



August 2025 Newsletter

This month, President Santiago discusses the integration of optometry within health systems. We welcome a new SVOSH chapter in Palestine, congratulate the Ecuadorian Universidad Tecnica de Manabi on its 22nd anniversary, feature the work of our chapters, share a special invitation to the OptoVision congress in Peru, a WHO webinar, and the OSELF Forum, plus our own Annual Meeting in October in Boston.



President's Insights

This month President Santiago shares his views on the position of optometry within health systems globally and the way forward.

You can read the article in English [here](#) and the Spanish version [here](#).



Caring for our children's vision and young people's future

ANNUAL MEETING

NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Boston, Massachusetts, USA
October 12th, 2025
8:00 am - 1:00 pm



Under the theme “**Caring for our Children’s vision and young people’s future**” our annual meeting will be hosted by the New England College of Optometry (NECO) and via Zoom on Sunday, October 12th, between 8:00 am to 1:00 pm US Eastern Time.

If you are attending the AAO meeting in person, consider attending our annual event and meet fellow VOSHers from other parts of the world. US SVOSH chapters benefit from travel grants.

With a growing number of African SVOSH chapters, and in collaboration with the AAO African Chapter, there will be a fundraising and networking dinner on October 11th from 6 pm.

You can find more information [here](#) or contact vosh@vosh.org. The program for the event is [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Boston or via Zoom.

News from our chapters



A new SVOSH chapter at the An-Najah National University

The Optometry Department at An-Najah National University in Nablus, West Bank, Palestine, is now affiliated with VOSH/International. This newly established SVOSH chapter brings a strong tradition of community service and humanitarian outreach, reflecting the university's commitment to public health and social impact. We look forward to a meaningful collaboration to further our shared vision of providing eye health and vision care to all.

The faculty adviser is Dr Ithar Beshtawi

ithar.beshtawi@najah.edu

You can read more about their humanitarian work [here](#). Welcome SVOSH-ANNU-Palestine

OPTOVISION 2025 – No se lo pierda

Between 9 and 11 October, the 19th International Congress of Optometry, Contact Lenses, and Opticianry will take place in Lima, Peru. Organized by the Instituto Eurohispano, one of our active SVOSH chapters, this annual event is an important feature of the Latin American optometric calendar.

Entre el 9 y el 11 de octubre en Lima, Perú se llevará a cabo el 19avo Congreso Internacional de Optometría, Contactología y Óptica Oftálmica. Este evento anual es organizado por el Instituto Eurohispano, uno de nuestros capítulos SVOSH más activos y es un importante del calendario de la optometría en Latinoamérica. Para más información visite: www.optovision.pe

optovisiOn
Unidos por la Excelencia en Salud Visual
9-11 OCT Lima Perú
Reserve la fecha

19º CONGRESO INTERNACIONAL DE OPTOMETRÍA, CONTACTOLOGÍA Y ÓPTICA OFTÁLMICA

Centro de Convenciones del Hotel Delfines

Lima-Perú

More information / Mas información
<https://optovision.pe/>



VOSH-SouthEast clinic in Guatemala

A team of 21 VOSH-SE volunteers visited central Guatemala and offered optometric services to indigenous peoples living in this part of the country. Six hundred and sixty eye examinations and 70 cataract surgeries benefited the local population. The mountain roads in the area meant that the VOSH-SE team and patients had long journeys back and forth. Another great clinic by this chapter.

This chapter is [looking for two ODs and two nurses for their clinic in Jutiapa between October 12 to 18th](#)

For more information, please contact, Glenn Lashley at gmlashley99@gmail.com

More information on VOSH-SE [here](#).

VOSH-MN is seeking ODs for Antigua, Guatemala in 2026

Two ODs or ophthalmologists are needed for the **February 14th-21st, 2026** clinic to **Antigua, Guatemala**. VOSH-MN works with Minnesota-based organization, [Common Hope](#).

Common Hope has a clinic and compound on the outskirts of the city of Antigua that functions throughout the year. Common Hope supplies transportation, meals, rooms, patient transport, translators, among others for a fee of \$800 per person. Volunteers pay for their airfare.

If interested, please contact Laurie at 218-839-0577 for the fastest reply.

More information on VOSH-MN [here](#).



Needs your help for Antigua, Guatemala



February 14 to 21, 2026
Contact Laurie Baalson
218-839-0577



Congratulations!
22 years of educating optometrists in Ecuador



UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA DE MANABÍ
Fundada en 1962

Felicitaciones a la
CARRERA DE OPTOMETRÍA
de la Facultad de Ciencias de la Salud

22
Años
CELEBRA EL AGOSTO 2003

www.utm.edu.ec

SANTAGO QUIROZ
MARIA
VIZCARRA

Celebrating 22 years of educating optometrists in Ecuador

The Optometry Program at Universidad Técnica de Manabí (UTM), Ecuador, recently celebrated 22 years of educating and empowering Ecuadorian optometrists.

With an active SVOSH chapter, UTM stands as a beacon of constant academic achievement, social commitment, and local impact.

VOSH/International extends its warmest congratulations to Lic. Genny del Carmen Arteaga Loor, Vice-Dean of the Optometry Program, along with the dedicated faculty and students, on this important milestone.

