



## One Hundred Eighty-Three Days in office - Nepal Ophthalmic Society Activities

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On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, a new executive committee of Nepal Ophthalmic Society (NOS) for the term 2024-2026 was elected. Associate Professor Dr. Purushottam Joshi (President), Associate Professor Dr. Ranjana Sharma (Vice President), Associate Professor Dr. Lily Rajbanshi (Joint Treasurer), executive members Dr. Arati Karakheti, Dr. Dikshya Bista, Dr. Manisha Shrestha, Associate Professor Dr. Kumudini Subedi, Dr. Pawan Mahat, Dr. Rachana Singh Rana, Dr. Leesha Shrestha Joshi, Dr. Sabin Sahu, while Dr. Tejsu Singh Malla (General Secretary), Dr. Kaushal Pokharel (Treasurer) and Dr. Rabindra Singh Thakuri (Joint Secretary) were unanimously elected. The first executive meeting unanimously decided to appoint Associate Professor Dr. Eli Pradhan as Editor-in-Chief of Nepalese Journal of Ophthalmology.

During the 183 days in office (from 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025), NOS has remained committed to advancing eye health, professional development, and institutional collaboration. Key activities undertaken during this period include:

### 1. Institutional Development

- Efforts were made to enhance transparency and outreach by creating a dedicated WhatsApp group, YouTube channel, and short message service (SMS) alert system for members. A regular executive meeting was decided to be held on first Sunday of each English month.
- An interactive session was organised with ophthalmology residents and

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ophthalmologists under the two-year government bond to discuss the Ministry of Health and Population's decision to allow bonded ophthalmologists to serve in non-governmental hospitals. This initiative facilitated open communication and reduced misunderstanding among members.

- The Society published and distributed a *Nepali New Year Calendar (2082)* to its members.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, a "Meet and Greet Programme" was organised by the society at its premise in Tripureshwor, to celebrate Nepali New Year 2082 and create a bond among its members.
- The Society addressed three complaints from its life members against their respective hospitals. One case was resolved, while two remain pending despite multiple attempts. The executive committee has suggested legal support for the concerned members and is actively working on it.

## 2. Policy and advocacy

- NOS on February 17, 2025 met the Health Secretary Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Government of Nepal, Ministry of Health, and Population (MOHP), Ramshah path, Kathmandu and submitted a memorandum requesting the government's intervention to take immediate action to prevent Seasonal Hyperacute Panuveitis (SHAPU) and it

be recognised as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) in Nepal.

- General Secretary Dr. Tejsu Singh Malla, and executive member Dr. Arati Karakheti represented the society at Curative Division, Department of Health Services (DOHS), MOHP, Government of Nepal, Teku, Kathmandu, on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, which formed a technical working group (TWG) for establishment of guidelines for eye clinic and eye hospitals where NOS was tasked to lead the initiative. However, due to funding limitations, the project has been deferred to the next fiscal year, with budget proposals submitted to MOHP as informed by Dr. Sudha Devkota, director, curative division.
- A right to information (RTI) was filed also on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to MOHP to better understand the content of MoU between the Government and Non-Government Organisation (NGO) concerning the placement of two-year government bonded ophthalmologist. This was followed by a meeting with the Honorable Minister of Health, Mr. Pradip Paudel, attended by the president Dr Purushottam Joshi, Immediate past president Dr. Meenu Chaudhary and General secretary Dr. Tejsu Singh Malla. The NOS presented their view, and this would result in neglect of eye health service in government hospital due to shortage of human resources (ophthalmologist) and the need of

government role for better surgical training and support of involved ophthalmologist.

- Through active advocacy, the DOHS appointed NOS as TWG member in the Eye Health Related Data committee. This initiative has been supported by SEVA Foundation, and dissemination workshop on the stakeholders consultation has been planned. The TWG has begun to assess the status of eye health data collection and reporting systems align with Nepal Governments Health commitments, international commitments as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for baseline assessment and recommendations.

