



May 2025 Newsletter

This month, we have some incredible news to share. Starting with a significant partnership with Charity Vision, which will bring our donation of equipment program to the next level, we share news from Vietnam, Kenya, Colombia, Nigeria, Argentina, Jordan, and share more information about our meeting in Minnesota. We also highlight interesting publications for you to enjoy. Share the newsletter and keep sending your news.

President's Insights

President Santiago offers his impressions on the relevance of the partnership with Charity Vision and the common vision that both organizations share.

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



A groundbreaking partnership

VOSH/International and Charity Vision International are partnering to enhance the effectiveness and impact of our donation of ophthalmic equipment programs. The Technology Transfer Program (TTP) starts a new chapter. We are very excited about this collaboration!

Read more details about this key partnership [here](#)

News from our chapters

SVOSH- AMIGOS-PUCO in Vietnam

Between March 24 and 26th a team of SVOSH-AMIGOS-PUCO under the leadership of Dr Ann Edmonds visited Hanoi and worked with Vietnamese optometry students of the SVOSH chapter at the Hanoi Medical University.

This visit was followed by a short visit to lecture at the school of optometry in Ho Chi Minh City. Read this great story [here](#).



A student's experience in Vietnam

This is an enjoyable testimonial of PUCO student, Troy Neilson, who recently visited Vietnam with his chapter. Read the article [here](#).



The Establishment of Optometry in Vietnam: A Short History

This paper by Dr. Bob Molter and Hai Le Thanh, published in the Journal of Optometric Education, sheds light on the evolution of optometry in Vietnam.

Dr. Molter and his wife Dr. Kim Molter taught at the Optometry School at the University of Medicine Pham Ngoc Thach in Ho Chi Minh City for several years. Read the paper [here](#).



VOSH-South Dakota invites you to go to Mexico

VOSH-South Dakota is heading to Gomez Palacio, Mexico, between January 31st and February 8th, 2026. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Ness at sdvosh@gmail.com. You only need to fly to Torreon, Mexico.



Save the date

South Dakota VOSH
Vision Mission to
Gomez Palacio MX

Mission dates are Saturday January 31st to Sunday February 8th, 2026

Only expense is airfare. Hotel, food and local transportation are provided.

Contact Jennifer Ness to reserve your spot or get more information
sdvosh@gmail.com



VOSH
SVOSH-UNLP™
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

A glimpse on our
Argentinian SVOSH
chapter

A glimpse into SVOSH-UNLP in Argentina

The president of the SVOSH chapter at the Universidad Nacional de la Plata in Argentina shares an overview of their important humanitarian work.

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



VOSH
SVOSH-AREANDINA™
Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity

The visual crisis in
Latin America

The Forum on the Visual Health Crisis in Latin America

Dr. Monica Marquez, faculty adviser of the SVOSH-Areandina-Pereira chapter in Colombia, shares insights on her participation in the Forum on the visual health crisis in Latin America, organized by ALDOO.

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

From graduates to guardians of sight

As optometry schools around the world celebrate their graduating classes, the president of the SVOSH chapter at the Al-Ahliyya Amman University reflects on the

transformative journeys she and her classmates have taken and their commitment to VOSH's mission, now as professionals.

Read the message [here](#) and get inspired.



The President of VOSH-VCA-Lebanon is recognized as a Young Systems Leader by IAPB

Ameer Abou Adela, President of the Vision Care Association and of VOSH-Lebanon, was recognised by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) as one of the eight Young Systems Leaders this year. Ameer made a powerful speech at the IAPB 2030 Insight event in Nepal. You can read more about this recognition and Ameer [here](#). Congratulations!



VOSH-SE volunteers visit Senegal

A team of 21 VOSH-SE volunteers went to Saly, Senegal, at the end of March for a 5-day clinic. They saw 3400 patients who received glasses, sunglasses and got referrals.

Read the VOSH-SE article [here](#).

You can find out more about VOSH-SouthEast [here](#).

Successful Nigerian OPTOGLOBE delegation at the 2025 EyeBall Summit

From May 15–16, four optometry students from SVOSH-UNIBEN Nigeria — who also serve as leaders of OPTOGLOBE, the global network of optometry students — proudly represented their peers at the EyeBall Summit



in Abuja. Hosted by the Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Registration Board of Nigeria (ODORBN), the Summit is a cornerstone event shaping national eye health policy.

These young ambassadors have compiled a comprehensive report highlighting key initiatives and insights from the Summit. Read their full report [here](#) and discover how the next generation of optometrists is helping shape the future of eye care in Nigeria.



