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## November 2024 Newsletter

We are so close to the end of 2024. This month we share brief news about our meeting in Indianapolis, welcome 6 new members to our Board of Directors, share an extraordinary report on an Ambassador's visit to Ecuador, welcome the new Executive Director of Optometry Giving Sight, share a few papers including one product of our small research grants program, and much more.



### President's Insights

This month President Santiago shares his views on the relevance of African optometry. Read the article in English [here](#).

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

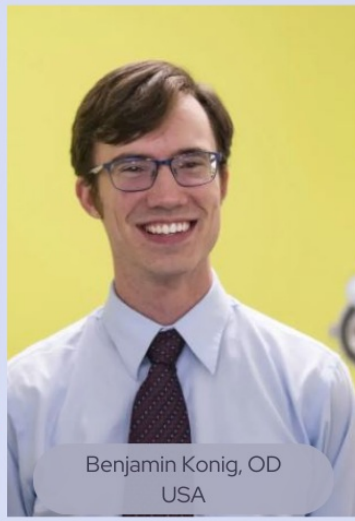
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## 2024 Indianapolis Meeting

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Ani Tokhmakhian, OD  
USA



Benjamin Konig, OD  
USA



Jennifer Lyn Viñola, OD  
The Philippines



Michael Satryan, OD  
USA



Nelson Edwards, OD  
USA



Prof. Tuwani Rasengane  
South Africa

## Our new Board members

### A warm welcome to new Board of Directors members

We are proud to welcome the following VOSH members to our Board of Directors. We look forward to working with them!!

- Ani Tokhmakhian, OD, USA
- Benjamin Konig, OD, USA
- Jennifer Viñola, OD, the Philippines
- Mike Satryan, OD, USA
- Nelson Edwards, OD, USA
- Tuwani Rasengane, OD, South Africa

### Dr Tareq Naban becomes a Fellow of VOSH/International

Congratulations to Dr Naban who successfully completed all the requirements and the fellowship examination on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Fellowship of VOSH/International recognises the skills and experience necessary for a member of VOSH to advise on the global challenge of preventable blindness; to foster the development of future leaders, and to advise on the mission and vision of VOSH/International. VOSH members are encouraged

to apply. More information is [here](#)

#### New Fellow of VOSH/International



Dr. Tareq Nabhan  
Faculty Adviser of  
SVOSH-University of  
Missouri St Louis  
receiving his  
VOSH/International  
Fellowship certificate  
from Dr Ann Edmonds

Congratulations Dr  
Nabhan!!



#### New members of the Franklin Harms Society

From left: Dr Ben Konig, Dr Jeffrey Weaver, Dr Michael Ciszek and Dr Mike Satryan

### Franklin Harms Society welcomes new members

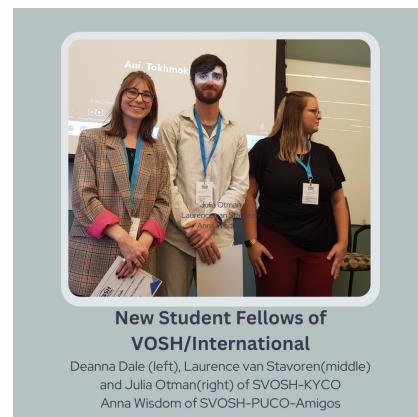
Four new members were welcomed into the Franklin Harms Society in Indianapolis. Congratulations to Drs Michael Ciszek, Michael Satryan, Benjamin Konig and Jeffrey Weaver.

The Franklin Harms Society recognizes optometrists, and other volunteers who have served on 10 or more US or foreign VOSH humanitarian clinics. Candidates must be a member of a VOSH chapter. Get your humanitarian efforts recognised. Apply to become a member of the Franklin Harms Society [here](#).

### A group of young leaders were recognised as Student Fellows of VOSH/International

You are never too young to be recognised for your humanitarian work. The following student leaders became Student Fellows of VOSH/International: Deanna Dale, Julia Otman and Laurence van Stavoren from SVOSH-KYCO and Anna Wisdom of SVOSH-AMIGOS.

