Dear Colleagues,

The ICO has had a very eventful year. All of our programs and initiatives continue to grow and evolve thanks to the leadership and dedication of our many volunteers and the work of our small but effective staff. We had a wonderfully successful World Ophthalmology Congress in June and launched a new logo, identity, and Web site.

I hope you will enjoy reading about our accomplishments in this annual ICO Program Update. I am enthusiastic about our progress this year and optimistic about our plans for the future. I invite you to keep in touch and continue your support of the ICO as we pursue our commitment to “refocus” ophthalmic education, enhance eye care and advance leadership in ophthalmology.

With warm regards,

Bruce Spivey, MD, MS, MEd
ICO President
World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC) 2010

WOC 2010, June 5–9, 2010 in Berlin, was by all measures a great success. Total registration topped 13,000, including more than 10,000 ophthalmologists, with 145 countries represented. The scientific program was outstanding thanks to excellent planning and the participation of world-renowned speakers. We were treated to fantastic German hospitality in the exciting, historic, and beautiful city of Berlin.

- WOC registration fees support the ICO’s programs and prevention of visual loss initiatives. The WOC registration fee is, in effect, a pledge of support in the fight against visual loss. It is ICO policy that every attendee, including the ICO Board and all speakers, pay the registration fee. The only exception is for official representatives from ICO member societies.

- 30 WOC 2010 Presentations are available on the ICO Web site at www.icoph.org/woc2010webcasts. These presentations are available at no cost through support from the ICOFoundation.

- The World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium (WOEC) highlighted the importance of lifelong education with eight symposia on topics including residency education, new technologies for teaching and learning, training medical students, and subspecialty education.

- The third World Forum on Vision and Prevention of Blindness featured presentations from nongovernmental development organizations (NGOs) and ophthalmological societies on initiatives to preserve and protect vision around the world.

- ICO Awards and Medals given at WOC 2010 include the Gonin Medal: Alan Bird, MD (United Kingdom), International Duke Elder Medal: Mohammed Daud Khan, MD (Pakistan), Jules Francois Golden Medal: Gisele Soubrane, MD, PhD (France), ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award: Ursula Schlotzer-Schrehardt, PhD (Germany), and the G.O.H. Naumann Award: Adel Al Rushood, MD (Saudi Arabia).

- Travel Grants for Speakers from Developing Countries—The ICO provided 15 grants for a total of $22,500 to invited speakers from developing countries for whom the cost of travel and participation would have been a financial hardship.


The ICO worked with local hosts to offer its popular Residency Program Directors Courses in 2010 in Ankara, Turkey; Xian, China; Bogota, Columbia; and Hyderabad, India for approximately 150 residency program directors. These courses focus on methods of instruction, skills assessment, measuring competence and resident behavior. The courses are sponsored by Allergan.

The recently announced ICO Magrabi Cameroon Eye Center in Yaoundé, Cameroon will train local ophthalmologists and staff to become the next generation of leaders and will provide high quality services with subspecialties and outreach programs, minimizing the need to send patients abroad. The center will be supported by the Al Noor Foundation, the ICO and ICO Foundation, and the That Every Life May Count Foundation, with links to the department of ophthalmology at the University of Yaoundé and the Cameroon Ministry of Health.

The ICOFoundation also supports Regional Ophthalmic Training Centers in Nigeria (Regional Catholic Mission Hospital network coordinated with University Eye Hospital, Ibadan), China (Peking University Eli Lilly Diabetic Eye Disease Center), and Slovenia (Ophthalmology subspecialist training at University Eye Hospital, Ljubljana).

ICO/Alcon Regional Training Center, Slovenia
The ICO’s new Director for E-Learning, Eduardo Mayorga, MD, and his committee are planning to create online resources to complement existing ICO educational programs. The World Ophthalmic Residency Development (WORD) Web site (www.icoword.org) has been an important ICO e-learning tool since 2008. WORD offers resources for teaching and learning and a technology blog to enhance residency education.

New Conferences for Ophthalmic Educators will be held March 18–19 in Sydney and July 5 in Buenos Aires. The Sydney Conference is co-sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and will be held just before the APAO Congress. The Buenos Aires Conference will be co-sponsored by the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) and the Argentine Council of Ophthalmology in conjunction with the Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology. Anyone interested in ophthalmic education is invited to attend. There is no program fee, but participants will need to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

In April 2010, 1,990 candidates enrolled in the ICO Basic and Clinical Sciences Examinations at 65 test centers in 103 countries. There is a new Advanced Examination offered on October 21, 2010. An estimated 300 candidates are expected to take the new Advanced Examination in the first year. For more information on ICO Examinations, see www.icoexams.org.

