More than 250 million people worldwide are blind or suffer from moderate to severe vision loss, with the vast majority living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). These individuals suffer from ailments that are often easily diagnosed and treated in advanced healthcare settings, but without access to care, their visual impairments perpetuate a cycle of disease progression, unemployment, and poverty.

THE PROBLEM

WORLDWIDE:

170 MILLION PEOPLE suffer from moderate vision loss

47 MILLION PEOPLE have severe vision loss

36 MILLION PEOPLE are blind

WHAT IT MEANS

Reduced life expectancy

Loss of income

Additional barriers to care

The aging population, lack of access to care, & shift to chronic disease in LMICs will increase visual impairment to 700 million people by 2050.

Vision loss disproportionately affects the poor and is devastating for individuals, families, & society.

INDIA’S OVERWHELMING NEED

- Home to largest population of people afflicted with blindness
- Second-largest population of people with moderate or severe visual impairment
- 21% of the population lives in poverty
- Major shortage of ophthalmologists (1:91K patients)
- 80% of poor people live in rural areas with insufficient access to health care
- Delayed care and disease progression is common
WE SEE A BETTER FUTURE
GIVE believes in the power of technology to make vision care simple, effective, affordable, and accessible. We partner with charitable, high-volume eye care systems in LMICs to design and broadly implement impactful new solutions to major unmet eye care needs.

WHAT WE DO
- Identify unmet clinical needs through direct observation and interviews
- Prioritize unmet needs with eye care providers
- Develop medical devices tailored to the unique patient & provider needs in low-resource settings
- Work with local, charitable partners to evaluate, manufacture, & implement technologies to ensure access & affordability

OUR TECHNOLOGY PIPELINE
- Ultra-thin sutures that double as sustained drug-delivery vehicles
- Low-cost, handheld cataract-surgery device
- Minimally invasive stents capable of significant intraocular pressure reduction
- Simplified graft preparation and corneal transplant surgery
- Mobile telemedicine app enabling remote eye screening & referral

YOUR SUPPORT CAN:
- Initiate a new project to deeply understand an unmet clinical need; begin conceptualizing and prototyping new solutions in order to demonstrate feasibility/viability
- Enable focused R&D to show proof of concept, advance the technology and evaluate it in relevant models to ensure it meets design requirements
- Fund activities to translate technologies as well as pivotal evaluation studies, manufacturing, and studies for regulatory registration/clearance
- Drive clinical implementation and adoption of specific technology or help fund endowment to support all current and future projects

Other funding amounts can be leveraged to advance milestones for specific projects, e.g., supporting user interface and camera optimization for our telemedicine app
Dr. Kunal Parikh is a faculty member in the Center for Nanomedicine at the Wilmer Eye Institute and in the Center for Bioengineering Innovation & Design in the Biomedical Engineering Department at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he leads a multidisciplinary team of engineers, scientists, and clinicians working to develop biomedical solutions for significant and unmet clinical needs, with a particular focus in ophthalmology. For more than a decade, Dr. Parikh has worked at the intersection of nanomaterials, drug delivery, and medicine to develop advanced, multi-functional biomaterials and medical devices with the ability to safely integrate with human tissue and modulate the post-operative biological response to surgery (e.g., infection, inflammation, scarring) in order to reduce post-operative complications and improve surgical efficacy.

Dr. Parikh has a particular interest in enabling access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. In addition to leading the Global Institute for Vision Equity, he is co-founder and president of Access HEARS, a social enterprise providing affordable, accessible hearing care in Maryland.

Previously, Dr. Parikh built and served as the executive director of the Social Innovation Lab at Johns Hopkins University, where he developed global partnerships and advised dozens of mission-driven entrepreneurs. Prior to arriving in Baltimore, he was the founding CEO of Core Quantum Technologies, a venture-backed biotechnology company developing superior imaging, detection, and targeting reagents.

Dr. Parikh earned his PhD in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins, where he was a Roche/ARCS Scholar and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow. He holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from The Ohio State University.