Dear ICO Community,

We are delighted that the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) is celebrating our 160th year working to improve eye health worldwide. The roots of our organization date back to 1857, when ophthalmologists from 24 countries convened in Brussels for the first International Congress of Ophthalmology. Later re-named the World Ophthalmology Congress, it is the longest continuous international medical meeting.

In the years since, the ICO has grown to be the primary international body representing 158 national, regional, and subspecialty societies of ophthalmologists. We also work closely with professional ophthalmologic societies, non-governmental development and related organizations worldwide, and have an official relationship with the World Health Organization. Together, we are building a “World Alliance for Sight.”

Thanks to the dedication of the ICO Members and partners, we are proud of the impact we have been able to have and the important role we play in working to enhance ophthalmic education, increase access to high-quality eye care, and to preserve and restore vision around the world. I would also like to thank our Board, program directors, committee members, and volunteers for their outstanding work. Their hard work and commitment is very much appreciated and makes the whole enterprise possible.

Through generous contributions from ICOFoundation donors, the ICO can further enhance ophthalmic education and eye health. Donors are recognized in this publication and on the ICOFoundation website at: www.icofoundation.org. The success of the ICO is directly related to those who support our efforts.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the ICO. Best wishes,

Professor Hugh R. Taylor, AC, MD
President, International Council of Ophthalmology

ICO Highlights

ICO Member Societies include 108 National Societies, 7 Regional Societies, and 43 International Subspecialty Member Societies.

Over 1,000 ICO Fellowships have been granted to ophthalmologists from 84 low-resource countries.

More than 30,000 ophthalmologists have taken ICO Examinations at one of our 122 exam centers around the world.

Nearly 2,000 program directors and faculty have participated in ICO Residency Program Directors Courses.

ICO 2017–2020 Strategic Plan

In 2017, the ICO published our latest strategic plan covering the years 2017–2020. With an emphasis on outcomes, this plan will serve as an important guide as we continue our work to improve eye health around the world.

Valuable input was provided by Member societies and ICO leadership about how to best achieve our primary objectives. This resulted in a list of more than 90 possible initiatives. We then invited leaders to rate those possible initiatives and narrowed the list to the 16 initiatives that are included in the final plan. We invite you to download the ICO Strategic Plan Summary by visiting www.icoph.org/ICOStrategicPlan-2017-2020.
ICO Member Societies

The ICO is composed of 108 national societies, seven regional societies, and 43 international subspecialty Member societies. This global Member society network includes over 160,000 ophthalmologists and eye care practitioners, working together to share knowledge and increase access to high-quality eye care.

The ICO welcomed the membership of eight new ophthalmologic societies, as of October 2017:
- Albanian Ophthalmology Society
- Association of Ophthalmologists of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Dominican Society of Ophthalmology
- Honduran Ophthalmological Society
- Latin American Academy of Ophthalmology (LAAO)
- Salvadoran Association of Ophthalmology
- South East European Ophthalmological Society (SEEOS)
- Turkish Republics Ophthalmological Society (TROS)

To see a complete list of ICO Member Societies, please visit www.icoph.org/ico-members.

World Ophthalmology Congress®

Connecting Globally to Advance Eye Health

The World Ophthalmology Congress® (WOC) is held in a different region every two years and is a unique opportunity to connect with colleagues from all over the world. In June 2018, we invite you to join 15,000 fellow ophthalmologists from more than 130 countries at WOC2018 in Barcelona, Spain. You will gain an international perspective on the latest ophthalmic advancements and how to apply those innovations to your practice, all while experiencing the charming seaside culture of Barcelona. Revenues from the WOC support a wide range of ICO initiatives and programs helping to further our commitment to building a “World Alliance for Sight.”

WOC2018: Barcelona, Spain, 16–19 June 2018
Host: Spanish Society of Ophthalmology
Co-Hosts: European Society of Ophthalmology and Spanish Society of Implant-Refractive Ocular Surgery
Partners: Catalan Society of Ophthalmology and Barraquer Institute

Please also add WOC2020 and WOC2022 to your calendars:

WOC2020
- Cape Town, South Africa
  - 26–29 June 2020
  - Host: The Ophthalmological Society of South Africa
  - Co-Hosts: Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology and African Ophthalmology Council

WOC2022
- Melbourne, Australia
  - 26 February 2022
  - Host: Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
  - Co-Host: Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology

Learn more about the World Ophthalmology Congress by visiting www.icoph.org/woc.
The ICO Fellowships Program provides important opportunities for promising young ophthalmologists, primarily from low-resource countries, to improve their practical skills and broaden their perspectives of ophthalmology. Fellows bring this acquired knowledge and skills back to their home countries and take part in vital programs that preserve vision and prevent blindness.

