

2021 Midyear meeting

Building networks of collaboration

COPE Activity No 121931



Day 1

Saturday , June 19th 8:00 am –1:30 pm (US PST)



8:00 am – 8:30 am (US PST)

Welcome and progress update

Daniel Twelker, OD, PhD, FAAO, FVI

President VOSH/International

8:30 am—9:30 am

First panel: Mexico



Lic. Opt. Beatriz Gómez Serna

Faculty adviser SVOSH-Universidad Autónoma de La Laguna.

Beatriz has over 22 years of experience as an optometrist. She has worked independently, on a specialized corneal and anterior segment clinic, and planning and designing the curriculum of the school of optometry at the Universidad Autónoma de La Laguna where she is the current Coordinator of the optometry program.



Emiliano Teran Bobadillas, PhD

Faculty adviser SVOSH-Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa

Emiliano is professor and researcher at the Optometry Program and the Faculty of Sciences- Physics and Mathematics at the Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa. He is the author of several books and research articles on optometry and applied physics. He is a member of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and chairs the Education Committee of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics (ALDOO).



Brenda Kraus, ABOC

President VOSH-Ohio

Following a 28-year career in an independent optometric practice, Brenda opened her own practice, Simply Spectacles, to dispense Ohio Medicaid and Buckeye eyeglasses. She is a proud VOSH member since 2002 and has participated in 15 humanitarian clinics to date. She is a member of the Franklin Harms Society since 2020. For Brenda, bringing sight to people has been an honor.



Caitlin Miller, OD

President VOSH-Arizona

Caitlin is an associate professor at the Arizona College of Optometry where she teaches in the pediatrics and vision therapy clinics and serves as the Assistant Director of Clinical Rotations. She earned her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Illinois College of Optometry, and completed a residency in pediatrics and vision therapy at Salus University. She has been an active member of VOSH since her time as a student.



9:30 am—10:00 am

Past, present and future of optometry in Mexico

Dr Abraham Bromberg, MSc, FAAO

Founder and President of [Consejo Optometria Mexico](#)

Dr Bromberg is an internationally recognized leader of Mexican optometry. He was the dean of the school of optometry at the renowned Instituto Politécnico Nacional, lectured there and at other institutions, continues to practice with focus on low vision. One of his key leadership roles was as President of AMFECCO (Mexican Association of Faculties, Schools, Colleges and Councils of Optometry) at a critical point for Mexican optometry. He received the 2020 AAO-Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions to Optometry.

10:00 am—10:10 am

Break



10:10 am—10:40 am

Organized optometry in Latin America and the Caribbean: current and future plans.

Efrain Castellanos, OD, MS, Ph.D., FAAO, FCOVD

President of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics (ALDOO)

Dr. Castellanos has been an optometric educator for 18 years and currently he is a faculty at Western University College of Optometry. His many leadership positions include Board member of WCO, Chair Interinstitutional, and International affairs for AMFECCO and member of the International Education Committee of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) among others. He has received several awards and recognitions.

10:40 am—11:40 am

Second panel: Nicaragua



Jairo Mercado

Faculty Adviser SVOSH-Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua

Jairo Mercado graduated from the first class of the optometry program at the Universidad Autónoma de Nicaragua where he is currently a lecturer. Jairo is multifaceted and uses his communication, TV and radio skills to raise awareness on health issues at the medical sciences faculty at the university. In 2020 the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) recognized his leadership by awarding him the [Eye Health Hero](#) award in the category of future leaders.



Greg Pearl, OD

President VOSH-CA and founder of Foundation Cuido del Ojo, Nicaragua

Dr. Pearl has volunteered on a regular basis since 1989. As part of VOSH California and other not for profit organizations, he has provided optometric services to thousands of people in the US, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and mainland Mexico. He helped to establish the first optometry school in Nicaragua in 2011 and founded the Foundation Cuido el Ojo. Dr Pearl is a former President of VOSH/International and current chair of its VOSH Corps program. He received the 2020 AAO Humanitarian of the Year Award.



Matt Blondin, OD, FAAO and Audrey Blondin, Esq

President and founder members of VOSH-CT

Dr. Blondin has been practicing for over 40 years in CT. He is the Chairman of the Connecticut State Board of Optometry. In 2001, Dr Blondin and his wife Attorney Audrey Blondin founded VOSH-CT and over the past 20 years, they have helped provide eyecare to over 50,000 people in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. The Blondins hold Masters in Public Health Degrees and in 2020 were awarded the Harry Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award.

11:40 am—11:50 am

Break

11:50 am—12:50 pm

Evaluation of Patients with Visual Impairment.

COPE Course No 72586-LV

Tracy Matchinski, OD, FAAO, FVI

Assistant Professor Illinois College of Optometrists

Dr Matchinsky practices low vision rehabilitation full time. She splits her time between The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind and the Illinois College of Optometry. At the optometry school, she teaches the vision rehabilitation course and lab and provides care in the Illinois Eye Institute-Rosenbloom Center. Key leadership positions include: past-President of VOSH/international and VOSH-IL, past Chair of the low vision AAO Diplomate program and member of the education committee of WCO. She received the 2015 Humanitarian of the Year award of the Illinois College of Optometry and the 2020 Vision Excellence Award of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.



12:50 pm—1:30 pm

Optometry in Colombia

Dr. Myriam Mayorga Corredor

Professor Universidad de La Salle, Colombia

Dr Mayorga is a Colombian optometrist specialised on contact lenses who is a distinguished professor and carries out research at the optometry program of the Universidad de La Salle. She holds a master's degree on Vision Sciences. Dr Mayorga is a Fellow of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (FIACLE) and a member of the College Federation of Colombian Optometrists. She is regular speaker at national and international events.



1:30 am—1:35 pm

Closing of the day