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

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
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Coffee</td>
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| 2:30 pm    | Welcome
Michael Ciszek, OD
President VOSH/International |
| 2:40 pm    | Roll call
Neelam Patadia, OD
Secretary VOSH/International |
| 3:00 pm    | Progress and financial reports
Michael Ciszek, OD, President
Mark Rakoczy, OD, Treasurer |
| 3:30 pm    | Recognition of volunteers.
Confirmation of Board members
Inauguration of new Board members |
| 4:00 pm    | In memoriam                                                             |
| 4:15 pm    | Joint welcoming words
Michael Ciszek, OD, President
VOSH/International
Prof. Peter Hendicott, President
World Council of Optometry (WCO) |
| 4:30-6:30 pm| Reception hosted by VOSH/International and WCO |
7:00 - 7:30 am
Registration - Buffet breakfast

7:30 - 7:40 am
Welcome
Michael Ciszek, OD, FVI, diplomate ABO
President VOSH/International

7:40 - 8:15 am
Low vision rehabilitation in the Middle East: situation and current developments

Dr. Yazan Gammoh, PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), FIACLE
Chair of the Optometry Department, Al Ahliyya Amman University, Jordan
Chair of the Education Committee, World Council of Optometry.

Dr. Gammoh is a Jordanian optometrist who holds a Ph.D. in Optometry & 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.

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.

Dr. Gammoh currently serves on the World Council of Optometry Board of Directors as the chair of its Education Committee.
## PROGRAM

### Time in US PDT | Session
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8:15 -8:45 am | Returning to delivering humanitarian work. Clinical pearls for a successful clinic

**Michael Ciszek, OD, FVI, diplomate ABO**
President VOSH/International, USA

Dr. Ciszek 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. Ciszek’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.

8:45 -9:00 am | Supporting the new generations of ODs

**Stephanie Ganiban**
University and Student Relations Manager

Stephanie Ganiban partners with US schools and colleges of optometry, offering a variety of programs and services designed to help optometry students reach their career goals. She is an experienced Marketer with a demonstrated history of engaging social media and as a communication strategist. She is currently a Big Sister and Board Member with the Big Brother Big Sister Greater Sacramento Area. She is also the Vice-Chair for the Young Professionals Business Resource Group at VSP Vision.

9:00 -9:10 am | Fellowship and Franklin Harms Society Presentation of new members

**Ann Slocum-Edmonds, OD**
Chair Fellowship Committee

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Hilton Garden Inn San Diego Dowtown/Bayside Hotel, San Diego, CA, USA
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<tr>
<td>9:10 - 9:20 am</td>
<td>VOSH/International Humanitarian of the Year Award</td>
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<td>John Daniel Twelker, OD, PhD, FAAO, FVI</td>
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<td>Past President VOSH-AZ and VOSH/International</td>
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<td>Dr. Twelker received his Doctor of Optometry degree and PhD. in Vision Science from the University of California, Berkeley College of Optometry. He worked in private practice for several years. Since 2002, he has been on the faculty of the University of Arizona Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Science where he is an Associate Clinical Professor. He was President of VOSH-Arizona and VOSH/International. Since 2015, Dr. Twelker has been involved in supporting the development of international optometric education in Kenya, Ghana, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and, Peru. He actively led VOSH/International to support international optometric education while maintaining high standards of our humanitarian work.</td>
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<td>9:20 - 9:50 am</td>
<td>Keynote speaker</td>
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<td>Tracy Scott</td>
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<td>Director of Culture, Diversity and Equity Inclusion National Vision Inc., USA</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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| 9:50 -10:30 am | **Children’s Vision: towards a new narrative of vision and learning**  
**Dr Priya Morjaria, PhD**  
WCO Public Health Committee Chair, United Kingdom  
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.  
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. |
| | **Dr. Jairo Antonio Mercado, MSc, PhD**  
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua, Nicaragua  
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. 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. |
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<td>10:30-11:00am</td>
<td>Coffee/Tea Break</td>
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<td>11:00-11:45 am</td>
<td>Optometric education: the importance of collaboration and cross-learning</td>
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**Optometric education: the importance of collaboration and cross-learning**

B.Optom. Beatriz Gomez Serna  
Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna, Mexico

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.

**Mark Rakoczy, OD**  
President VOSH-PA/Treasurer VOSH/International, USA

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 & Lomb Softlens Award among others. He practiced for three years in the US Army and then returned to Pennsylvania to run his private practice until retiring in 2018.

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.
## Program

**Time in US PDT** | **Session**
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11:00-11:45 am | Damaris Pagan, OD, MPH, FAAO

**Dean of Clinical Affairs**
**InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico, USA**

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 on Public Health from the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Center Campus. She held different positions as Director of Primary Care Satellite Clinics in Hato Rey and Caguas municipalities, Director of Patient Care Department, and since 2011 as Dean for Clinic 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. Her research interests are public health, refractive errors in indigenous populations and pediatric populations.

11:45-11:55 am | Harry L. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award

**Dr. Gerard Marie Jean Claude Cadet**
**Dean of the School of Optometry**
**Université d’Etat d’Haiti**

Dr. Cadet is an ophthalmologist with a long and prestigious professional career in Haiti. He has dedicated his life to improving the visual welfare of the people in Haiti as a practitioner and through his leadership as director of the university hospital, dean of the faculty of medicine, academic, and the visionary behind the establishment of the first Haitian school of optometry at the Université d’État d’Haiti. He is a strong advocate for public health and despite enormous challenges continues to work for the development of optometry and sustainable eyecare in Haiti. He is the faculty adviser of our SVOSH chapter at the Haitian school of optometry.
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<td>11:55-12:25 pm</td>
<td><strong>Research in Africa: importance, impact, and needs</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Ghanaian experience</td>
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<td>Dr. Kwadwo Owusu Akuffo, OD, FAAO, PhD</td>
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<td>Head of the Department of Optometry and Visual Sciences&lt;br&gt;Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana</td>
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<td>Dr. Akuffo completed his Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree at&lt;br&gt;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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>12:25-1:00 pm</td>
<td><strong>Providing humanitarian eye care post Covid.</strong>&lt;br&gt;VOSH and SVOSH chapters experiences</td>
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<td>Rebeca Carrillo, M.Sc.</td>
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<td>Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Mexico</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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).</td>
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### Providing humanitarian eye care post Covid. VOSH and SVOSH chapters experiences (contd)

**Kevin Helmuth, OD**  
VOSH-AZ and Faculty Adviser SVOSH at Midwestern School of Optometry, USA

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.

### Ani Tokhmakhian

**President SVOSH-ICO, USA**

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.

### 50th year celebration video  
Closing remarks