The collaboration between SVOSH-MMUST-Kenya and VOSH-MI keeps growing

For the past three years, SVOSH-MMUST and VOSH-Michigan have partnered with two Rotary Clubs in Kenya to deliver vital eye health services to communities in Bahati, Nakuru county. The President of the SVOSH-MMUST chapter has prepared a summary report of their most recent clinic. Read the report and enjoy some pictures [here](#).

SVOSH-PUCO Spring Newsletter

AMIGOS News, the quarterly newsletter of SVOSH-PUCO-AMIGOS is available [here](#).

The newsletter features interesting articles on their local and international humanitarian work and provides updates from this active SVOSH chapter.



Key events

SVOSH-MCU-the Philippines and OPTOGLOBE organize the Global Summit Lens of Diversity

The OPTOGLOBE/SVOSH-MCU Global

Student Summit 2025 will unite optometry students from around the globe to collaborate, learn, and develop professionally. The Summit will take place between **July 10 and 13, 2025** under the theme “**Lens of Diversity: Student’s Perspective on Global Optometric Education.**”

You can register [here](#). More details on the program and speakers will be available soon. VOSH/International is honoured to support this initiative



VOSH/International Midyear Meeting in Minneapolis. Would you join us?

Our midyear meeting will take place on Saturday, June 28, in Minneapolis, MN. This time, we are delighted to work with VOSH-MN. If you are coming to the AOA Optometry's Meeting consider joining our activities. Find out more [here](#).

News from our partners

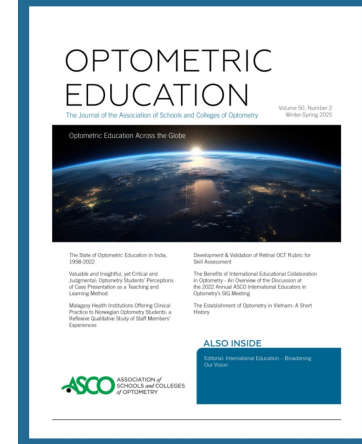
The WHO Competency-based Refractive Error Teams (CRET) is available now

The Competency-based Refractive Error Teams (CRET) Handbook was unveiled alongside other technical tools during a World Health Assembly side event called “*Eye Health Has 2030 In Sight: New Data, New Resolution, New Momentum*”. CRET is an adaptation of WHO’s *Eye Care Competency Framework* (ECCF) and provides a structured approach to developing effective teams that deliver quality care for refractive error. Several VOSH colleagues were part of the Technical Working Group (Profs Rasengane and Gammoh) or had case studies featured (Jordan and Ecuador). Download the document [here](#).



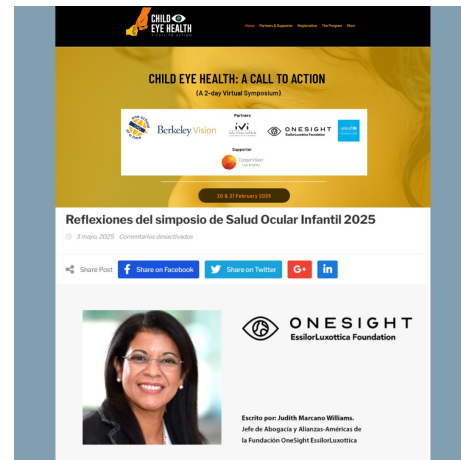
Special issue on Global Optometric Education

The Journal of Optometric Education has published the first volume of its special issue on Global Optometric Education. Another issue is expected during the summer. You can find this interesting issue [here](#).



The first Global Symposium on Child Eye Health– a summary in Spanish and the final statement

The online **Global Symposium on Child Eye Health: A Call to Action** held in February resulted in the Child Eye Health Statement 2025. Co-organized by OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation, Berkeley Vision, India Vision Institute, and UNICEF, and attended by 1700 participants, the Symposium intended to drive action for children’s vision. A summary of the discussions at the Symposium produced by Judith Williams, OSELF Head of Advocacy and Partnerships – Americas is available in Spanish [here](#)



The Child Eye Health Statement 2025 highlights states the shared global ambition: “To ensure that every child, regardless of location or background, has access to quality eye care and can see, learn and thrive.” It provides a foundation for policymakers, stakeholders, and communities to advance the child eye health agenda. It is available [here](#).

VOSH/International President contributes to optometry seminars in Peru

Dr Santiago, President of VOSH/International, contributed to a couple of events from Peruvian partners. Read the article in Spanish [here](#) and in English [here](#).



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