

Biography of Prof. Rajvardhan Azad, APAO Past President (2013–15)



Rajvardhan AZAD

MD and FRCS ed

India

For more than 3 decades, **Prof. Rajvardhan Azad** has been imparting exemplary teaching and research in learning principles and practices in the field of ophthalmic education across various universities in India and abroad.

Prof. Azad has achieved innovations that have enhanced the standards of super specialty eye care not only in India but also internationally.

As President of All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS), Prof. Azad conceptualized and formatted a certification program popularly known as FAICO in 2009 for the first time in India and also in the world to provide quality specialized eye care in India and globally.

Since its inception, the FAICO diploma has gained tremendous popularity, attracting more than 200 candidates across all nine subspecialties of ophthalmology every year.

At the global level, Prof. Azad collaborated with the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) Education Committee to conduct this certification exam for the first time in the cornea subspecialty as a trial in 2016.

Prof. Azad is also Chair of the Ophthalmic Education Standing Committee of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) for several years and has contributed significantly towards a better understanding of subspecialty ophthalmic care in the Asia-Pacific region. In this role, he has formulated a uniform curriculum for residency and fellowship programs with a project grant from APAO, and published papers in the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology* (APJO) on various super specialty programs in the Asia-Pacific

region. He is currently working on a fellowship certification program on the pattern of AIOS in APAO.

As the youngest President of the National Board of Examination (NBE), an apex body of the Ministry of Health and Family Planning under the Government of India, Prof. Azad made sweeping reforms in medical education. He introduced many new innovations like the Screening Test for Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGE), the Examiners Orientation Programme, a new accreditation system for the renewal of institutes / hospitals, curriculum revision and the constitution of the Speciality Advisory Board.

Prof. Azad also served on the Medical Council of India (MCI) as Inspector and later as Chairman of Postgraduate Committee for many years. He helped the council lay down and maintain the standards of both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education in the country. As a chief guide and co-guide for several years, he has mentored more than 50 postgraduates at Dr. R. P. Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He is currently Chairman of the Clinical Advisory Board of the largest eye hospital in eastern India - Akhand Jyoti Eye Hospital (AJEH).

Prof. Azad has been an examiner for undergraduate and postgraduate students at over 20 universities in India and abroad. He has published 12 books, 200 research papers in peer-reviewed journals and over 60 chapters in books and periodicals. He is the principal investigator / a co-investigator in more than 25 clinical trials (Multicentric Global-15, ICMR funded-4, AIIMS funded -3) primarily on AMD, diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). He serves on the editorial boards and as a scientific reviewer of *Ophthalmology* (AAO), the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology* (IJO), the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Ophthalmology* (APJO), *Journal of American Academy of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus* (JAPOS), the *British Journal of Ophthalmology* (BJO), *Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology* (CEO), *Eye*, *Journal of*

Ophthalmology, Acta Ophthalmologica and Oman Journal of Ophthalmology (OJO).

A born teacher as he is, he has been teaching all over the world and delivered lectures as Visiting Professor at Texas Medical Center in the US, Toronto General Hospital in Toronto, Canada, Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center in Guangzhou, China, St Luke's Medical Center in Manila, the Philippines, Islamia Hospital in Dhaka, Bangladesh, College of Ophthalmologists Sri Lanka, Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Kathmandu, Nepal, and many other institutes.

He is the recipient of more than 50 prestigious awards and orations, including the De Ocampo Lecture by APAO for the highest academic excellence in teaching and research, and Dr. B.C. Roy National Award for Eminent Medical Teacher by the Medical Council of India. He is also a recipient of the highest award of APAO, i.e. the Jose Rizal Medal, to add to the list of laurels he has won. He has received the Life Time Achievement Award by both AIOS and the Vitreo Retinal Society of India, the Alim Memorial Award by the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, the NOS Oration by the Nepal Ophthalmic Society, and the College of Ophthalmology Oration by the College of Ophthalmologists Sri Lanka.

Prof. Azad was a Member on the Board of Trustees of ICO and the Global Advisory Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO). He was on the Advisory Panel of AAO's *Academy Express*, which focuses on various research and new developments in ophthalmology.

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