



## July 2024 Newsletter

This month President Santiago shares his experience participating in the Optoglobe Summit, we feature our statement for humanitarian values in a world of war, share requests and offers from our chapters and partners plus an inspiring story about a community clinic in Virginia, a call for applications for our small research grants and congratulate a deserving VOSHer on a recognition received recently. Share news of your chapter with us, we would love to hear from you. Send us an email to [vosh@vosh.org](mailto:vosh@vosh.org)

President's  
Insights

July

Toward a global  
optometric  
student  
community



### President's Insights

When I was an optometry student there were few student organizations. The student activities revolve primarily around local school events. Although the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA) was founded in 1968, it was not officially affiliated with the American Optometric Association (AOA) until 1988...However, until recently, no optometric student organization with a global perspective has existed...

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

### VOSH/International Statement for humanitarian values in a world of war

Read the Statement for Humanitarian Values in a World of War approved by the Board of Directors of VOSH/International on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We encourage you to reflect on it.

The English version is available [here](#) and the Spanish is [here](#).



STATEMENT  
FOR  
HUMANITARIAN  
VALUES IN A  
WORLD OF WAR

Applications are open for the  
small research grants for  
international SVOSH chapters

## Small Research Grants for international SVOSH chapters



We are delighted to announce that we have 6 small research grants available for our international SVOSH chapters. Deadline for applications is August 31<sup>st</sup>. Announcement of the winners will be in the September newsletter. Complete your application using this [form](#).

La postulación para pequeños subsidios de investigación para capítulos internacionales SVOSH está abierta. Fecha límite de recepción es el 31 de agosto. Los ganadores se anunciarán en el boletín de septiembre. Complete su postulación utilizando este [formulario](#).

## News from our chapters



### VOSH-NW is going to Uganda

VOSH-Northwest is seeking 2 ODs to fill openings on our mission to Uganda this October 13-28. We will have 5 days of clinic followed by 4 days of safari in Bwindi National Park and one day of gorilla trekking. A video of the trip presentation by host organization [HEED](#) is available [here](#).

If interested, please contact Dr Willow Thomson at [idrwillow@hotmail.com](mailto:idrwillow@hotmail.com)

### VOSH-Southeast needs your help for Guatemala

Between October 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, VOSH-SE is planning a clinic in Jalpatagua, Guatemala. Jalpatagua is a small Catholic hospital compound near the El Salvador border. The work is supported by the hospital and the local Lions Club. They need 2 Ophthalmologists, 3 Optometrists, and 6 Nurses/helpers. If you are interested, please contact Glenn Lashley at [gmlashley99@gmail.com](mailto:gmlashley99@gmail.com) or (386) 846-6293



### VOSH-TX needs ODs for its Guerrero clinic



Another successful clinic was held in Guerrero by VOSH-TX. They offered over 800 eye exams, 214 surgeries and hundreds of glasses to their patients. The next clinic is scheduled for September 30th and they need two ODs.

If you are interested in this chapter's work, please visit [www.guerreroclinic.org](http://www.guerreroclinic.org) or contact Robert Yudkin at [robert@guerreroclinic.org](mailto:robert@guerreroclinic.org) or 214-213-6808

## SVOSH-NECO faculty adviser receives recognition in South Africa

Dr Bina Patel, faculty adviser of SVOSH-NECO received an important recognition by the South African Optometric Association at their Centennial celebrations held between 18 and 20 July.

Dr Patel is a champion of international optometric education and a great humanitarian. Congratulations Dr Patel!!!



## A great story of local service and continuous impact

Three years ago, VOSH-VI established a local community eye health service with donated equipment facilitated by our Technology Transfer Program. This is a successful story of commitment to local service. Read the whole story [here](#). For more information, please contact: Dr Douglas Weiss, VOSH-VI President at [dgweiss.od@gmail.com](mailto:dgweiss.od@gmail.com)

## VOSH-Lebanon organizes webinar on the basics of Visual Electrophysiology

The seventh webinar organized by Vision Care Association (VCA) / VOSH-Lebanon in collaboration with the Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO) will take place on August 8, 2024 - 7:00 PM - Beirut Time via Zoom. Ms. Sharon Hussain from the UK will lead this webinar on Visual Electrophysiology:



The Basics.

Do not miss this chance and register [here](#) or using the QR Code.

