

Theme: "Enhancing Mobility and Independence: Innovations for the Visually Impaired" – "Mobility - Key to Inclusion"

18-20 November 2026

Note: Presenters marked in red are those whose abstracts have been accepted but they have not completed their registration formalities.

Sr. No	Day/ time	Details	
1.	Day 1 – 18 November 2026		
	8.30 a.m. – 9.30 a.m. Registration		
	9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. INAUGURATION PROGRAMME:		
	9.30 a.m.	Prayer & Lamp Lighting	BPA Students with Disabilities and Guests
	9.35 a.m.	Welcome	Mr. Rajendra Shah, President, BPA
	9.40 a.m.	Highlights of the conference	Dr. Bhushan Punani, Chair Host Committee
	9.45 a.m.	Mementoes to Guests	
	9.50 a.m.	Programme Details	Programme Committee
	10.00 a.m.	Keynote Address	Standards for Professional Behavior Ms. Eileen Siffermann
	10.20 a.m.	Keynote Address- Development of O&M Around the World	Dr. Nurit Neustadt-Noy Israel & Dr. Laura Bozeman
	10.40 a.m.	Speech	Guest of Honour
	10.55 a.m.	Vote of Thanks	Vimal Thawani
		Master of Ceremony	Nandini Rawal
2.	11.00 a.m. 11.30 a.m.	TEA BREAK	
3.	11.30 a.m. –	Plenary Session-1	
		CHAIR: Mr Akhil Paul, Chief Advisor, Sense India	

	1.00 p.m.	P.1.1. Nora Griffin-Shirley & Laura Bozeman USA	The Voices of Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists who Instruct Individuals with Deafblindness
		P.1.2. Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson - Sweden	Experiences of room acoustics and the importance of hearing in O&M
		P.1.3. Dr. Fabiana Perla USA	From Theory to Practice: A guide for teaching Orientation and Mobility problem-solving skills
4.	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH	
5.	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Plenary Session -2	
		<u>CHAIR:</u>	
		P.2.1. Prof. Boguslaw 'Bob' MAREK - Poland & Ms. Phia Damsma - Australia	Developing spatial imagery and mental mapping skills through tactile graphics and audio games
		P.2.2. Mr Hunny Bhagchandani, India	Affordable Assistive Innovations Transforming Independent Mobility for the Visually Impaired: Saarthi Smart Cane and Jyoti AI Pro Glasses
		P.2.3. Dr. Sean Tikkun USA	Emerging Technology for O&M
6.	3.30 p.m.- 5.00 p.m.	Plenary Session- 3	
		<u>CHAIR: Mr. Richard Bounds</u>	
		P.3.1. Dr. Andrew Dodgson	AI as a Professional Co-pilot from Practice Experience to Future Readiness: Planning the Effective, Responsible Use of AI in Professional Practice

		P.3.2. Mrs. Sofie Mangnus & Alies Aarts The Netherlands Interactive Workshop (40 minutes)	Resilience training for people with a visual impairment
		P.3.3. Prof. Kazunori Minatani	Integrating Tactile Architectural Models and Floor Plans Using 3D Printing: From an experience of Exhibition at the Osaka Kansai Expo
Day 2 – 19 November, 2026			
7.	9.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	Plenary Session-4	
		CHAIR:	
		P.4.1. Ms. Moira Higgerty - South Africa	A Unique South African Model of O&M Service Delivery.
		P. 4.2. Thabelo Muofhe-South Africa	Orientation and Mobility Training with a Family of 4, All with Visual Impairment.
		P.4.3. Mr. Adam Musinski Poland	Teaching aids as an effective support in cultivating an active participation of children during O&M classes.
8.		Tea Break	
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 11.30 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.			
9.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Concurrent Session- C 1	
		CHAIR: Dr. Bharat Joshi	
		C.1.1. Ms. Boikhutso Queen – South Africa	Access to Education Through Mobility
		C.1.2. Dr. Tina Herzberg USA	Low to High Tech: Navigating in the Community
		C.1.3.Ms. Eileen Siffermann USA	Ethical Consideration for the O&M Instructor

		C.1.4. Ms. Camilla Madsen – Denmark; and Ms. Susanne Borglit	VR for Orientation and Mobility
		Concurrent Session – C 2	
		<u>CHAIR: Uttam Kumar, CEO, Sense India</u>	
		C.2.1 Mr. Shanker Singh NEPAL	Adaptive Orientation and Mobility Strategies for Persons with Deafblindness in high altitude trek
		C.2.2. Phoebe Okungu USA	Two systematic reviews focusing on individuals who are deafblind: the need for O & M specialists and identification of effective O & M teaching strategies
		C.2.3. Sachin Rizal India	Using Multisensory Strategies for Orientation and Mobility in Persons with Deafblindness: Insights from Lived Experiences
		C.2.4 Dvora Wiseman-Hoter Israel	Study on the Extent of Use of Assistive Technology
	1.00 p.m.- 2.00 p.m.	Lunch	
	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 2P.M. TO 3.30 P.M.	
		Concurrent Session – C 3	
		<u>CHAIR: Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson</u>	
		C.3.1. Dr. Nurit Neustadt-Noy Israel	Integrating Audio Description Methodology as a Tool in: Orientation and Mobility Training for People Who Are Blind and Visually Impaired: A Clinical Framework