The Peter Watson Award is given to the ICO Examinations candidate with the most outstanding performance on both the Clinical Sciences and the Basic Sciences Examinations. Dr. Moh’d Mah’d Abu Dab’at of Jordan is the first recipient of the Peter Watson Award (2010), which carries with it a special certificate and the right to an ICO Fellowship.

The ICO International Fellowship Program has now awarded more than 450 three-month Fellowships to ophthalmologists from developing countries. ICO Fellowships are available in 70 locations in 21 different countries.

- A three-part or “sandwich” Fellowship program is being tested by selected ICO Fellows.
- The Fred Hollows Foundation is supporting 16 three-month fellowships for young Pakistani eye doctors during the next three years for the training in pediatric and vitreo-retinal ophthalmology.
- ICO Fellowship Alumni and Hosts met in a reception at WOC 2010 in Berlin organized to encourage networking, further education and career development.
- The ICO Yasuo Tano Fellowship was established in 2010 to support one ophthalmologist each year from a developing country to complete a Fellowship in Japan.

The ICO/Alcon Ophthalmology Subspecialty Fellowships at the University Eye Hospital, Ljubljana, Slovenia, complement the shorter ICO Fellowships by offering one year of subspecialty training. This program is open to applicants from developing countries in Eastern Europe.

The Helmerich Fellowships provide advanced subspecialty training to ophthalmologists and help them transmit new knowledge upon return to their native countries. 2010 is the second year of this program, which is sponsored by the Retina Research Foundation in cooperation with the ICO Foundation. The deadline for applications is September 1 each year.

The new ICO Emergency Ophthalmology Handbook for Junior Residents and Medical Students, created by Susan Lightman, FRCP, FRCOphth and Peter McCluskey, MD, contains common ophthalmic emergency conditions and key ophthalmic disorders the ICO recommends be seen by residents and medical students. It is available on the ICO Web site: www.icoph.org/emergencyhandbook.

The ICO Allied Health Task Force worked with the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO) to provide the curriculum and training materials for allied health personnel, and has created a worldwide directory of allied health training programs. The International Core Curriculum For Ophthalmic Assistants was finalized in spring 2009.

Basic and Clinical Science Course for Developing Countries—The ICO and the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) again collaborated to distribute copies of the AAO’s Basic and Clinical Science Course to 200 residency programs in the developing world. 2010 is the third year of this partnership.
Free Access to AAO’s O.N.E. Network: The ICO and the AAO are working together to make the Academy’s Ophthalmic News and Education Network (O.N.E.™), http://one.aao.org, available free to ophthalmologists in developing countries. More than 16,850 ophthalmologists in 32 developing countries have been provided with access.

The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Task Force created a template for a continuing medical education credit system for use by societies in developing countries. The CME Task Force Visiting Professor Program 2010 visits are scheduled for Honduras and Cameroon, with plans for a third in Nigeria. A subcommittee chaired by Heather Mack, MD, is exploring an ICO accreditation mechanism for national and supranational society meetings.

The ICO Subspecialty Education Task Force seeks to enhance subspecialty training of ophthalmologists throughout the world. 2010 plans are to define curricula for glaucoma, pediatrics and oculoplastics.

EYE CARE

The ICO helps to define and share information on appropriate eye care. We support the establishment of a universal high standard of quality for ophthalmic professional services to improve access to affordable, quality eye care for all people worldwide.

At WOC 2010 in Berlin, the ICO hosted an Advocacy Luncheon to share information on international initiatives to increase support for eye care and to suggest how ICO “Advocates” and their societies can contribute most to enhancing eye care.

Estimating the Number of World Ophthalmologists:
To support implementation of the WHO Action Plan for the Prevention of Blindness and Visual Impairment, the ICO Advocacy Committee is working to obtain the best possible data on the number of ophthalmologists in practice and training in each country.

The ICO Task Force on International Clinical Guidelines organized Clinical Guidelines and Evidence-Based Symposia at WOC 2010 in Berlin. Plans for 2010 are to focus on wider dissemination of the Guidelines, including translations to more languages (in addition to Azerbaijani, English, Italian and Portuguese).

