



UPDATE: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
DECEMBER 2007

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to present to you an update on the programs and initiatives of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO).

The listing below emphasizes activities since the Council's last meeting in Cape Town, March 2007. I hope it gives a sense of the great level of activity of the ICO and what we have been able to accomplish despite our limited resources, mostly through the efforts of ophthalmologists who volunteer their time and pay their own travel to ICO meetings.

While a considerable number of these activities are relatively new, you can find out more about the major programs and initiatives on our Web site at www.icoph.org. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them.

Best wishes.

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:: STRATEGY & STRUCTURE ::

THE ICO STRATEGIC PLAN: There is progress in every area of the Strategic Plan that we adopted in March, evidenced below. The ICO Strategic Planning Committee composed of the Officers and several others from the Council met November 6 - 7 in San Francisco to review progress on the Plan and discuss other directions for the future.

ICO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION: It is likely that after the World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC) in Hong Kong 2008, the ICO will have a somewhat reorganized structure responsive to the ICO's plans and programs. Additionally, the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS) will be asked to vote in Hong Kong to make IFOS the "Council, with the current Council becoming the Board.

ICOF FOUNDATION (ICOF) 2008 – 2010 PLAN AND LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION: ICO Foundation President Dr. Bradley Straatsma and others have defined a plan for the ICO Foundation to support and assist the ICO for the next few years, including a succession plan and financial expectations.

ICO FINANCES: Dr. Yasuo Tano has assumed all the responsibilities of ICO Treasurer and has evaluated 2007 ICO revenues and expenses. While the ICO is currently working within the budget approved by the Council in Cape Town in March of 2007, it will be a challenge to continue to operate at this level without additional financial support.

ICO ARCHIVES: ICO Archives from the last six to eight years have been transferred to the Medizinhistorisches Institut und Museum in Zurich, Switzerland where we have a part-time dedicated librarian working under the direction of Dr. Balder Gloor to catalogue and add to the initial material of four years ago.

:: NEW AD HOC COMMITTEES AND INITIATIVES ::

NEW TASK FORCES: With the increased focus of VISION 2020 on Uncorrected Refractive Error and Diabetes, it is incumbent for the ICO to develop a position for action or non-action regarding these two conditions, plus Glaucoma, which currently remains unaddressed. The names of the ad hoc committee members plus the charge to the committees are listed below:

- **Uncorrected Refractive Error**
 - Dr. M. Babar Qureshi (Pakistan): *Chair*
 - Dr. Wolfgang Gindorfer (Germany): *Secretary*
 - Dr. Moses Chirambo (Malawi)
 - Dr. Rainald Duerksen (Paraguay)
 - Dr. R. Pararajasegaram (Geneva)
 - Dr. R.D. Thulasiraj (India)
 - Dr. William Astle (Canada)

- **Exploratory Task Force on Glaucoma**
 - Dr. Ivan Goldberg (Australia)
 - Dr. Colin Cook (South Africa)
 - Dr. Paul Foster (United Kingdom)

Charge: To evaluate unmet needs for vision services worldwide and propose principles, models and systems for meeting those needs.

Charge: To consider: "Are there credible screening or treatment programs for Glaucoma that could be launched in developing countries?"

- Dr. Ronnie George (India)
- Dr. Daniel Grigera (Argentina)
- Dr. Dennis Lam (Honk Kong)
- Dr. Joao Lopes (Chile)
- Dr. Choka Melamed (Israel)
- Dr. Wang Ningli (China)
- Dr. Harry Quigley (USA)
- Dr. Serge Resnikov (Geneva)
- Dr. Robert Ritch (USA)
- Dr. Ravi Thomas (Australia)

- **Tertiary Care Equipment**
 - Dr. Abhay Vasadava (India)
 - Dr. Catherine Cross (United Kingdom)
 - Dr. Hannah Faal (the Gambia)
 - Dr. Kunle Hassan (Nigeria)
 - Dr. Richard Le Mesurier (Australia)
 - Dr. James Standefer (USA)

Charge: To recommend what ophthalmic equipment would be desirable and necessary for a regional tertiary care eye department in a developing country.