### 3. Academic and Continuing Medical Education (CME).

- The executive committee sensing a need for uniformity for Master degree in ophthalmology, held meeting with representative ophthalmologist from different university on December 2024.
- A three-month certified course on infection control officer/nurse was launched on 25th February 2025. This virtual training, 90-minute session every fortnight having fifty participants was organised by Seva foundation and NOS.
- Leadership Development Training program has been planned to be held on all the seven provinces of Nepal. The first training was held on Gandaki

Province was held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2025, Hotel Pokhara and village spa, Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal. The NOS also plans to start NOS-Leadership Development Program (LDP) during the NOSCON 2025, where Nepalese APAO-LDP will be involved as faculty.

- The society continued NOS Postgraduate (PG) teaching program which was initiated by previous executive committee. The program coordinated by executive member Dr. Sabin Sahu had session on Glaucoma (10<sup>th</sup> January 2025).
- On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025, a webinar on “Choosing Ophthalmology as a Career” was organised by NOS. The program, for the PG aspirants who were on the process of choosing different field in residency following the recent medical education commission (MEC) was highly appreciated by the PG aspirants which helped them to better understand choosing ophthalmology through facts and experience of speakers Prof. Dr. Meenu Chaudhary, Associate Professor Dr. Ranjana Sharma, Associate Professor Dr. Eli Pradhan, Dr. Rabindra Singh Thakuri, and Dr. Buddhi Man Tamang. The recording is available on YouTube channel of Nepal Ophthalmic society for future references.

### 4. Public health initiatives

- On 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025, a webinar on Retinoblastoma was organised to make



public aware regarding retinoblastoma through Dr. Purnima Ranjitkar and Dr. Sabin Sahu as the speakers.

- In association with NOS, on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025, on world myopia awareness week 2025, dedicate to spreads awareness about myopia throughout community was held at Drishti Eye Care, Kalanki and organised by Drishit Eye Care.

## 5. Professional collaboration

- On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025, NOS celebrated the *75<sup>th</sup> National Doctors' Day* supporting the Nepal Medical Association. Ophthalmologists across the country marked the day with celebratory events, including a special video featuring Prof. Dr. Ram Prasad Pokharel and NOS President and Executives.
- A formal application was registered at Nepal Medical Council (registration number 222) on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 requesting the council to act against misuse of Dr. prefix as instructed by MOHP. Another application was lodged at Nepal Health Professional Council (registration number 23 and 56) respectively on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025, and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 regarding use of Dr. Prefix registered in NHPC.
- A meeting has been held with Nepalese Association of Optometrist (NAO), Nepal Ophthalmic Assistant Society (NOAS) to further strengthen professional collaboration.

## 6. Recognition

- The NOS Announced recipient of NOS research grant (2023-2024). Dr. Barsha Suwal (Adherence to diabetes eye treatment DR and its determinants among Nepalese patient requiring intervention), and Dr. Pragati Gautam (Pupillometry in a patient with glaucoma suspected and primary open angle glaucoma).
- On recommendation of NOS, Dr. Chandan Banerjee, and Dr. Salma KC received Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO)-Distinguished Service Awards and APAO-Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Awards respectively during 40<sup>th</sup> APAO congress in conjunction with the 83<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the All-India Ophthalmological Society held on April 3-6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in New Delhi, India. APAO-Distinguished Service Awards presented to ophthalmologists of APAO member societies for their distinguished services towards enhancing ophthalmic care in their home country / territory and the Asia-Pacific region. APAO-Outstanding Service in Prevention of Blindness Awards are presented to individuals or organisations whose contributions are instrumental in preventing blindness in the Asia-Pacific region.

## Future activities

The NOS has following activities for future.

- **Communication Skills Workshop:**



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in collaboration of ethical committee, Nepal Medical Council.

- Leadership Development Training program has been planned to be held on remaining provinces of Nepal.
- Continuous Medical Education at different provinces.
- World ophthalmologist day (August 8) celebration.
- NOSCON 2025 to be held on 13-15<sup>th</sup>

November 2025 at Mechi, Nepal.

- NOS-Leadership Development Program (LDP) during the NOSCON 2025
- Asia Pacific Ocular Trauma (APOTS) 2026 to be held on 12-14<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