The School Eye Health Program, a project of the ICO Task Force on Uncorrected Refractive Error, Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), and Comprehensive Health and Education Forum (CHEF), with support from Light for the World (Austria) and Dark and Light (Netherlands), will initiate regular refractive services to identify and treat students with visual impairments in Pakistan and Nigeria.

The ICO and ICOFoundation donated $10,000 to the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology’s (PAAO) Haiti Relief Project in response to the earthquake there in early January 2010.
The ICO seeks to have a major impact on education and access to eye care worldwide by collaborating with other ophthalmologic societies, eye care organizations and teaching programs; and helping those organizations develop effective leaders and organizations.

LEADERSHIP

Clinical Research: A Primer for Ophthalmologists is a tool to assist beginning ophthalmic researchers. Written by ICO Director for Research, Alfred Sommer, MD, this simple outline, or “primer,” provides guidance to the essential components of clinical research and may stimulate readers to seek more detailed, formal training. It is available for download at www.icoph.org/researchprimer.pdf.

The ICO Standards Committee offers a report, Assessment and Rehabilitation of Vision-related Functioning, that complements previous Standards Committee reports: Vision Requirements for Driving Safety and Visual Standards—Aspects and Ranges of Vision Loss.

New ICO Identity and Web site: The ICO has completed the first phase of the ICO Identity and Information Technology Plan. The new Web site, www.icoph.org, will serve as a primary information hub for leaders, educators, and ophthalmologists, providing the latest news, helpful educational resources, and event listings. Future phases of the site may include discussion groups and an e-learning education center.


The ICO General Assembly is our biennial meeting of ICO member representatives, held at each World Ophthalmology Congress. At this year’s gathering in Berlin, we had an engaging discussion on the future of international ophthalmology and the ICO, strategic priorities for improving eye care and new horizons for ophthalmic education, in addition to a general business meeting. The next ICO General Assembly will be February 16, 2012 at WOC 2012 in Abu Dhabi.

The ICO has begun a new strategic planning process to suggest future directions for international ophthalmology and the ICO’s specific role. Starting at this year’s General Assembly, we engaged ICO Representatives in discussion, and we will continue to connect with ICO members and leaders of other ophthalmologic organizations on how we can all work together to enhance eye care worldwide.

New ICO Members for 2010 include the Bahrain Ophthalmological Association, Mongolian Ophthalmological Society, Congolese Society of Ophthalmology, American Ophthalmological Society.
(AOS), Pacific Eye Care Society (PacEYES), and the Retina Society. Many thanks to these new members and all ICO members for their support.

**New ICO leaders:** The ICO has elected six new members to the ICO Board of Trustees, six new members to the ICO Advisory Committee, and re-elected the current ICO Officers to a new four-year term. The ICO could not exist without the dedication of our volunteer leaders and we sincerely appreciate all of their support.

More than 70 WOC 2010 participants from Sub-Saharan Africa joined together at a meeting and reception of the Africa Ophthalmology Forum (AOF) June 6 in Berlin. Formerly the ICO/MEACO Advisory Leadership Group for Sub-Saharan Africa, the group is now an independent organization providing support and communication between members and leading the prevention of visual loss efforts in the region.

The **New ICO Task Force on Sub-Saharan Africa** will collaborate with the AOF to suggest ways that the ICO, European and other ophthalmological societies, and others can support efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The recently published *International Ophthalmology 1982–2007* tells the story of the last 25 years of the ICO and international ophthalmology. The book was written by ICO Immediate Past President G.O.H. “Fritz” Naumann, MD, with contributions from former Director for Fellowships Balder Gloor, MD, and former Director for Assessments Peter Watson, FRCOphth. A free online version is available at www.icoph.org/about.html.

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**ABOUT THE ICO**

The ICO is building a World Alliance For Sight. We work with ophthalmologic societies and others to enhance ophthalmic education and improve access to the highest quality eye care in order to preserve and restore vision for the people of the world. For further information, please see the ICO Web site: www.icoph.org.

**ICOFOUNDATION**

The International Council of Ophthalmology Foundation (ICOFoundation) was formed to advocate preservation and restoration of vision through education, quality eye care and research. To that end, the ICOFoundation seeks financial support for ICO programs to prevent, alleviate and eliminate visual loss. For more information, see www.icofoundation.org.