

2025 Harry I. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award.

Marcela Frazier, OD, MPH, FAAO

Dr. Marcela Frazier is a woman who keeps making a difference.

Born in Medellin, Colombia, as a child, she experienced difficulties in school due to her vision. Diagnosed with severe nearsightedness after receiving a proper prescription for eyeglasses, Dr Frazier's path to achieving her full potential began. Early in her life, she also realised that providing health care to those in need was something she wanted to do.

She won a scholarship to study molecular biology at the University of Central Florida. After an inspiring talk by an optometrist, she knew her future was in eye care. She went to the UAB School of Optometry, where she completed a Doctor of Optometry degree and a pediatric residency. She also completed a master's degree in public health in Epidemiology at UAB. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry.



Dr. Marcela Frazier committed to children's vision

Inspiring others and supporting children through optometry is something Dr Frazier excels at. During nearly two decades in Birmingham, UAB Callahan Eye Hospital and Clinics, she has built a successful vision practice and touched the lives of countless children—especially in the local Hispanic

community. Her cultural awareness and empathy change patients' perspectives about vision care.

Dr. Frazier served as the faculty adviser of SVOSH-UAB for many years, inspiring many optometrists to join VOSH/International. She has taken students on numerous humanitarian trips to Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Perú, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Colombia.

A committed educator, she has collaborated with several Latin American Schools of Optometry with pediatric optometry lectures, including the La Salle School of Optometry in Bogota, Colombia, and the School of Optometry of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua-Managua. Her support for education has also

expanded to being a vital simultaneous translator for many VOSH/International meetings allowing Spanish speakers attending the meetings online to benefit from the knowledge shared.

While on the Board of Directors of VOSH/International, she contributed to expanding the network in Latin America. Her leadership and sense of community building also touched the UAB with her role in the Hispanic/Latinx Faculty Association, improving the experiences of Hispanic underserved patients and doctors. She has been an advocate for increasing the representation of underserved communities in optometry.



Dr. Frazier has been an investigator for several National Eye Institute (NEI) Studies, including the Amblyopia Treatment Studies with the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG), the Correction of Myopia Evaluation Trial (COMET), and the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial (CITT).

She collaborates extensively with Children's Vision International, a home for the destitute in Bogota, Colombia.

The Harry Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award honors individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving visual welfare. Recipients are recognized for their leadership, contributions to education, innovation, public health work, sustainable eye care development, or advancing the understanding and treatment of refractive error and visual impairment.

Dr. Frazier never lost sight to give back to patients and the profession, helping with kindness and promoting a vision that has improved VOSH/International over the years. We cannot think of a better individual deserving this important award.

Congratulations, Dr. Frazier!