To date, more than 1,000 ophthalmologists from 84 low-resource countries have been granted ICO Fellowships. Our network of host institutions includes 116 hospitals and universities across 32 countries.

The ICO is grateful to fellowship host institutions and to our donors for your generous contributions that make these opportunities possible.

Help us to expand our Fellowship Program by donating to the ICOFoundation at www.icofoundation.org.

More information on ICO Fellowships can be found at www.icoph.org/fellows.

98% found that their ICO Fellowship training is helping in their daily practice.

95% increased their knowledge and confidence when making decisions in their subspecialty.

90% of ICO Fellows report that they learned important new techniques for diagnosing, treatment, and surgery.

 ICO Fellowships Program

ICOFellowship opportunities for 84 low-resource countries

Applicants from low-resource countries whose societies are ICO Members, as well as applicants who pass one or more ICO Exam, receive special consideration.

ICO Three-Month Fellowships

These three-month fellowships are awarded twice a year to ophthalmologists from low-resource countries.

ICO-ECF Six-Month Fellowship

ICO and the Eye Cancer Foundation (ECF) offer six-month fellowships to candidates from low-resource countries on the diagnosis and therapy of retinoblastoma.

ICO-Fred Hollows Foundation One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships

These one-year fellowships for candidates from low-resource countries provide subspecialty training at a designated ICO Fellowship Training Center.

ICO-Retina Research Foundation Helmerich One-Year Fellowships

One year of subspecialty training is provided to young ophthalmologists from low-resource countries.

ICO-Allergan Research Fellowship

This fellowship allows the best young ophthalmologists (basic or clinical) from both developed and low-resource countries to continue research in one of eight subspecialties at the university of his or her choice, preferably in another country.
ICO Examinations

One of the ICO’s primary objectives is to promote excellence in eye care worldwide by encouraging individuals to acquire and maintain the highest standard of knowledge for the practice of ophthalmology. Our examinations in International Basic Science, Optics & Refraction, Clinical Sciences, and an Advanced examination leading to FICO are part of that initiative.

More than 30,000 ophthalmologists in 80 countries have taken ICO Examinations at one of our 122 exam centers around the world to evaluate their knowledge or to meet requirements in their countries to practice ophthalmology.

This year we have had 5,800 candidates take the exams, and for the first time our exams are now offered in Cameroon. A pilot program, implemented in conjunction with the All India Ophthalmological Society, is currently evaluating the feasibility of offering subspecialty examinations online.

The ICO’s Foundation Assessment revision tool is now available online free of charge for examination candidates whose national society is a member of the ICO, or for a small fee for nonmembers.

Exam reciprocity programs have also been established with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

To learn more about ICO Examinations, please visit www.icoph.org/exams.

Teaching the Teachers Initiative

As part of our strategic plan, the ICO is working to address the current and anticipated shortfall of ophthalmologists, particularly in low-resource countries, by stimulating and supporting the training of eye care teams led by ophthalmologists. These educational programs focus on assisting ophthalmic educators to become better teachers utilizing more effective, less expensive, and broader reaching educational offerings, resulting in better trained ophthalmologists and eye health professionals.

In 2017, our Teaching the Teachers Initiative reached a milestone by offering our 40th Residency Program Directors (RPD) Course which took place in Bogotá, Colombia. ICO RPD Courses are offered in collaboration with ICO Member societies and typically structured as two-day interactive workshops covering topics such as applying adult learning principles, teaching and assessing surgical skills, and developing curricula. Since 2004, 1,851 program directors and faculty have participated in ICO RPD Courses.

Dr. Enrique Graue, with the support of past ICO President Dr. Bruce Spivey and Dr. Bradley Straatsma, was instrumental in coordinating the first RPD course in Mexico City in 2004. Drs. Karl Golnik, Gabriela Palis, and Eduardo Mayorga currently oversee the courses, with key contributions from other faculty and local ophthalmologic society hosts.

Eyexcel 2017: The seventh Eyexcel course held at the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), in Madurai, India, was organized in partnership with LAICO and Seva Foundation. This highly interactive course focuses on the training of mid-level ophthalmic personnel. To receive notification about future Eyexcel courses, please sign up for the ICO Ophthalmic Educator Letter by visiting www.icoph.org/signup.

2017 RPD Locations

- Tunis, Tunisia
- Hangzhou, China
- Bogotá, Colombia
- Yaoundé, Cameroon
- Fortaleza, Brazil
Center for Ophthalmic Educators

The Center for Ophthalmic Educators is a key resource offered by the ICO in support of our goal to improve the quality of ophthalmic training around the world. Our educator programs work towards greater recognition of ophthalmic education as a distinct subspecialty of ophthalmology.

**Online ICO Educator Courses:** These courses are offered for free or at low cost, with an emphasis on the needs of educators in low-resource countries. In 2017, a new, self-led online course, Learning and Teaching Critical Thinking, was added to the ICO’s catalog of course offerings.

