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IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION
Dear Colleagues,

You will notice a recurring theme in the International Council of Ophthalmology’s (ICO) programs: collaboration. The ICO is building a “World Alliance for Sight” by working with ophthalmologic societies, eye departments, foundations, and organizations worldwide to improve ophthalmic education, enhance eye care, and advance leadership.

I am pleased to share with you the dramatic progress we have made in 2012. We held a highly successful World Ophthalmology Congress® in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, sponsored by the ICO and hosted by the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology, which was attended by more than 10,500 registrants.

The ICO launched the Center for Ophthalmic Educators (educators.icoph.org), helping educators become better teachers by presenting modern teaching and learning theories, and providing the tools to put those theories into action. The newly revised ICO Residency Curriculum, a product of over 100 international subspecialists’ thoughtful input and review, is just one of the many valuable educational resources you will find in the Center.

The ICO had three articles published in scientific journals, which discuss ICO initiatives and educational programs, and highlight an ICO survey delineating a current and anticipated shortfall in the number of ophthalmologists worldwide, reinforcing the need to train teams of eye care professionals now.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Fred Hollows Foundation, we were able to expand our fellowship programs. The ICO has thrived for nearly 100 years because of vital partnerships like this and the contributions of our Board members, volunteers, donors, and staff. I would especially like to note the work of our Program Directors and Officers whose dedication ensures that the ICO’s initiatives succeed.

The critical financial support provided by our Member societies and ICOFoundation donors is inherent in everything we do. We gratefully acknowledge our donors in this Update and on the ICOFoundation website at: www.icofoundation.org.

Please email info@icoph.org if you have questions or would like to get involved.

With warm regards,

Bruce Spivey, MD, MS, MEd
ICO President
ENHANCING EYE CARE

To achieve the goal of the right to sight for all, ophthalmology should lead the effort to prevent blindness worldwide and strive to fully integrate ophthalmology and eye care into every health care system.

ADVOCACY FOR PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF VISION

The ICO leads and coordinates efforts of international ophthalmology to increase support for eye care and prevention of vision loss worldwide. We collaborate and work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), ophthalmologic organizations, and nongovernmental development organizations (NGOs) to support and implement initiatives like VISION 2020, the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness.

World Forum for Sight at WOC2012

The fourth World Forum for Sight was held during the 2012 World Ophthalmology Congress® (WOC) of the International Council of Ophthalmology in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Eminent speakers from NGOs and ophthalmologic societies, and public health experts addressed a wide range of topics including efforts to eliminate trachoma in the next decade; control strategies for glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy; innovative strategies for hospital partnering; pursuit of VISION 2020 through management of eye care in the general health system; and looking beyond the year 2020.

WHO Drafting New Action Plan

WHO drafted a new Action Plan for Universal Access To Eye Health, and ICO leaders discussed our response to the Action Plan draft during the IAPB 9th General Assembly in Hyderabad, India, September 17-20, 2012. The ICO supports the adoption of the Action Plan as it will bring greater focus to prevention of visual loss, particularly at the national level.

ICO Reports Global Shortfall in the Number of Ophthalmologists

A 2010 survey by the ICO conducted to support implementation of vital initiatives such as VISION 2020 and the WHO Action Plan was published in the June 2012 issue of the British Journal of Ophthalmology.

Ophthalmologic societies and individuals from more than 200 countries took part in the ICO survey to assess the worldwide number of ophthalmologists in training and in practice as well as the growth rate and dynamics of the ophthalmic population at the country level, including residents. Despite revealing there are more than 200,000 ophthalmologists, the data delineate a dire situation: There is a current and anticipated future shortfall in the number of ophthalmologists worldwide, which will dramatically impact both developing and developed countries.

There is a critical lack of ophthalmologists in developing countries, and although the number of ophthalmologists in high-income countries is increasing, the population aged 60+ is growing more than twice as fast as the number of ophthalmologists. Therefore, the gap between need and supply is widening in both developing and developed countries, a dual challenge that needs to be addressed urgently.