You are invited to participate in Vision Care Association's upcoming webinar on August 8th, 07:00 PM (Beirut Time) titled:

### Visual Electrophysiology: The Basics

Lectured by  
**Ms. Sharon Hussain**

- Highly skilled orthoptist with over 14 years of clinical experience in both the private and public healthcare sectors.
- Holds a solid background in visual electrophysiology, bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her role as Head Orthoptist at Sidra Medicine, Qatar.
- Former Head Orthoptist at Moorfields Eye Hospital Dubai, where she also served as Deputy Head Education.
- Holds an MSc in Public Health (Global Health) from King College, London.
- Committed to advancing the field of Orthoptics and improving patient outcomes through education, research, and clinical practice.

AFTER REGISTRATION, A CONFIRMATION EMAIL WILL BE SENT INCLUDING FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING.

WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY  
Charter Member 2018

## News from our partners

### A series of successful webinars marked a great OPTOGLOBE start

Between 11 and 14 July, Optoglobe organized a series of four webinars to discuss the Role of a Global Optometric Student Community. VOSH/International was a proud sponsor of this initiative. The leaders of Optoglobe put together an inspiring program of speakers from different regions who shared their passion and shared advise with this emerging and dynamic global network of students. A more detailed report will be shared shortly. You can see the recordings of the webinars [here](#).

**THE IMPORTANCE OF A GLOBAL OPTOMETRY STUDENT COMMUNITY**  
AN OPTOGLOBE SUMMIT  
JULY 11 - 14, 2024

**GUEST Speakers**

PROF. DR. HECTOR SANTIAGO  
PRESIDENT, VOSH/INTERNATIONAL

DR. MARYAM SMEBAR  
OPTOMETRY FACULTY, THE UNIVERSITY OF FASLUBAD

DR. JINN WICLA  
DEAN OF ADMINISTRATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE, MCI

DR. ABDULLAH NASIR  
CEO, KNOW EYE CARE

DR. ANDERSON CHIRIBIRI  
NOA, PRESIDENT

DR. LENI OSLAGAWA  
PRESIDENT, AFRICAN CHAPTER

DR. MUSTAFA ABDUL ALI  
HEAD OF TRAINING, SUDANESE MEDICAL COUNCIL

MEGAN WEBBER  
CO-FOUNDER, KNOW THE FLOW

DR. TAREK MAHMOUD  
(MIRAL, MD)  
INTERNATIONAL TRAINER AND EDUCATOR

PROF. DR. YOUSSEF ALASALY  
OPTOMETRIST, MOU, UNIVERSITY OF BAGDAD

DR. YOGITA RAGHAVNI  
PRESIDENT, VOSH-INDIA

NIZAM UDDIN SK  
OPTOMETRIST

RANIEM RAED AL-HAJ  
OPTOMETRIST

YARELIS RODRIGUEZ  
OPTOMETRIST

JIMIN JOSEPHINE  
OPTOMETRIST

REGISTER NOW  
info.optoglobe@gmail.com

A great event led by the future leaders of optometry

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
VOSH INTERNATIONAL

**Hopeful Ways**

Needs ODs and opticians  
for Costa Rica

### Hopeful Ways needs ODs and opticians for Costa Rica

Hopeful Ways is seeking eye care professionals for the January 2025 humanitarian clinic in Nicoya, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. This is an expansion of a successful decade-long Nicaragua eye care program. Two additional optometrists and two opticians are needed to complete the mission roster. Ophthalmologists are also valuable additions and are welcome to participate. More information can be found [here](#). If interested, please contact Jim Carlins, President & Project Manager at [jicarlins@hopefulways.org](mailto:jicarlins@hopefulways.org)

Offer ONLY for US VOSH and SVOSH chapters

There are over 550 new standard-issue prescription glasses for donation from deployed army service members who failed to pick them up or were unreachable. These glasses are mostly mild myopia with astigmatism with several including prescription hyperopia, bifocal, readers, and sunglasses. Prescription/auto-lensometry receipts accompany each pair with their spectacle cases. The donor can mail them to any continental US state.

If your US VOSH or SVOSH chapter is interested please contact:  
Dr Joseph G. Reyther at  
[joseph.g.reyther.mil@army.mil](mailto:joseph.g.reyther.mil@army.mil) and  
254-285-6858



**ONLY**

for US VOSH and SVOSH chapters



## Prevent Blindness Summit - Recordings Available

If you could not attend the Prevent Blindness Summit, you can enjoy the recordings of the sessions [here](#).

It was inspiing and educational. We look forward to next year's Summit

Visit our Website



VOSH/International | 12660 Q Street | Omaha , NE 68137 US

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