**ICO Ophthalmic Educator Sessions at Supranational Congresses:** In 2017, the ICO worked with supranational societies to organize ophthalmic educator sessions during the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) in Singapore, the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) in Barcelona, Spain, and the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) in Lima, Peru.

A Conference for Ophthalmic Educators was also co-sponsored with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) during their annual meeting. This session offered expert instruction, interactive workshops, and group discussion for educators of ophthalmology residents, fellows, medical students, practicing ophthalmologists, and allied ophthalmic personnel to learn about the latest tools and practice techniques of modern education.

**ICO-OSCARs for Vitrectomy and Trabeculectomy:** The newest rubrics for vitrectomy and trabeculectomy were published in 2017. 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-OSCARs are available for Extracapsular Cataract Extraction, Phacoemulsification, Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS), Strabismus, Lateral Tarsal Strip Surgery, Trabeculectomy, and Vitrectomy. Selected ICO-OSCARs are available in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese. This resource is available at [www.icoph.org/ico-oscar](http://www.icoph.org/ico-oscar).

**ICO-360° Assessment:** Finalized in 2017, the ICO 360° Assessment is a multi-source feedback tool to assess and provide feedback to residents regarding their competence in “soft skills” such as interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and system-based practice. This assessment was developed specifically for ophthalmology residents and is internationally validated. Learn more about this new resource at [www.icoph.org/360](http://www.icoph.org/360).

**ICO Curricula:** All ICO curricula are designed to be adapted and modified to meet local and regional needs, with precise detail for the implementing educators to determine. The ICO Subspecialty Curricula include aspects of modern curriculum design that complement the ICO Residency Curriculum.

In 2017, the ICO Residency Curriculum was translated and is now available in Russian as well as Chinese and Spanish. Additionally, a new curriculum for subspecialty training in pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus was finalized. To access the ICO curricula, please visit [www.icoph.org/curricula](http://www.icoph.org/curricula).

**Ophthalmic Educators Letter:** The monthly Ophthalmic Educators Letter highlights new resources, courses, upcoming events for teachers, and other relevant news. Sent to more than 4,000 educators as part of our efforts to support and improve ophthalmic education around the world, suggestions of resources to feature can be sent to educators@icoph.org. To view the archive of Ophthalmic Educators Letters or to sign up to receive this in your email inbox, please visit [www.icoph.org/signup](http://www.icoph.org/signup).
Advancing Eye Health

**ICO Guidelines**

**ICO Guidelines for Glaucoma Eye Care:** Endorsed by the World Glaucoma Association, these guidelines were created by the ICO in 2017 to offer health professionals a valuable and adaptable resource for diagnosing and treating glaucoma in high- or low-resource settings. In addition to English, translations are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

**ICO Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care:** These guidelines were updated in 2017. Designed to help ophthalmologists screen, detect, assess, and manage cases of diabetic retinopathy, the guidelines also encourage ophthalmologists to work with primary care providers and other specialists. They are meant to be adaptable and consider low-, intermediate-, and high-resource settings. The latest edition is available in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

These two important resources are offered to the ICO community free of charge. Download them from the ICO website by visiting [www.icoph.org/enhancing_eyecare.html](http://www.icoph.org/enhancing_eyecare.html).

**ICO Endorses Training Eye Care Teams to Meet Public Needs**

In 2017, the ICO published a position paper on the importance of training eye care teams. In order to achieve Universal Eye Health, we advocate that there must be a change in the mindset from purely clinical, institutional-based training for ophthalmologists to a team approach embracing all cadres. Eye health stakeholders must commit to training eye health teams so that all cadres receive adequate attention, training, and deployment within health systems of their countries contributing to accessible, affordable comprehensive eye health for all. Download this position paper by visiting [www.icoph.org/teams-position](http://www.icoph.org/teams-position).
ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Awards

The ICO Mark Tso Golden Apple Award is presented by the International Council of Ophthalmology for outstanding work in ophthalmic training and education. As part of our commitment to enhancing ophthalmic education, we recognize leading teachers from each region at supranational congresses every other year. Mark Tso was ICO Vice President from 1998—2006 and served as Director for Education until 2012. His dedication to ophthalmic education is honored through this award.

In 2017, the ICO recognized the following educators in their region:

- **Wagih Aclimandos, FRCS, FRCOphth, FEBO**
  Presented at the opening ceremony of the European Society of Ophthalmology meeting in June 2017 in Barcelona.

- **Lin-Chung Woung, MD, PhD**
  Dr. Woung is the President of the Ophthalmological Society of Taiwan. The award was presented at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) Congress in March 2017 in Singapore.

