

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian College of Optometry staff member recognised as 2018 Eye Health Hero

The Australian College of Optometry (ACO) is pleased to announce staff member Anagha Joshi has been recognised as one of The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) 2018 Eye Health Heroes.

The Eye Health Heroes initiative recognises and celebrates those whose work in the field and engagement with the community makes a difference in restoring sight and preventing blindness.

In her time at the Australian College of Optometry, Anagha has been an inspiration to many, providing quality eye care services to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people, training to the nationwide Australian Government initiative in the implementation of retinal cameras to rural Aboriginal Healthcare Cooperatives, as well as assisting with clinical teaching. Outside of the ACO, Anagha is one of the founders of the Australian South Asian Healthcare Association (ASHA), a charity group involved in providing health care education programmes to impoverished communities in South Asia. Anagha has led several teams of volunteer optometrists from Australia to Bhopal, India, with the prospect of improving overall eye care to the community by promoting outreach and decreasing the bottleneck for ophthalmologists.

Maureen O'Keefe, Chief Executive Officer, Australian College of Optometry who also attended the awards, said "We are very proud of Anagha for winning an Eye Health Hero Award. The important work Anagha does both in Australia and India working to improve eye health outcomes for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people makes her a very deserving recipient of the award. She has shown great leadership through collaboration and empowering of others and is a valuable member of the ACO team."

On September 16, 2018 Anagha was presented with her award in Hyderabad, India at the IAPB Council of Members, along with 21 other nominees all striving to make a difference to vision.

Anagha has also successfully gained admission to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to pursue a Masters in Public Health, which commences in late 2018. This will give Anagha the opportunity to study public health with likeminded people passionate about improving health outcomes, while building on the valuable network she established at the IAPB conference in Hyderabad.

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For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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