What is the most effective way to address this problem? The ICO believes the answer lies in heightened collaboration—collaboration between organizations and collaboration to build highly qualified teams of eye care professionals throughout the world to meet public health care needs.

So the ICO can progressively track the number of ophthalmologists in practice and in training on an ongoing basis, we ask that society leaders update their country’s data. To review the number of ophthalmologists in practice and training worldwide and update society data, go to: www.icoph.org/ophthalmologists-worldwide.html. Updates can also be submitted by email to: info@icoph.org.
OTHER EYE CARE PROGRAMS

Collaborating to Treat URE, the Main Cause of Visual Impairment Worldwide

Since 2010, the School Eye Health Program (SEHP) program has been offering eye care services, teacher training, uncorrected refractive error (URE) testing, health promotion, and health screening. It also performs operational research with the cooperation of Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO).

This program will screen one million children and tens of thousands of adults in Pakistan and Nigeria for URE and general eye health. The ultimate goal is to improve quality of life by eliminating blindness and visual disabilities due to URE, which is the main cause of visual impairment worldwide. SEHP is collaboration between Light for the World and the ICO Task Force on URE, with support from the ICOFoundation.

ICO Working with WHO on ICD-11

The ICO International Classification of Diseases (ICD) Task Force has been working with the WHO to revise the ophthalmologic data in the current ICD-10 and create a new generation of classification, the ICD-11. This year, the ICO Task Force, which serves as the ICD-11 Topic Advisory Group for ophthalmology, held in-person consultations with WHO representatives. The WHO plans to release a final ICD-11 by 2015.

Magrabi–ICO Cameroon Eye Institute

Preliminary construction has begun on the Magrabi–ICO Cameroon Eye Institute, a regional-training center in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Institute will train ophthalmologists and staff in Cameroon and French-speaking Central West Africa to become the next generation of leaders and to provide high-quality services with subspecialties and outreach programs, minimizing the need to send patients abroad.

The Institute will be built and developed by the ICO, the Al Noor Magrabi Foundation, and the That Every Life May Count Foundation, with links to the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Yaoundé and the Cameroon Ministry of Health.
REFOCUSING EDUCATION

The ICO has a long-term commitment to ophthalmic education as a critical imperative in the worldwide fight against vision loss. Enhanced ophthalmic education throughout the world is required to build highly qualified teams of eye care professionals to meet public health care needs, improve eye care, and contribute to preservation and restoration of vision around the world.

WORLD OPHTHALMOLOGY CONGRESS® (WOC)

The ICO’s roots in ophthalmic education stretch back to the first International Congress of Ophthalmology in 1857, the longest continuous international medical meeting, now called the World Ophthalmology Congress. Held every second year in a different region, the ICO partners with national and supranational societies to organize each WOC. The Congress provides an international audience of ophthalmologists and educators with a scientific program addressing all subspecialties and related interests in ophthalmology; the opportunity to network with recognized international leaders and professionals; and attend an exhibition featuring the latest products and services in the field.

Revenues from the Congress support the ICO’s commitment to building a “World Alliance for Sight” by funding a wide range of ICO initiatives and programs.

WOC2012

The Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO) hosted WOC2012 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, February 16–20. With the leadership of WOC2012 President, Abdulaziz AlRajhi, MD, the Congress was an outstanding success, with more than 10,500 registrants celebrating science and culture. It featured a broad and deep scientific program developed by the ICO Scientific Program Committee in collaboration with coordinators, chairs and speakers, national and international ophthalmologic societies, and MEACO subspecialty societies.

WOC2012 presented many “firsts,” including the first time the WOC was hosted in the Middle East/Africa and the first time sessions were devoted to Women in Ophthalmology and Young Ophthalmologists. Highlights of WOC2012 included:

- **Exceptional Scientific Program:** An innovative scientific program covered 35 subspecialty areas, with presentations from the world’s leading experts on cutting-edge approaches to ophthalmic practice and treatments. Over 2000 internationally recognized speakers contributed to 240 invited scientific sessions, as well as 150 free paper sessions, 75 instructional courses, 225 videos, and 800 posters.

