



# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## October 29th and 30th 2022

We work towards vision for all. The global recognition of the importance of eye health for human development and the commitment to address preventable and treatable vision impairment encourage us to continue contributing with our experience built over fifty years since the movement of volunteer optometrists came into action.

You are warmly invited to join us and be part of this precious movement.

### Great invited speakers



**DR YAZAN GAMMOH, PHD**  
*Al Ahliyya Amman University  
Jordan*



**TRACY SCOTT**  
*National Vision Inc.  
USA*



**DR MICHAEL CISZEK**  
*VOSH/International  
USA*



**DR JAIRO MERCADO**  
*Universidad Nacional Autónoma  
de Nicaragua, Nicaragua*



**DR PRIYA MORJARIA**  
*London School of Hygiene and  
Tropical Medicine, United  
Kingdom*



**DR DAMARIS PAGAN**  
*InterAmerican University of  
Puerto Rico, USA*



**B.OPT. BEATRIZ GOMEZ**  
*Universidad Autónoma de la  
Laguna, Mexico*



**DR KWADWO O. AKUFFO**  
*Kwame Nkrumah University of  
Science and Technology, Ghana*



**MSC. REBECA CARRILLO**  
*Universidad Autónoma de  
Aguascalientes, Mexico*





# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th

### PROGRAM

Time	Session
2:00 pm	Coffee
2:30 pm	<b>Welcome</b> Michael Ciszek, OD President VOSH/International
2:40 pm	<b>Roll call</b> Neelam Patadia, OD Secretary VOSH/International
3:00 pm	<b>Progress and financial reports</b> Michael Ciszek, OD, President Mark Rakoczy, OD, Treasurer
3:30 pm	<b>Recognition of volunteers.</b> Confirmation of Board members Inauguration of new Board members
4:00 pm	<b>In memoriam</b>
4:15 pm	<b>Joint welcoming words</b> Michael Ciszek, OD, President VOSH/International  Prof. Peter Hendicott, President World Council of Optometry (WCO)
4:30-6:30 pm	<b>Joint reception</b> hosted jointly by VOSH/International and WCO

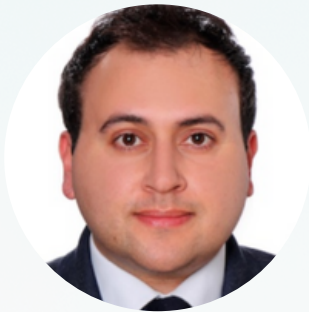


# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

### PROGRAM

Time	Session
7:00 -7:30 am	Registration Buffet breakfast
7:30 am	<b>Welcome</b> Michael Ciszek, OD, FVI, diplomate ABO President VOSH/International
7:40 am	<p><b>Low vision rehabilitation in the Middle East: situation and current developments</b></p> <p><b>Dr Yazan Gammoh, PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), FIACLE</b> Chair of the Optometry Department, Al Ahliyya Amman University, Jordan Chair of the Education Committee, World Council of Optometry.</p> <p>Dr. Gammoh is a Jordanian optometrist who holds a Ph.D. in Optometry &amp; Vision Science and an MSc in Optometry from the University of Bradford, UK. Dr. Gammoh is an Associate Professor of Optometry and the chairman of the optometry department at the Jordanian Ahliyya Amman University and a senior optometrist at the Arab East Medical Supply. In addition, he serves as the chair of the continuing education committee for optometry and optical professions at the Higher Medical Council, Ministry of Health, Jordan. Dr. Gammoh has received several awards and recognitions for his important work in the Eastern Mediterranean region.</p> <p>Dr. Gammoh has established the first not-for-profit low vision rehabilitation clinic in Jordan to serve children in Jordan regardless of their nationality, or social or financial status. Dr. Gammoh serves in the only private clinic in Jordan solely dedicated to low vision assessment and management.</p> <p>Dr. Gammoh currently serves on the World Council of Optometry Board of Directors as the chair of its Education Committee.</p>







# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

### PROGRAM

Time	Session
8:15 -8:50 am    	<p><b>Returning to delivering humanitarian work. Clinical pearls for a successful clinic</b></p> <p>Michael Cizek, OD, FVI, diplomate ABO President VOSH/International, USA</p> <p>Dr. Cizek graduated cum laude from the Illinois College of Optometry. His areas of expertise include specialty contact lenses, ocular surface disease, and providing care to LGBTQ patients in need. Locally, he supports the Howard Brown Health Center, an organization with a mission to promote health and wellness to underserved LGBTQ patients in Chicago. He is part of a dedicated group of doctors who provide consultation services to the contact lens industry, bringing new technologies to the marketplace. He has also been published in Optometric Management Magazine. Dr. Cizek's experience with VOSH began in 2011 on a trip to Colombia. Since then, he has visited several countries as part of humanitarian clinics and more recently lecturing to share his expertise with SVOSH chapters.</p>
8:50 -9:10 am	<b>VOSH/International Humanitarian of the Year Award</b>
9:10 -9:20 am	<p><b>Fellowship and Franklin Harms Society Presentation of new members</b></p> <p>Ann Slocum-Edmonds, OD Chair Fellowship Committee</p>



# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

### PROGRAM









Time	Session
<p>9:20 -9:50 am</p>  	<p><b>Keynote speaker</b></p> <p><b>Tracy Scott</b>                      Director of Culture, Diversity and Equity Inclusion                      National Vision Inc., USA</p> <p>Tracy Scott serves as National Vision’s Director of Culture, Diversity Equity Inclusion, and Philanthropy. With the help of her leadership, the philanthropic efforts of National Vision and its foundation, 20/20 Quest, impacted the lives of more than 1 million people in need around the world in 2021 alone.</p> <p>In addition to philanthropy, Tracy is an accomplished culture, people development, and training professional. In her two decades of leadership experience across retail and optical sectors, Tracy has led training for more than 1,600 field leaders and deployed programming to develop the potential of associates company-wide. Tracy is a graduate of Auburn University and resides in Powder Springs, Georgia.</p>
<p>9:50 -10:30 am</p>   	<p><b>Children’s Vision: towards a new narrative of vision and learning</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Jairo Antonio Mercado, MSc, PhD</b>                      Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, Nicaragua</p> <p>Dr. Antonio Mercado, graduated from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua (UNAN) at Managua. He completed an MSc in methodologies for scientific research and a PhD in quality assurance of scientific research at UNAN. He is a lecturer in the faculty of medical sciences at UNAN-Managua and the faculty adviser of the SVOSH-UNAN chapter. He coordinates the collaborative project with VOSH/International on vision and learning.</p> <p>Dr Mercado chairs the Legislation Committee of the Latin American Association of Optometry and Optics (ALDOO), is a board member of the Nicaraguan Association of Optometrists and Contactologists and a member of the VOSH/International Latin American Advisory Committee. In 2020, he was recognized by the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) as Eye Health Hero under the category of future leaders.</p>



# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

### PROGRAM

Time	Session
9:50-10:30 am     	<p><b>Children's Vision: towards a new narrative of vision and learning (cont)</b></p> <p><b>Dr Priya Morjaria, PhD</b> WCO Public Health Committee Chair, United Kingdom</p> <p>Dr. Priya Morjaria trained as an Optometrist at City University. She completed an MSc in Public Health for Eye Care at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and joined the International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH) as a researcher, followed by a Ph.D. titled 'Evidence to improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of School Eye Health Programs. In 2017, she was recognized by the World Council of Optometry and awarded the Paul Berman Young Leader Award. In 2020, she was made a Fellow of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics and was also recently admitted as a Liveryman to the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers.</p> <p>Dr. Morjaria is the co-chair of the IAPB's School Eye Health Working Group. She currently serves on WCO's Board of Directors as the Public Health Committee Chair.</p>
10:30-11:00 am	<b>Coffee/Tea break</b>
11:00-11:45 am     	<p><b>Optometric education: the importance of collaboration and cross-learning</b></p> <p><b>B.Optom. Beatriz Gomez Serna</b> Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna. Mexico</p> <p>Optometrist Gomez graduated from the Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna (UAL) and has over 22 years of experience. She was responsible for planning and designing the curriculum of the school of optometry at UAL where she is the current Coordinator of the optometry program and the faculty adviser of the SVOSH-UAL chapter. She is the Schools of Optometry representative at the Board of the Mexican Association of Schools, Faculties, Colleges, and Councils of Optometry (AMFECCO), a member of the education committee of ALDOO and a member of the VOSH/International Latin American Advisory Committee. This year, she was recognized as one of the most influential women by Vision Monday.</p>



# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

## PROGRAM



Time	Session
<p>11:00-11:45 am</p>  	<p><b>Optometric education: the importance of collaboration and cross-learning. (cont)</b></p> <p><b>Mark Rakoczy, OD</b> President VOSH-PA/Treasurer VOSH/International, USA</p> <p>Dr. Rakoczy graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry. He was a recipient of the Alumni Award for Academic Excellence, the Faculty Award for Clinical Excellence and the Bausch &amp; Lomb Softlens Award among others. He spent the next three years practicing in the US Army and then returned to Pennsylvania to run his private practice until retiring at the end of 2018.</p> <p>He has been an active member of the Everett Lions Club for 28 years and has served in all board positions. He also has served on the board of the Southcentral Blind Association for over 25 years. He has been a member of VOSH-PA since 2010 and its President since 2012. In this role, he has organized several humanitarian clinics to Haiti, including the recent teaching clinic for last year's students of the Haitian School of Optometry.</p>
  	<p><b>Damaris Pagan, OD, MPH, FAAO</b> Dean of Clinical Affairs InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, USA</p> <p>Dr. Pagan is an assistant professor and dean of clinical affairs of the InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico (IAUPR). Dr. Pagan completed a Doctorate in Optometry from the School of Optometry of the IAUPR. In 2005, she obtained a Masters' Degree from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Center Campus. She is currently the Dean of Clinical Affairs in charge of the six-clinic system of the Inter American University, School of Optometry. She is the faculty adviser for the SVOSH-IAUPR chapter.</p>





# TOWARDS VISION FOR ALL

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th

## PROGRAM

Time	Session
<p>11:45-12:20 pm</p>  	<p><b>Research in Africa: importance, impact, and needs The Ghanaian experience</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Kwadwo Owusu Akuffo, OD, FAAO, PhD</b> Head of the Department of Optometry and Visual Sciences Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana</p> <p>Dr. Akuffo completed his Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree at KNUST and obtained his Ph.D. degree at the Nutrition Research Centre Ireland, South East Technological University (SETU). Dr. Akuffo currently serves as a Board Member of the African STEM Network (Afrisnet) and Youth Arise Organization (YAO). He is the Faculty Advisor for the SVOSH-KNUST Chapter.</p> <p>He is a member of the Ghana Science Association (GSA), Ghana Young Academy (GhYA), Ghana Optometric Association (GOA), and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) Young Affiliate, and an African Academy of Sciences Affiliate. He is a recipient of the 2022 George Britton Early Investigator of The Year Award.</p>
<p>12:20-12:55 pm</p>  	<p><b>Providing humanitarian eye care post Covid. VOSH and SVOSH chapters experiences</b></p> <p><b>Rebeca Carrillo, M.Sc.</b> Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Mexico</p> <p>M.Sc. Carrillo graduated as an optometrist from the Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes (UAA). She completed an M.Sc. in health systems at UAA and an M.Sc. in Optometric Sciences at SUNY/UAA. She holds various diplomates. She is a faculty member at the optometry program of UAA and has supported research since 2001. She is the faculty adviser of the SVOSH chapter at UAA and has participated in humanitarian clinics with VOSH-AZ, VOSH-TX and VOSH-Santa Cruz.</p> <p>MSc Carrillo is the current President of the Mexican Association of Schools, Faculties, Colleges, and Councils of Optometry (AMFECCO) and is a board member and vice president of professional accreditation of the Mexican Council of Optometry Accreditation (COMACEO).</p>





Credit SVOSH-UNAN, Nicaragua 2022

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## PROGRAM

Time	Session
<p>12:20-12:55 pm</p>  	<p><b>Providing humanitarian eye care post Covid. VOSH and SVOSH chapters experiences (contd)</b></p> <p><b>Kevin Helmuth, OD</b> VOSH-AZ and Faculty Adviser SVOSH at Midwestern School of Optometry, USA</p> <p>Dr. Helmuth attended Pacific University, where he received his Doctorate of Optometry (O.D.) degree. He has served as the Director of Optometry for the Gila River Indian Community, Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital in Sacaton, Arizona; Staff Optometrist with Prime Eye Care, Phoenix, Arizona; and Chief of Optometry for the Creek Nation in Okemah, Oklahoma, among other optometry positions.</p>
 	<p><b>Ani Tokhmakhian</b> President SVOSH-ICO, USA</p> <p>Ani is a third-year graduate student at the Illinois College of Optometry where she serves as the current president of their SVOSH chapter. With a background in opticianry and a passion for service, she volunteered at health clinics throughout southern California with hopes of continuing this work in optometry school. Now at ICO, Ani has hosted a number of local vision screenings throughout different communities within Chicago and has helped plan two international humanitarian clinics to Valladolid, Mexico and Barbados. In her free time, Ani enjoys participating in advocacy work dedicated to empowering others and making a global difference in the lives of patients.</p>
<p>12:55-1:00 pm</p>	<p>50th year celebration video Closing remarks</p>

With many thanks to our Annual Meeting sponsor

