended

I, Vikas Veerwal, got an opportunity to present a poster titled, 'Complication of corneal collagen crosslinking in keratoconus in young patients with VKC', at the AAO 2014 conference in Chicago, USA. I also co-authored a poster presentation titled, 'Deep anterior lamellar keratoplasty (DALK) in children with advanced keratoconus.' Along with my work in Keratoconus, which is an ectatic disorder of the cornea that affects young adults, I was fortunate to be co-presenter in a video presentation titled 'Crescentic Tuck-in Lamellar Keratoplasty: A Novel Technique to Manage Advanced Pellucid Marginal Degeneration.' Having a special interest in the field of cornea, I was able to contribute to the conference by sharing my experience of treating patients of keratoconus which is more prevalent in South Asia and highlighting the potential complications that can result from use of collagen crosslinking as a treatment modality. Along with my main poster presentation, through the video presentation we provided a new treatment modality that has shown success in our patients in cases of advanced pellucid marginal degeneration and can become the primary mode of treatment in these cases in the near future. Thus, I was grateful to AAO for giving me this opportunity to both learn more about, and to contribute my work to the field of Ophthalmology at a such an illustrious and renowned platform.