

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		
	<u>9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. INAUGURATION PROGRAMME:</u>		
	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 Dr. 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. – 1.00 p.m.	Plenary Session-1	
		<u>CHAIR: Mr Akhil Paul, Chief Advisor, Sense India</u>	
		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. 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.2.2. Sachin Rizal India	Using Multisensory Strategies for Orientation and Mobility in Persons with Deafblindness: Insights from Lived Experiences
		C.2.3 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:</u> Prof. Inger C. Berndtsson	
		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:</u> Ms. Moira Higgerty	
		C. 4.1. 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
		C.5.2. Ms. Ankita Sehdev - India	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. Ms. Aniek de Smit Netherland	Orientation and mobility skills for children and adolescents
		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 <u>CHAIR: Vimal Thawani</u>	
		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 Created 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	
		Keynote Speaker: Inger Berndtsson, Sweden	Embodied Education in the field of O&M