



January 2025 Newsletter

The first month of a new year brings messages of hope and positivity. The exemplary work of our chapters working in Uganda and Nigeria, watch the video of Prof Moore's lecture on vision screening of children, access resources on glaucoma, Spanish versions of key documents, and invitations from partners to important events plus President's Santiago call for more humanity and compassion. Do not forget to share news about your work. Contact us at vosh@vosh.org



President's Insights

This January President Santiago reflects on the power of empathy, humanity and compassion in a challenging world.

Read the whole article in English [here](#) and the Spanish [here](#).

News from our chapters

VOSH-Northwest in Uganda

Dr Willow Thompson shares a journal of the clinic held by VOSH-NW in Uganda last year. This is a detailed account of the wonderful journey of an interprofessional team, great local hosts, and over 2,100 patients served in a beautiful country.

You can read the report [here](#)

Dr Thompson can be contacted at idrwillow@hotmail.com



VOSH
NORTHWEST
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

A MEMORABLE VISIT TO UGANDA

VOSH/International ran a poster competition at its 2023 annual meeting. This year, we will repeat the initiative at our annual meeting in Boston. Do not miss the opportunity to participate and win support for your humanitarian work. More details will be announced soon.



SVOSH-UBENIN is Chapter of the Month

January starts with a bang! Nothing beats enthusiasm and the SVOSH chapter at the University of Benin in Nigeria. SVOSH-UNIBEN is Chapter of the Month because of their infectious enthusiasm, collaborative attitude, strong leadership, engaged faculty adviser, and capacity to motivate more optometry students to find joy in serving through optometry. Read more about their work [here](#), enjoy some pictures and a link to a video.

You can nominate a deserving VOSH or SVOSH chapter as Chapter of the Month [here](#).

Addressing the gaps in vision care in Latin America. SVOSH chapters work featured

Prof Kavin Naidoo, Global Head of Advocacy and Partnerships at the OneSight Essilor Luxxotica Foundation highlights the importance of research in Latin America referring to two studies carried out in Colombia and Panama.

VOSH/International's SVOSH chapters from Panama and Puerto Rico led one of the studies. Read the blog [here](#)



Signs of Possible Vision Problems in Children

If your child shows one or more of these signs, have your child seen by an eye doctor without delay.

Appearance	Behavior	Complaints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Eyes do not look straight ahead and appear to look inward toward nose, outward toward ear, upward toward forehead, or downward toward chin. ☐ Pupils are unequal in size, or unequal in color or white or red (leukocoria). ☐ Eyes are watery or red (irritated). ☐ Pupils move with light (sway). ☐ Flaring eyes or tearing (discharge on eyelids). ☐ Color vision or ability to see colors is unlike reflection in the pupil (middle of the eye). ☐ The pupil in one eye is larger than the pupil in the other eye. ☐ The iris (colored part of the eye) in one eye is not the same color (heterochromia) and also in the iris in the other eye. ☐ Other eyes and face are not equally turned to side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ Rubs eyes often. ☐ Closes or covers one eye when reading or looking at vision chart. ☐ Squints eyes when trying to see things near or far away. ☐ This head or face from when playing with a toy to read or write is more frequently held in the wrong way. ☐ Frequently concentrating when reading, doing homework, or doing other schoolwork. ☐ Holds toys or books close to his or her face. ☐ Holds eyes more than usual or is incoordinately shaky when using eye. ☐ Covers one eye - Starts to skip other or avoids things over. ☐ Avoids doing near work or reading. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ New floaters in the viewing. ☐ Blurred vision when looking at near objects, such as toys or books. ☐ Blurred, headaches, or nausea when doing near work. ☐ Light is too bright. ☐ Cannot see something other people can see. ☐ Loss of part of the field of the eye. ☐ Difficulty seeing material from a whiteboard in the classroom.

