



AMERICAN ACADEMY  
of OPTOMETRY

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To:

The Honorable Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Nirman Bhavan, C-Wing,  
New Delhi  
110001



November 12, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO), which represents over 10,000 members throughout the world, was founded in 1922 with the mission to promote the art and science of vision care through lifelong learning. We are a leading voice in support of vision research programs in optometry, dissemination of new knowledge in both clinical and vision sciences in promotion of best practices, and bring together a global audience of optometrists, researchers, educators, residents in optometry, administrators, students, and others at an annual conference in the United States to share knowledge and advance patient care.

The AAO annually recognizes many deserving individuals for distinguished service to optometry and public health, scientific and clinical research, and optometric education. The Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions is a prestigious Academy award that acknowledges individuals or organizations for extraordinary international contributions to optometry and international eye care.

For 2015, the Essilor International Award was conferred on five visionary and remarkable individuals in India: **Ms. Lakshmi Shinde, Mr. Rajesh Wadhwa, Mr. Rajbir Singh Berwal, Mr. Vivek Mendonsa and Mr. Vinod Daniel**. They have collaborated to develop the underpinnings of broad-based optometry governance in India in areas of standards of practice and formal education through the self-regulatory Optometry Council of India (OCI), screening guidelines for blindness prevention in areas such as glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, cooperative discussions to amalgamate various optometric organizations into a unified Indian Optometry Federation (IOF), and development of advanced continuing education programs for practitioners. They have also worked towards developing a standard curriculum and competency of graduates through the Association of Colleges and schools of optometry India, (ASCO, India)