A great collaboration between Canada and Ecuador

This year, Canadian VOSH-Santa Cruz welcomed a team of 10 students and 3 faculty from the SVOSH chapter at the Universidad Técnica de Manabí (SVOSH-UTM) for a five-day clinic in Cuenca, Ecuador.

This collaboration between our chapters aims to promote the exchange of skills, knowledge, and contacts. During the 5-day clinic, the combined teams saw over 2,300 patients. The experience was invaluable for the Ecuadorian students. A report with more details of this collaboration is being prepared. Watch the space.



News from our partners



Exploring Partnerships to serve rural America

[KeraLink International](#) was honored to welcome Dr. Nelson Edwards, President of VOSH Michigan, during recent community health fair vision screenings in rural Michigan. Dr. Edwards joined the first day of a two-day event to explore opportunities for collaboration between the two organizations. The need for accessible vision care in rural US communities is big. KeraLink eyewear vouchers and eyewear programs are helping to address these barriers. A potential partnership to benefit our US VOSH chapters is under discussion.

You can read about the work in Michigan [here](#).

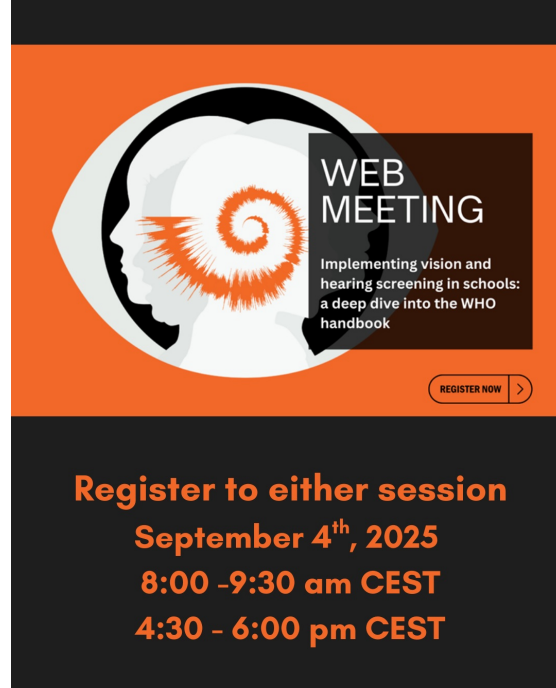
Implementing vision and hearing screening in schools: a deep dive into the World Health Organization handbook

Early detection changes lives! Join WHO's 90-minute web meeting to explore the [Vision and hearing school screening handbook](#)—a guide to setting up effective vision and hearing school screening programmes for better health, learning, and life outcomes.

You can register for either session:

- **Session 1: 4 September, 08:00–09:30 CEST.** Register [here](#)
- **Session 2: 4 September, 16:30–18:00 CEST.** Register [here](#)
-

The event will showcase practical steps for implementing vision and hearing school screening, insights from countries already doing it, and guidance on adapting the WHO handbook to your context. More information [here](#).



WEB MEETING

Implementing vision and hearing screening in schools: a deep dive into the WHO handbook

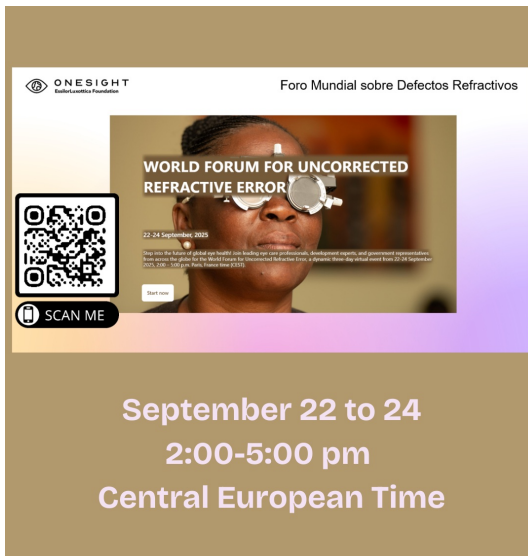
[REGISTER NOW](#)

Register to either session

September 4th, 2025

8:00 - 9:30 am CEST

4:30 - 6:00 pm CEST



ONESIGHT
EssilorLuxottica Foundation

Foro Mundial sobre Defectos Refractivos

WORLD FORUM FOR UNCORRECTED REFRACTIVE ERROR

22-24 September 2025

Step into the forefront of global eye health care, leading eye care professionals, thought leaders, and government representatives from across the globe for the World Forum for Uncorrected Refractive Error, a dynamic three-day virtual event from 22-24 September 2025, 2:00 - 5:00 pm Central European Time (CET).

[SCAN ME](#)

September 22 to 24

2:00-5:00 pm

Central European Time

World Forum for Uncorrected Refractive Error

The OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation is organizing the **World Forum for Uncorrected Refractive Error**, a 3-day global event taking place in September 22-24 from 2:00-5:00 pm France time (CEST)

More information on the Forum [here](#).

You can register [here](#)

For more information, please contact Judith Williams at judith.williams@essilorusa.com

[Visit our Website](#)



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