Downloadable in English or Spanish @ preventblindness.org

orbis

A Practical and Evidenced-Based Approach To Vision Screening of Children by Prof. Bruce Moore

Recording available

Recording of A Practical and Evidenced-Based Approach To Vision Screening of Children available

If you missed this wonderful lecture by Prof. Moore, you can watch the recording [here](#). This interesting webinar was attended by 506 participants from 98 countries.

Spanish version of the WCO Competency Framework For Optometry


This important document is now available in Spanish. You can find the original English version [here](#) and the Spanish version [here](#).



Marco de Competencia para Optometria

CONSEJO MUNDIAL DE OPTOMETRIA

Prevalence of Glaucoma Among US Adults in 2022



About one in 180 adults have vision loss from glaucoma.

Prevent Blindness
Our Vision Is Your Vision.

PreventBlindness.org/glaucoma-prevalence

This study was supported by funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Vision Health Initiative (contract agreement N01CE001105), "Supporting and Enhancing the U.S. Vision and Eye Health Surveillance System."

Source: Limb, JB, Burke-Cook, Z, Williams, JB, Saadine, J, et al. Prevalence of Glaucoma Among US Adults in 2022. JAMA Ophthalmology. Published online, 10/17/24.

January is US Glaucoma Awareness Month

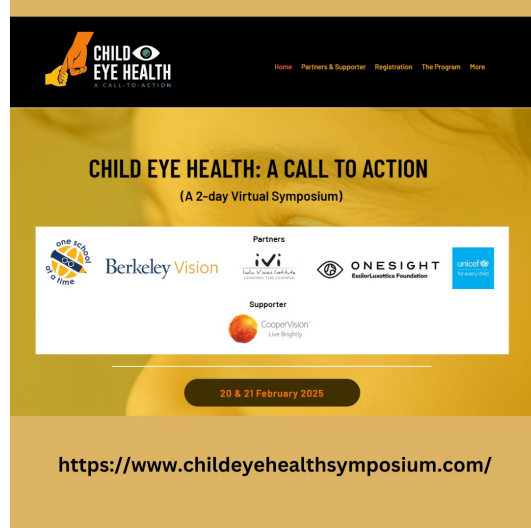
January is US Glaucoma Month

Prevent Blindness has curated an important set of educational resources on glaucoma including videos, infographics, and featured an important study on "Prevalence of glaucoma among US adults in 2022". You can find more information [here](#). Some resources are also available in [Spanish](#)

Interesting events

Child Eye Health Virtual Symposium, February 20-21

Vision plays a crucial role in a child's development, education, and overall well-being, yet millions of children worldwide face preventable or unaddressed vision issues. This virtual symposium brings global experts, thought leaders and practitioners to discuss the current state of child eye health, the far-reaching impact of uncorrected vision problems, and practical, innovative solutions to ensure every child can achieve a brighter future. You can register [here](#) and check the program [here](#).



CHILD EYE HEALTH
A CALL TO ACTION

Home Partners & Supporter Registration The Program More

CHILD EYE HEALTH: A CALL TO ACTION
(A 2-day Virtual Symposium)

Partners: Berkeley Vision, ONESIGHT, UNICEF

Supporter: CooperVision

20 & 21 February 2025

<https://www.childeyehealthsymposium.com/>



OPTOMETRY'S MEETING | 5th WORLD CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY

2025 POSTER SESSIONS

Live in-person at Optometry's Meeting | Live virtually on AGAEELEARN

Recorded sessions on AGAEELEARN

Call for Abstracts Ends Feb 14

Coming to the WCO5 Congress?
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Use **WCOPROMO25**

Get a discount if you are attending the WCO5 Congress

VOSH/International is an affiliate member of WCO. If you are attending this year's WCO%/Optometry's Meeting 2025 use the promotional code **WCOPROMO25** to access this discount. And consider presenting a poster at this event.

The call for poster abstracts is open until February 14th. More details [here](#).

Are you attending the Optometry's Meeting | WCO5 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA in June? Let us know at vosh@vosh.org. It will be a wonderful opportunity to meet old and new friends.

Visit our Website



VOSH/International | 12660 Q Street | Omaha , NE 68137 US

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