Congratulations!! SVOSHers interested please contact [ciszek@vosh.org](mailto:ciszek@vosh.org)



#### New Student Fellows of VOSH/International

Deanna Dale (left), Laurence van Stavoren (middle) and Julia Otman (right) of SVOSH-KYCO  
Anna Wisdom of SVOSH-PUCO-Amigos

### Another successful meeting

Thanks to all VOSH members and partners who attended our meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, US last November 9th.

A summary of what took place is available in [this document](#).

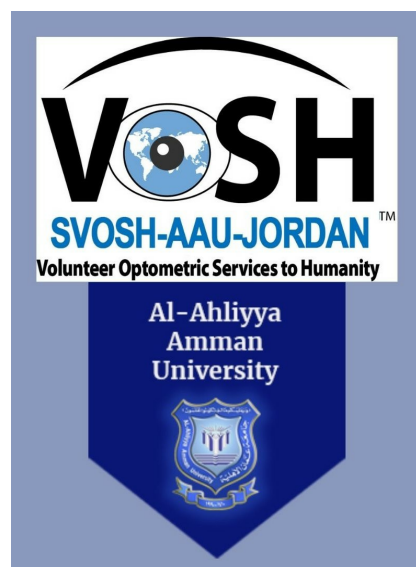
See you next year in Boston, USA



## News from our chapters

### A successful VOSH Ambassador visit to the Universidad Técnica de Manabi, Ecuador

Several factors make a VOSH Ambassador visit a success. A key one is the willingness to share and learn. In this case, the enthusiasm of our Ecuadorian colleagues was matched with the commitment of Dr Ciszek to share his experience and work together with our Ecuadorian colleagues in this successful initiative. Read the details of this visit [here](#).



### Paper on Vision Screening and Detection of Ocular Abnormalities in School Children by Teachers in Jordan

This paper published in the Journal of Multidisciplinary Health is the result of a VOSH small research grant awarded to the school of optometry of the Al-Ahliyya Amman University in Jordan. Led by Dr Yazan Gammoh, this research evaluated the accuracy of vision screening and detection of ocular abnormalities conducted by teachers in school children in Jordan compared with vision testing by optometrists and ocular disease identification by ophthalmologists. Congratulations to the SVOSH-AAU-Jordan chapter for this work. You can download the paper [here](#).

### Prevalence of refractive errors in school-aged and preadolescent children in Colombia

This paper published in the International Journal of Ophthalmology describes the distribution of refractive errors by age and sex among 1161 school children in Soacha, Colombia. Soacha is a Colombian municipality with a high population density. This was a collaboration between the Universidad El Bosque, Fundacion Universitaria del Area Andina-Bogota, and supported by the OneSight Essilor Luxxotica Foundation. You can download it [here](#)



## SVOSH @ UC Berkeley needs volunteers for Grenada and Jamaica

This SVOSH chapter needs students and ODS for the following humanitarian work:

- April 12-18, 2025 to Grenada need 4 ODs and OD students.
- June 7-14 to Jamaica need 6 ODs and OD students.

If interested, please contact Dr. Maxwell Cheng at [maxwell.x.cheng@kp.org](mailto:maxwell.x.cheng@kp.org)

and for some history...

## The impact of military experience on (US) state optometric legislation

This paper highlights the role US optometry officers in the military using pharmaceutical agents in the performance of their duties had on the legislative expansion of optometry in the US. Drs McAlister, Weaver and Davis offer us an interesting insight into this part of the history of US optometry. You can read the document [here](#).

## News from our partners



**Donna Mikulecky, CPA**  
New Executive Director



Donna J. Mikulecky, CPA, has been appointed to succeed Lois Schoenbrun as Executive Director of Optometry Giving Sight (OGS). Donna has more than 25 years of experience in healthcare and the optometry sector and, until her appointment served as Treasurer of the OGS Board of Directors.



**Thank you, Lois Schoenbrun!**



VOSH/International extends a warm welcome to Donna and expresses its gratitude to Lois for her constant support of our work. We wish Lois a joyful retirement.

You can read more about Donna [here](#)

## Optoglobe Newsletter

The November edition of the OPTOGLOBE Newsletter features interviews with the winners of the Glow Awareness video contest. Read the whole newsletter [here](#)



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