- **ICO General Assembly:** Member society representatives and leaders heard stimulating keynote presentations on the future of the ICO and international ophthalmology, meeting the challenge of diabetic retinopathy, and training eye care teams. Energetic roundtable discussions considered new approaches to meet the projected need for eye care, particularly in developing countries.

- **The World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium (WOEC):** The WOEC included eight symposia and 50 speakers covering essential topics in ophthalmic education.
ICO EXAMINATIONS: PROVIDING OPHTHALMOLOGICAL STANDARDS

The ICO currently offers two annual examinations for ophthalmologists in training. The Standard Examination has three components: Basic Sciences, Theoretical Optics and Refraction, and Clinical Sciences.

Since 2010, the ICO has offered the Advanced Exam, success in which, together with a local face-to-face exam or a government licence to practice in the candidates’ country, leads to the award of the right to use the post-nominal acronym FICO: Fellow of the International Council of Ophthalmology, for example, FICO (Egypt). It employs a marking system, using a precision-demanding “confidence indicator,” which is unique to medicine.

In 2012, there were 3,327 ICO examinations taken in 130 test centers in 70 countries. Since first established 18 years ago, over 20,000 candidates have taken the exams. The questions are written by an international group of writers and are developed by the examinations committee who also set the pass marks.

For 2013, the ICO has announced a new low-cost, open-access, online Foundation Formative Assessment for trainees. It uses statement-, picture-, or video-based practical questions and also employs the confidence indicator. Trainees may participate prior to or during their first year of ophthalmology training.

All ICO Examinations are of a very high standard and are internationally validated to assess an ophthalmologist’s level of knowledge. They also enable teachers and trainers to evaluate their trainees’ performance by international standards.

Further information can be found on the ICO Examinations website at: www.icoexams.org.

ICO FELLOWSHIPS: HELPING REGIONS IMPROVE EYE CARE

Since 2000, the ICO has awarded more than 600 fellowships, allowing promising young ophthalmologists from countries with an urgent need for modern eye care to bring acquired knowledge and skills back to their home country and take part in programs to preserve and restore vision. This year, the ICO was able to expand its fellowship programs thanks to a generous grant from the Fred Hollows Foundation (FHF). The ICO is developing an online application process, which will be available by the end of 2012.

Future World Ophthalmology Congresses

- **WOC2014**: Tokyo, Japan, April 2-6, 2014. Hosted by the Japanese Ophthalmological Society and co-hosted by the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology. For more information, go to: www.woc2014.org.
- **WOC2018**: Barcelona, Spain (provisional selection/dates to be determined). Hosted by the Spanish Ophthalmological Society.

Teams representing the best ophthalmology fellows and residents compete at the first ICO World Ophthalmology Quiz

ICO Fellow, Dr. Irina Zivicka (far right) at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York, New York
ICO Three-Month Fellowships
ICO three-month fellowships are awarded twice a year to ophthalmologists from regions that have an immediate demand for trained eye-care personnel. Special consideration is given to ophthalmologists who have passed the ICO Examinations. The goal of these fellowships is to provide opportunities for young ophthalmologists from developing countries to improve their practical skills in subspecialties and broaden their perspectives.

ICO/FHF Three-Month Fellowships
The FHF grant supplements the three-month fellowships offered by the ICO, supporting fellowships to ophthalmologists from regions where FHF is active: Africa, South Asia, South East Asia, and the Pacific.

ICO/Helmerich/RRF One-Year Fellowships for Ophthalmologists in Developing Countries
Sponsored by the Retina Research Foundation in cooperation with the ICO Foundation, this fellowship program began in 2009 to honor the public service leadership of Mr. W.H. Helmerich III. Two one-year Fellowships are awarded each year.

