



The VOSH July Newsletter is here

This month, we celebrate 30 years of humanitarian work with Canadian VOSH-British Columbia-TWECS, President Santiago reflects on the importance of global leadership to achieve eye care for all. We share activities from chapters in the Philippines, Nigeria, Texas, Jordan, Nicaragua, Ghana, celebrate the recent Global Optometry Students Summit, share publications, and awards. Continue sharing your news

President's Insights

July

Vision for Global
Eye Care:
Humanitarianism
and Leadership



President's Insights

President Santiago takes the opportunity to recognise the contribution of the VOSH community in global platforms, such as the recent AOA/WCO World Congress of Optometry held in June in Minneapolis.

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

News from our chapters



A promise of love
that continues after
30 years



A story of love and fulfilled promises

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Canadian VOSH-British Columbia-TWECS chapter. Dr Marina Roma March shares a heart-touching story about the origins and development of this chapter. This story is about love, commitment, keeping promises, and changing lives. Read the article in English [here](#) and in Spanish [here](#). You can contact Dr Roma-March at twecs@shaw.ca

International Symposium on Special Education (ISSED9)

Dr Jennifer Viñola, board member of VOSH/International and faculty adviser of the SVOSH-MCU chapter in the Philippines, participated in the **9th International Symposium on Special Education (ISSED9)**. Under the theme **“Life Transitions – Learning, Living, and Working for Children with Special Needs”** the event took place from **June 11 to 13, 2025**, in Thailand.

Dr. Viñola presented on **“A Pediatric Eye and Developmental Case Study of a Child with Autism”**. You can read the report [here](#) and the case study [here](#). You can contact Dr. Viñola at drjennvinola@yahoo.com



IEVA VOSH
VOSH-IEVA-JORDAN

EYE HEALTH CONFERENCE

Moderators

- Dr. Rula's Jaber, MD, Consultant Ophthalmologist, FRCS, ACSO, CEO IEVA
- Yara's Mohammad, Senior Optometrist, RVO, Al-Ahliya Amman University, Operational manager at IEVA
- Dr. Yassan Gammah, Professor of Optometry, Al-Ahliya Amman University
- Dr. Nuhla Mahjoub, Assistant Professor of Optometry, Al-Ahliya Amman University
- Dr. Yassir Abdoun, Assistant professor, Head of optics and visual science, Alhassan university
- J. Daniel Twelker, CEO, RVO, PAHO, HON VOSH Corps Committee Chair, VOSH International University of Illinois, Dept of Ophthalmology and Vision Science
- Dr. Fahima, experienced ophthalmologist, currently working at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City in Abu Dhabi

July 19 - 20 2025
7 pm (Jordan time or GMT+3)

Don't miss this opportunity to see the world with clarity and confidence!
<https://ieva-org.com>

VOSH-IEVA-Jordan organizes online webinars on Providing Optimum Eye Care in Limited Resource Areas

Between July 19 and 20, VOSH-IEVA-Jordan organized two webinars with experts from the Eastern Mediterranean region and Dr Dan Twelker, past President of VOSH/International as a special guest.

You can watch the recordings [here](#):

First Nigerian SVOSH chapters gathering

During the recent Nigerian Optometric Association (NOA) Conference, our Nigerian SVOSH chapters met to discuss the challenges and priorities for optometric education and community outreach. VOSH/International is excited to support this process and looks forward to the follow-up discussions.

Watch the space, our Nigerian SVOSH chapters are determined to make an impact.

Special thanks to the faculty advisers and students, who actively engaged in this activity.



VOSH-Texas organizes another successful summer clinic

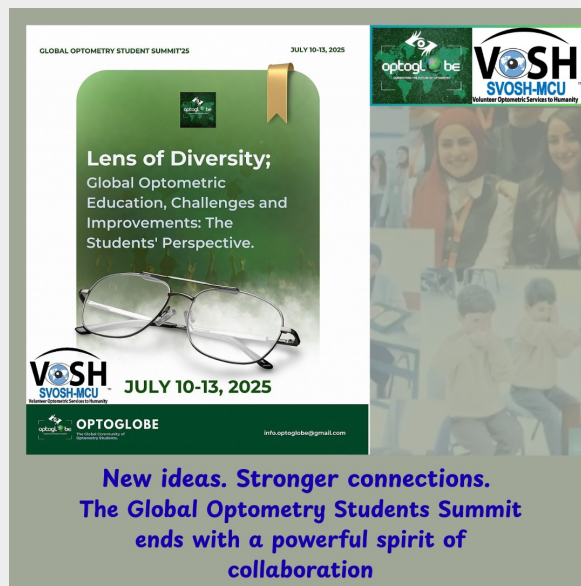
Hundreds of patients received exams. Two hundred and twenty five cataract surgeries and 140 custom-made glasses. This is a great team!

