

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 – Wednesday, 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 Dr. Eileen Siffermann (VIRTUAL)
	10.20 a.m.	Keynote Address- Development of O&M Around the World	Dr. Nurit Neustadt-Noy & Dr. Laura Bozeman (VIRTUAL)
	10.40 a.m.	Speech	Guest of Honour
10.55 a.m.	Vote of Thanks	Vimal Thawani, Project Director, BPA	

		Master of Ceremony	Nandini Rawal, Executive Director, BPA
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 Mentor, Sense India & Vice President - International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment</u>	
		P.1.1. Nora Griffin-Shirley & Laura Bozeman-USA (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	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- UK (VIRTUAL)	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 The Netherlands & Alies Aarts The Netherlands Interactive Workshop (40 minutes)	Resilience Training for People with a Visual Impairment
		P.3.3. Prof. Kazunori Minatani- Japan	Integrating Tactile Architectural Models and Floor Plans Using 3D Printing: From an Experience of Exhibition at the Osaka Kansai Expo
Day 2 – Thursday, 19 November, 2026			

7.	9.30 a.m. -11.00 a.m.	Plenary Session-4	
		<u>CHAIR:</u>	
		P.4.1. Ms. Moira Higgerty – South Africa (VIRTUAL)	A Unique South African Model of O&M Service Delivery.
		P. 4.2. Thabelo Muofhe- South Africa (VIRTUAL)	Orientation and Mobility Training with a Family of 4, All with Visual Impairment.
		P.4.3. Mr. Adam Musinski- Poland	Teaching Aids as Effective Support in Cultivating an Active Participation of Children During O&M Classes.
8.	11.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Tea Break	
9.	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 11.30 A.M. TO 1.00 P.M.		
10.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Concurrent Session- C 1	
		<u>CHAIR: Dr. Bharat Joshi</u>	
		C.1.1. Ms. Boikhutso Queen - South Africa (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	Ethical Consideration for the O&M Instructor

		C.1.4. Ms. Camilla Madsen – Denmark; and Ms. Susanne Borglit-Denmark (VIRTUAL)	VR for Orientation and Mobility
		Concurrent Session – C 2	
		<u>CHAIR: Uttam Kumar, CEO, Sense India</u>	
		C.2.1. Phoebe Okungu-USA (VIRTUAL)	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 & Rashmikanth-India	Using Multisensory Strategies for Orientation and Mobility in Persons with Deafblindness: Insights from Lived Experiences
		C.2.3 Dvora Wiseman-Hotot-Israel (VIRTUAL)	Study on the Extent of Use of Assistive Technology
11.	1.00 p.m.-2.00 p.m.	Lunch	
12.	2.00 p.m.-3.30 p.m.	2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 2 p.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 (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	Guide Dogs My Time to Play, Early Years Group Habilitation, Developing Early Skills & Independence.
		C.3.3. Dr. Michelle Botha - South Africa (VIRTUAL)	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. Eileen Siffermann - USA (VIRTUAL)	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 & Justice Phukubje - South Africa (VIRTUAL)	Supporting Blind and Partially Sighted Students Transition into Institutions for Higher Learning in South Africa

13.	3.30 p.m.-4.00 p.m.	Tea Break	
14.	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
		C.5.4. Francis BOE-France (VIRTUAL)	The A.I. brings tools that Transform Everyday Life Blind or Visually Impaired People
	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 Shoji-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	
		<u>CHAIR: Ms. Krupa Velani</u>	
		C.7.1. Ms. Yukti Suneel Gupta & Prof. Sujata Bhan - INDIA (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	A Screening Tool for Referral to Blindness and Low Vision Services
		C.7.3. Ms. Rashmi Maruvada-India	Reaching Beyond the Classroom: Mobility as a Gateway to Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities"
Day 3 – Friday, 20 November, 2026			
2 CONCURRENT SESSIONS BETWEEN 9.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.			
15.	9.30 a.m. -11.00 a.m.	Concurrent Session-8	
		<u>Chair: Dr. Dharmendra Jena</u>	
		C.8.1. Ms. Aniek de Smit – The Netherlands	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-India	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 (VIRTUAL)	O&M and OT Collaboration to Support Optimal Mobility Independence and Safety Orientation and Mobility:
		C.9.3.Ms. Mpilonhle Buthelezi – South Africa (VIRTUAL)	O&M Core Training: Cane Designs, Methods of Assessing and Optimizing Mobility
16.	11.00 a.m. -11.30 a.m.	TEA	
17.	11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	Plenary Session- 5	
		CHAIR: Vimal Thawani	
		P.5.1. Nora Griffin-Shirley & Laura Bozeman – USA (VIRTUAL)	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 (VIRTUAL)	The Foundations of Orientation and Mobility: Changes from Edition 3 to Edition 4
18.	1.00 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.	LUNCH	
19.	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 (VIRTUAL)	Orientation and Mobility in Times of Emergency
		P.6.3. Dr. Bhushan Punani – India	Mobility & Human Guide during Covid
21.	3.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Valedictory	
		Keynote Speaker 1: Inger Berndtsson, Sweden	Embodied Education in the field of O&M
		Keynote Speaker 2: Dr. Arvind Agarwal	Vision of Space, Vision of Time: A Roadmap for Self-Discovery and Character Safeguarding
22.	5:00 pm onwards	High-Tea	