SAO/ICO/FHF One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships for Ophthalmologists from SAARC Countries
The FHF grant supports one-year fellowships to ophthalmologists from South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; as well as other developing countries. Fellowship training will be in cornea, glaucoma, pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, oculoplastics and orbit, or retina. Fellowships in the SAARC countries are in conjunction with the SAARC Academy of Ophthalmology (SAO).

- Learn more about ICO International Fellowships at: www.icoph.org/fellowships
- For information about the FHF grant see: www.icoph.org/Fellowships-Announcement-2012.pdf
TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Working with committed partners, the ICO is improving the educational effectiveness of ophthalmology teachers by introducing them to principles of adult learning, curriculum development, teaching methods, and assessment tools. Collaborative efforts are creating beneficial educational opportunities and redefining the most effective ways to teach residents, medical students, subspecialty fellows, practicing ophthalmologists, and allied eye care personnel.

The ICO collaborates with the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) in developing curricula such as the International Core Curriculum for Refractive Error in 2011 and the International Core Curriculum For Ophthalmic Assistants in 2009.

By helping ophthalmic educators become better teachers, we will have better-trained ophthalmologists, eye care professionals, and better eye care accessible to more people worldwide.

Center for Ophthalmic Educators

In January 2012, the ICO launched the Center for Ophthalmic Educators (educators.icoph.org). At the Center, educators enhance their teaching skills with curricula, tips and tools, ways to collaborate, and more. Modern teaching and learning theories are presented along with the tools to put them into action.

The Center guides ophthalmology teachers in the construction of web-based courses; development and use of assessment tools; and applying evidence-based strategies to enhance adult learning. The Center also enables peers to collaborate and share ideas through its interactive feature, “Connections.”

The Center’s monthly newsletter, Ophthalmic Educators Letter, offers beneficial information for teachers, including an overview of new resources available in the Center. Sign up to receive the Ophthalmic Educators Letter at: educators.icoph.org/newsletter.php.

Selected Resources in the Center for Ophthalmic Educators:

• ICO Residency Curriculum Update

With the volunteer help of over 100 international subspecialists’ thoughtful input and review, the ICO has completed a major update to the 2006 Residency Curriculum. Sixteen international task force committees participated in the revision, which includes two new sections, Refractive Surgery and Community Eye Health. Also new is the addition of a “very advanced” level, which is geared towards education of the subspecialist.

The updated ICO Residency Curriculum offers an international consensus on what ophthalmology residents should be taught and provides a standardized content outline for ophthalmic training. Delivered online, it is intended to be translated and adapted, with the precise local detail for implementation left to each region’s educators. We hope the curriculum will be of enduring value for widely different regions regardless of nationality or culture.
• **Assessment Tools for Educators**

The ICO-Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric (OSCAR) is a standardized, internationally valid tool to teach and assess an ophthalmologist’s competence in performing surgery. The ICO offers OSCARs for Extracapsular Cataract Extraction, Phacoemulsification, and Small-Incision Cataract Surgery.

In 2012 ICO-OSCARs in Strabismus and Lateral Tarsal Strip were introduced, and three ICO-OSCARs were translated to Chinese. Selected ICO-OSCARs are also available in Spanish. ICO-OSCARs are available at the Center for Ophthalmic Educators or at: [www.icoph.org/ICO-OSCAR](http://www.icoph.org/ICO-OSCAR).

**Programs for Educators**

• **Residency Program Directors Courses**

The ICO’s Residency Program Directors Courses, organized since 2004, are held in different regions of the world and focus on methods of instruction, assessment, and measuring competence. The Residency Program Directors Courses are sponsored by the ICOFoundation, supported by The Allergan Foundation, and coordinated with national ophthalmologic societies. In 2012, the ICO offered residency program directors courses in Slovenia, ophthalmologic, and China.

• **Web-Based Teaching Courses for Ophthalmic Educators**

First offered in May 2012, the ICO’s Web-Based Teaching Courses for Ophthalmic Educators employ interactive engagement and individualized feedback from leading educators. They instruct medical teachers how to become more effective in the classroom and on the web using easy-to-implement multimedia skills.