Their next clinic is between October 26th and



November 2nd. For more information, visit www.guerreroclinic.org

A special collaboration



The second Global Optometry Students Summit organized by OPTOGLOBE and SVOSH-MCU ends with great success.

The Global Optometry Student Summit – “Lens of Diversity,” was held from July 10 to 13 via Zoom. Over four inspiring days, this international gathering welcomed over 1,329 registrants from all over the world, featured 24 speakers, and demonstrated the power of students’ leadership. We look forward to supporting next

year’s summit.

You can watch the video recordings by following these links:

Day 1- [Asia](#)

Day 2: [Eastern Mediterranean](#)

Day 3: [The Americas](#)

Day 4: [Africa, Europe, and Australia](#)

Awards

Dr Greg Pearl receives the Brien Holden Founders Award

Dr Greg Pearl, president of VOSH-California and a past President of VOSH/International, has been awarded one of the inaugural Brien Holden Founders Awards. The awards honor individuals



**BRIEN HOLDEN
FOUNDERS
AWARD DINNER**

October 7, 2025
6:00 p.m. ET
Boston, MA

Featuring Brien Holden Founders Award recipients
CooperVision and Dr. Greg Pearl

Professor Brien Holden, PhD
Founder
Optometry Giving Sight

CooperVision

OPTOMETRY
giving sight

**Dr. Greg Pearl receives the Brien Holden
Founders Award**

Join in the celebrations in Boston

and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to advancing global vision care. The awards will be presented at the first Brien Holden Founders Award dinner, on October 7 at Artists for Humanity, Boston at 6pm.

If you are attending the AAO meeting, please consider attending the award dinner.

You can reserve your place [here](#)

Manila Central University College of Optometry celebrates students' leadership

Kriselle Franz Gonzales, president of SVOSH-MCU in the Philippines, received the Centralino Student Volunteer Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership and passion in serving the community. As the president of the SVOSH-MCU Chapter, she led her fellow officers in organizing and executing projects to benefit underserved communities.

Kriselle is always ready to help at every open clinic and is one of the first to volunteer for outreach initiatives. Whether it's providing eye care services or guiding fellow volunteers, she consistently shows up with a positive attitude and a genuine desire to make a difference. Her selfless contributions have not only improved the vision of many individuals but have also inspired others to get involved in volunteer work, said Dr. Viñola, faculty adviser of SVOSH-MCU.

Our sincere congratulations to Kriselle for a well-deserved award.




**Prevent
Blindness**

Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award

Nominations are open

US individuals and organizations

Nominations are open for the Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award.

[The National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health](#) at [Prevent Blindness](#) announces that nominations are now open for the **2025 Bonnie Strickland Champion for Children's Vision Award**.

Nominations for (US) individuals and groups will be accepted and are due **August 25, 2025**. You will find the nomination materials [here](#).

Interesting publications

Accessibility and challenges to ophthalmic instruments acquisition among optometry students in Ghana

An insightful paper exploring ophthalmic instrument acquisition among optometry students in Ghana by the Department of Optometry and Visual Science of KNUST has been recently published. You can find the paper [here](#)

You can contact Dr Kwadwo Owusu Akuffo at akuffokwadwoowusu@knust.edu.gh

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RESEARCH NOTE

Accessibility and challenges to ophthalmic instruments acquisition among optometry students in Ghana

(Edick Adu Acquah¹, Isaac Osei Duah², Albert Kwadjo Ansaah Aduah³, Prince Mensah⁴, Anderson Andrew⁵, Michael Kwesi Aduah⁶, Bright Kusi Osei⁷, Samuel Kwadjo Opong⁸, Beatrice Okrah⁹ and Kwadwo Owusu Akuffo¹⁰)

Abstract Objective: This study aimed to investigate the factors that influence the acquisition of personal ophthalmic instruments (POIs) among optometry students in Ghana. Participant characteristics and patterns of ophthalmic instrument acquisition were collected using a structured questionnaire. Descriptive and multivariate logistic regression was used to examine the relationships between factors influencing POI acquisition.