		C.3.2. Mr. Peter Lock - UK	Guide Dogs My Time to Play, Early Years Group Habilitation, Developing Early Skills & Independence.
		C.3.3. Dr. Michelle Botha - South Africa	Meeting the Support Needs of Orientation and Mobility Practitioners in South Africa:
		Concurrent Session – C 4	
		<u>CHAIR: Ms. Moira Higgerty</u>	
		C. 4.1. Ms. Eileen Siffermann - USA	Credentialing Concepts and Standards for Orientation & Mobility (O&M) Instructors
		C.4.2. Mr. Richard Bounds – UK Interactive Workshop (40 minutes)	Establishment, Maintenance and Monitoring of Professional Standards in O & M across Different Countries
		C.4.3.Ms. Ntungufhadzeni Mutele And Justice Phukubje - South Africa	Supporting Blind and Partially Sighted Students Transition into Institutions for Higher Learning in South Africa
12.	3.30 p.m.- 4.00 p.m.	Tea Break	
13.	4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	3 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 4.00 P.M.-5.30 P.M.	
		Concurrent Session – C 5	
		<u>CHAIR: Dr. B K Panchal</u>	
		C.5.1. Prof. Dawn Anderson - USA	O&M with Students with CVI, Screening and Interventions

			Beyond Mobility: Building Independent and Dignified Living through Integrated Assistive & Digital Technologies
		C.5.3. Mr. Archit Shah - India	Mobility – A Key to Success for Blind Persons to Outshine in the Physiotherapy Field
	4.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.		
		Concurrent Session – C 6	
		<u>CHAIR: Ms Kalpana Lalwani</u>	
		C.6.1. Mr. Subin Baekhunthod – Thailand	The Development of Orientation and Mobility Instructors with Visual Impairment in Thailand
		C.6.2. Ms. Xoliswa Shozi-South Africa	The Long Cane: A Path to Freedom and Self-Reliance
		C.6.3. Dr. Sean Tikkun USA	Teaching next generation smart cane to COMS
		Concurrent Session-7	
		CHAIR: Ms. Krupa Velani	
		C.7.1. Ms. Yukti Suneel Gupta & Prof. Sujata Bhan INDIA	The effect of dance and movement therapy on orientation and mobility skills in children with visual impairment
		C.7.2. Prof. Jamie Maffit PA USA	A Screening Tool for Referral to Blindness and Low Vision Services
		C.7.3. Rashmi Maruvada India	Reaching beyond the Classroom: Mobility as a Gateway to Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities"
Day 3 – 20 November, 2026			
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 9.00 a.m. To 11.00 A.M.			

		Concurrent Session-8 Chair: Dr. Dharmendra Jena	
		C.8.1. Mrs. Greet Hoogeveen - Netherland	Mobile eye-trackers in the support of children and young people
		C.8.2 Dr. Tina Herzberg USA	Advancing Independent Travel Skills: Summer Programs for Youth Who Are Blind or Have Low Vision
		C.8.3 Sannyashai Kumar Behera	Enabling Independent and Safe Travel for Blind Persons
		Concurrent Session-9 Chair: Ms Kinnari Desai	
		C.9.1.Mr. Nape Mashiane - South Africa	O &M and OT Collaboration to Support Optimal Mobility Independence and Safety
		C.9.2 Mrs. Petro Grove - South Africa	O&M and OT Collaboration to Support Optimal Mobility Independence and Safety Orientation and Mobility:
		C.9.3.Ms. Mpilonhle Buthelezi - South Africa	O&M Core Training: Cane Designs, Methods of Assessing and Optimizing Mobility
15.	10.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	TEA	
16.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Plenary Session- 5 CHAIR: Vimal Thawani	
		P.5.1. Nora Griffin-Shirley & Laura Bozeman - USA	Success Strategies Employed by Blind O&M Specialists

		P.5.2. Sandra Sternweis USA	International O&M Standards- Can a Single Standard be Crated in a Diverse World?
		P.5.3. Robert Wall Emerson - USA	The Foundations of Orientation and Mobility: Changes from Edition 3 to Edition 4
21.	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH	
22.	2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Plenary Session- 6	
		<u>CHAIR: Nandini Rawal</u>	
		P.6.1. Dr. Justin Kaiser USA	Exploring Education Policy and Practice Inequities in Orientation and Mobility Referral Systems
		P.6.2. Mrs. Ruthie Lang - Israel	Orientation and Mobility in Times of Emergency
		P.6.3. Dr. Bhushan Punani - India	Mobility & Human Guide during Covid
24.	3.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.	TEA	
25.	4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Valedictory	