![Dr. Rajvardhan Azad at the 2012 Conference for Ophthalmic Educators Busan, Korea](image-url)
• Conference for Ophthalmic Educators

The third Conference for Ophthalmic Educators was held April 2012 in Busan, Korea. Showcasing “New Techniques to Enhance Teaching and Learning,” the Conference offered participants hands-on experience through interactive plenary sessions and practical workshops demonstrating assessment principles and tools. Topics included design of assessment tools; implementation and achieving faculty cooperation; and a team approach to eye care. The Conference was organized and co-sponsored by the ICO, the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, and the Korean Ophthalmological Society.

Learn more about upcoming Conferences, or view webcasts from past conferences on the ICO website: www.icoph.org/ophthalmic-educators.html

• Eyexcel–Expanding Global Eye Care Workforce Through Excellence in Training

Teams from hospitals in India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh participated in the 5th annual Eyexcel meeting, July 17-20, 2012, at the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO) in Madurai, India. This unique course is designed to help facilitate the creation or enhancement of ophthalmic training programs to increase the availability of eye care.

The course is co-sponsored by LAICO, the ICO, and the Seva Foundation. Many of the resources covered at EyeExcel are available in the Center for Ophthalmic Educators.

ADVANCING LEADERSHIP

The ICO is building a “World Alliance for Sight” by supporting development of ophthalmologic societies and their leaders, as well as eye care organizations and teaching programs.

ICO MEMBER SOCIETIES

The ICO is composed of 118 national and subspecialty Member societies from all over the world. ICO Member societies are part of a dynamic and global community connecting the world’s ophthalmologists.

A primary commitment of the ICO is to stimulate and support communication and collaboration among ophthalmologic societies and ophthalmologists globally, particularly on initiatives to preserve and restore vision. Society membership dues support ICO programs in education, eye care, and leadership. For information on membership, please visit: www.icoph.org/membership.html.

Leadership Development/WORLD

Organizational development is one of the main emphases of the World Ophthalmology Roundtable on Leadership Development (WORLD) sessions that the ICO organizes at national and supranational society congresses.

WORLD brings together educators and leaders of ophthalmologic societies to hear stimulating speakers and exchange information and ideas with the goal of developing more effective organizations and programs for the enhancement of ophthalmic education and access to eye care. The theme of 2012’s WORLD meeting is: How Can We Build A World Alliance for Sight?
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

CHANGES IN ICO GOVERNANCE

To create a “World Alliance for Sight” and achieve our strategic objectives requires focused leadership and continuity. With that quality in mind, the ICO Board of Directors unanimously elected William Felch as Chief Executive Officer in May. Bill is a dedicated, knowledgeable professional who has the experience and capability necessary to lead our organization forward. Jean-Jacques De Laey, MD, Secretary General since 2006, will continue to provide strong leadership and direction as the ICO’s newly elected Vice President.

ICO BOARD AND COMMITTEES

The ICO is composed of the Board of Trustees, Advisory Committee, Task Forces, and other international Committees.

- Board and Advisory Committee: www.icoph.org/boardandadvisory.html
- Committees: www.icoph.org/committees.html
- Task Forces: www.icoph.org/task_forces.html

Collaborating Organizations
WHO
IAPB
AOI
INGOs

Supranational Organizations
APAO
MEACO
PAAO
SOE

Commitments
Education
Eye Care Delivery
Leadership and Society Development

Membership: The Global Ophthalmic Community
~88 National Ophthalmic Societies
~30 International Subspecialty Societies

ICO programs are supported by the ICOFoundation, Member organizations, and income from World Ophthalmology Congresses

WHO: World Health Organization
IAPB: International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness
AOI: Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis
INGOs: International Nongovernmental Organizations

APAO: Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
MEACO: Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology
PAAO: Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology
SOE: European Society of Ophthalmology
THE ICO IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

This year the ICO had three articles featured in scientific journals. The publications discuss ICO initiatives and educational programs, and highlight an ICO survey delineating a current and anticipated shortfall in the number of ophthalmologists worldwide, reinforcing the need to train teams of eye care professionals now.