- **Rafael Sánchez Fontán MD**

ICO Updated Data on the Number of Ophthalmologists Worldwide

This past year, the ICO continued our work with national societies to produce the latest data on the number of ophthalmologists currently in practice or training in their countries. This was endorsed by World Health Organization (WHO) member states as one of the key national indicators for monitoring progress in implementing Universal Eye Health: a global action plan 2014–2019.

The ICO collected ophthalmologist data in 2010 and the article “The number of ophthalmologists in practice and training worldwide: a growing gap despite more practitioners” was published in the June 2012 issue of the *British Journal of Ophthalmology*. Publication of the current data is forthcoming.
ICOFoundation

With generous contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals, the ICOFoundation supports ICO educational programs such as the Teaching the Teachers Initiative and ICO Fellowships. Donations to the ICOFoundation also aid ICO activities in eye care, advocacy, and leadership. Donations directly sustain programs working to improve eye health on a global scale. The ICO is able to maximize resources and keep administrative costs low because of our expansive network of volunteers.

To make a donation to support the ICOFoundation or to learn about leaving a Legacy Gift, please visit www.icofoundation.org or contact us at info@icoph.org.
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The International Council of Ophthalmology gratefully recognizes the grants, gifts, and pledges from organizations, foundations, individuals, and corporations that make ICO Fellowships possible:

- Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis, Switzerland
- Aier Eye Hospital Group Ltd., China
- Austrian Ophthalmological Society
- CBM
- Children’s Eye Cancer Foundation (KAKS), Germany
- The Chinese Lifeline Express Foundation
- Mr. Joseph Cohen, United States
- Eye Cancer Foundation, USA
- The Fred Hollows Foundation, Australia and Pakistan
- German Academy of Ophthalmologists
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- Dr. and Mrs. Gottfried O. H. Naumann, Germany
- Oculus Optikgeräte GmbH, Germany
- Polytech AG, Germany
- Retina Implant AG, Germany
- Robert Ritch, MD, United States
- Rolf W. Schwiete Foundation, Germany
- Rotary Clubs in Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy, and Switzerland, under the leadership of Gabriel Minder, MSc, PhD, from Rotary Club Ferney-Voltaire, member of Rotary International Action Group for Blindness Prevention
- Rotary Club Nuremberg, Germany
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In Memoriam

Kathleen Miller
The ICO family mourns the loss of Executive Director Kathy Miller, who passed away on 20 April 2017. She passed peacefully in her home in San Francisco, California, surrounded by loved ones.

“Despite the battle she was fighting, Kathy maintained her positive spirit and sense of humor and was a superb leader and role model for the staff,” said ICO Chief Executive Officer Bill Felch.

Kathy began working with the ICO in 2010 as a consultant focusing on education and was named ICO Executive Director in 2012. Among many accomplishments, Kathy played a key role in development of the ICO Teaching the Teachers Initiative to improve ophthalmic education and meet the growing need for eye care worldwide.

Akira Nakajima
Past ICO President, Prof. Akira Nakajima, passed away on 16 June 2017, at the age of 93. “He was immensely wise and patient,” says Current ICO President Prof. Hugh Taylor, who worked with Prof. Nakajima for many years. “His contributions over time to ophthalmology cannot be overestimated.”

Prof. Nakajima began a reorganization and elevation of the ICO during his tenure as President (1990–1998), and he continued this service as an Honorary Life Member of the ICO Board. “Akira was an intense worker, inveterate traveler, and a kind individual,” says ICO Immediate Past President Dr. Bruce Spivey.

Prof Nakajima was President of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) from 1972 to 1976 and President of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis from 1988 to 1990. In acknowledgment of his contributions to ophthalmology, the ICO presented Prof. Nakajima with the Gonin Medal for outstanding work and research in 1986, and he received the José Rizal Medal from the APAO in 1987.

Peter Watson
Prof. Peter Watson, a clinician-scientist, was recognized internationally for his research. Prof. Watson and John Cairns revolutionized the practice of ophthalmology with their invention of trabeculectomy for the surgical treatment of glaucoma. His textbook on scleritis redefined the field and became the standard reference.

Prof. Watson was the ICO’s founding Director for Examinations, a role he held from 1995 to 2008. He served on the ICO Council and Board for 15 years, and he was also President of the Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis from 2006 to 2010.

In acknowledgment of his contributions to ophthalmology, the ICO presented Prof. Watson with the International Duke Elder Medal in 2002 and the Jules François Golden Medal in 2014.

Remembrances have described Prof. Watson as an excellent teacher, tireless in his charitable work, a great friend, a mentor, a fountain of inspiration, hospitality, and humor—and one of the giants on whose shoulders we are standing.
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• Download educational, leadership, and eye-care resources.

Translation of ICO Materials
Through the help of volunteer translators, the ICO offers its Guidelines, Curricula, ICO-Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric (OSCAR), and other resources in a variety of languages. Please contact the ICO if you would like to get involved.

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