Results description: Overall, 402 out of 450 students did not have their own ophthalmic instruments. Significantly more than one third (32.1%) owned a POI that was primarily an ophthalmoscope. Multiple logistic regression showed that financial difficulty (OR: 0.84, CI: 0.29–2.41, $p = .001$), and lack of access to reliable information on instrument quality (OR: 1.24, CI: 0.15–10.44, $p = .002$) were significantly associated with lower odds of POI acquisition. About 63.1% of students cited financial difficulty as the main barrier to POI acquisition. The findings call for cost effectiveness by stakeholders and increase awareness to optimize POI acquisition among students. Taken together, the findings aim to improve clinical training and reduce disparities in ophthalmic education among optometry students in Ghana.

Keywords: Ophthalmoscope, Retinoscope, Acometer, Rafter, Facilitator, Clinical training, Ghana

Introduction

Optometry students form the backbone of the optometric workforce in Ghana [1–6]. Optometric specialists in eye care and are uniquely positioned to manage visual disorders of infectious and non-infectious origin among people of all ages using pharmacotherapeutic and optical approaches [7–11]. They play a critical role in addressing

vision impairment and blindness that respectively affect an estimated 2.2 billion and 43.3 million people globally [7, 12]. Together, this role is vital to ensure the overall health and quality of life of all persons [3, 13].

Annually, optometry students are enrolled from the Ghana Optometric Association, the professional optometric body responsible for the development of optometry in Ghana following the completion of a five-year Doctor of Optometry program [11, 12]. Unlike other medical training programs, optometry training is

Conclusions

Optometric education is a long and rigorous process. It involves a combination of theoretical and practical training. The findings of this study highlight the challenges faced by optometry students in Ghana in acquiring their own ophthalmic instruments. This information can be used to develop strategies to improve access to these instruments and ensure that students are well-equipped for their clinical training.



Social and eye health indicators and their relation to UNICAM's eye health program in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua (in Spanish)

UNICAM is a system of Nicaraguan rural university venues. The paper examines the impact of the UNICAM-Nueva Guinea program on visual and social health in Nueva Guinea, Nicaragua, based on 389 surveys. While the program has improved access to eye care, challenges remain in the available optometric workforce and public awareness. This work is part of the project Vision and Education between SVOSH-UNAN and VOSH/International. You can read the paper [here](#).

News from our partners



In loving memory of Dr. Maklin Eugène.
Compassionate leader and humanitarian who gave Haiti hope.

In loving memory of Dr. Maklin Eugène– an inspiration to all

Dr. Maklin Eugène and his work in Haïti embodied courage, vision, humility, and an unwavering humanitarian spirit and compassion. His tireless dedication to his people and country inspired hope and belief in a better future.

His golden heart stopped on July 4th. His departure leaves a gap in our hearts and his country.

VOSH/International and VOSH-Pennsylvania had the privilege of knowing and collaborating with Dr Eugène. He championed the

establishment of a vision clinic at the New Hope Hospital, warmly welcomed our teaching clinics for the Haitian optometry students, and shared in our dream of establishing permanent eye health services for the local community.

We were touched by his compassion and dedication to his people. Keep supporting his work. Haiti needs it more than ever. More information [here](#).

Costa Rica

[Hopeful Ways](#), an all-volunteer organization, has provided eye health care in Central America for over a decade. They need volunteer optometrists and opticians for their next eye care mission in January 2026 in Costa Rica.

Help reduce the waiting list for eye examinations at the Nicoya Hospital.

More information on this clinic is [here](#).



**Volunteer Optometrists
and Opticians needed for
the 2026 Costa Rica
clinic**



#SeeWhat Matters: Research is key. Funding for it is essential

Key US vision organizations are collaborating to raise awareness on the importance of vision research and the need to preserve funding for it. The #SeeWhatMatters campaign intends to elevate the profile of federally funded vision research, reinforce the critical need to keep the National Eye Institute (NEI) independent, and demonstrate the human impact of discoveries in vision science.

Read the AAO press release [here](#) and visit www.seewhatmatters.org to find out more about this campaign.

Visit our Website



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