WORLD OPHTHALMOLOGY CONGRESS® 2014

World Ophthalmology Congress® of the International Council of Ophthalmology

**Host:** Japanese Ophthalmological Society  
**Co-Host:** Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

- XXXIV International Congress of Ophthalmology  
- 29th Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Congress  
- 118th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Ophthalmological Society

Sign up to receive WOC2014 updates: [www.myregistration.net/woc2014_reg](http://www.myregistration.net/woc2014_reg)  
**WOC2014 website:** [www.woc2014.org](http://www.woc2014.org)  
[facebook.com/WOC2014](http://facebook.com/WOC2014)  
[twitter.com/WOC2014](http://twitter.com/WOC2014)

**Registration Opens April 2013!**

Mark your calendar to attend hundreds of scientific sessions led by internationally renowned experts; visit more than 100 exhibiting companies displaying the latest cutting-edge products and services; network with more than 10,000 attendees from over 120 countries; see Tokyo during the beautiful cherry blossom season.
ICO ONLINE LINKS AND RESOURCES

- ICO Website: www.icoph.org
- Center for Ophthalmic Educators: educators.icoph.org
- ICO Examinations: www.icoexams.org
- ICOFoundation: www.icofoundation.org
- ICO International Fellowships: www.icoph.org/fellowships
- World Ophthalmology Congress: www.icoph.org/WOC.html

News, Resources, and Events

- News: www.icoph.org/news.html
- Resources: www.icoph.org/resources.html
- Society Meetings and Ophthalmology Events: www.icoph.org/events.html

ICO Community

- Connections: www.icoph.org/connections.html
- ICO Community: www.icoph.org/community_members.html
- Membership: www.icoph.org/membership.html
- About the ICO: www.icoph.org/about.html

E-Newsletters

- Leader Letter: www.icoph.org/leader_letter.html
- Ophthalmic Educators Letter: educators.icoph.org/newsletter.php
- ICO Notes: www.icoph.org/ico_notes.html

Ophthalmologic Societies

A primary commitment of the ICO is to stimulate and support communication and collaboration among ophthalmologic societies and ophthalmologists globally, particularly on initiatives to preserve and restore vision.

- Societies: www.icoph.org/ophthalmologic_societies.html

ICO Member Society

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/InternationalCouncilOphthalmology
Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/IntlCouncilOph
IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION

ICOFoundation
The International Council of Ophthalmology Foundation (ICOFoundation) acts to support ophthalmic education, advocate quality eye care, and advance scientific ophthalmology through support of ICO programs.

With generous contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals, the ICOFoundation supports ICO educational programs such as the Teaching the Teachers initiative, which provides ophthalmic educators with access to the latest curricula, tools, and materials, leading to enhanced training and ultimately improved eye care worldwide.

Donations also support ICO activities in eye care, advocacy, and leadership. Donations directly sustain programs and doctors working to improve ophthalmological health on a global scale. The ICO is able to maximize our resources and keep administrative costs low because of our expansive network of volunteers, including ophthalmologists and other eye care providers. For information on the ICOFoundation and to make a donation, go to: www.icofoundation.org.

ICOFoundation 2011-2012 Donors

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Alcon Laboratories Inc.
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Carl Zeiss Meditec AG
Hoya Corporation
Japanese Ophthalmological Society
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Sear Family Foundation
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Mrs. Yasuo Tano, in memory of Dr. Yasuo Tano
Mr. and Mrs. David Taylor
Dr. and Mrs. Hugh Taylor
Dr. and Mrs. Mark O. M. Tso
Dr. and Mrs. Abhay Vasavada

After her ICO fellowship, Dr. Sola Olawoye (fifth from left at the University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria) returned to her home country, applying her acquired knowledge and skills in programs to preserve and restore vision.