WORLD: To help develop future ophthalmologic leaders, we have initiated a World Ophthalmology Roundtable on Leadership Development (WORLD). The first two meetings of the Round table occurred earlier in 2007:

- February 2007 (Lahore, Pakistan) in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (36 ophthalmologists from 16 countries)
- March 2007 (Dubai) with the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology (25 ophthalmologists from 11 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa).

We are planning a larger WORLD forum prior to the IFOS General Assembly in Hong Kong, June 27, 2008, and are exploring how to incorporate WORLD into the ICO Web site.

WORLD OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY DEVELOPMENT (WORD) ONLINE FORUM AND RESOURCE CENTER: At the recent ICO Course for Residency Program Directors in Buenos Aires, Dr. Eduardo Mayorga and Dr. Gabriela Palis proposed that the ICO develop a Web site where program directors and others can exchange information and resources (particularly educational methods and materials) related to enhancing residency training. Drs. Mayorga and Palis will lead this exciting new venture.

:: MAJOR ICO PROGRAMS ::

BASIC AND CLINICAL SCIENCES ASSESSMENTS: The transition of leadership from Dr. Peter Watson to Dr. David Taylor, to be completed in 2008, is proceeding smoothly, and an office site in London has been selected. The most successful 2007 Assessments were completed on April 12, 2007 with 1647 candidates enrolled at 92 test centers in 61 countries. The 2008 Assessments will be held on April 10 (application deadline: January 31).

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS: The leadership transition from Dr. Balder Gloor to Dr. Peter Gabel is complete. Dr. Gabel and Fellowship Administrator Maria Steger have revised and improved the Fellowship forms and application process and are

putting together a greatly expanded list of Fellowship hosts. Since 2001, we have awarded more than 250 Fellowships to ophthalmologists from developing countries.

CLINICAL GUIDELINES: Using the American Academy of Ophthalmology guidelines, Dr. Richard Abbott is implementing the use of the Chinese version throughout China over the past two years. He is also consulting with the ophthalmologists of Korea and India on development of clinical guidelines. There are 19 ICO International Clinical Guidelines available at www.icoph.org/guide.

STANDARDS: Dr. Gus Colenbrander is expanding his report on “Assessment and Rehabilitation of Vision-related Functioning” with additional information on the means and methods of assessment for consideration by ICO Standards Director Dr. Tero Kivela and approval at the upcoming WOC in Hong Kong.

ADVOCACY: Dr. Hugh Taylor’s Advocacy Committee is focusing on:

- developing a brief presentation for IFOS Representatives to deliver at their society’s Congresses and information for ophthalmic publications so that “every ophthalmologist in the world understands what the ICO is and does.” Dr. Taylor heads this effort with the support of ICO Executive Director William Felch.
- naming Regional Advocacy Coordinators to represent the ICO at regional meetings of the World Health Organization and to stimulate and support advocacy within their regions.
- asking national ophthalmological societies to name an “advocate” to work with the ICO on advocacy. We will have a luncheon meeting of advocates in Hong Kong at the 2008 WOC.

:: EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCES ::

A huge amount of activity continues under the leadership of Dr. Mark Tso:

AJO EDITORIAL ON CURRICULA: In May 2007, the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* published Dr. Tso’s “Perspective” article on the earlier publication in *Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde* of the four International Curricula for Ophthalmic Education developed by ICO Task Forces.

MEDICAL STUDENTS: The ICO now offers on its Web site more than 200 images and a dozen lectures for medical students cited in the Curriculum for Ophthalmic Education of Medical Students. The images were donated by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and Dr. Susan Lightman, Chair of the ICO Task Force on Medical Student Education, contributed the lectures.

RESIDENCY TRAINING: Also revised is the Web site version of Curriculum for the Education of the Ophthalmic Specialist. Dr. Andrew Lee is assembling a task force to draft guidelines (i.e., proposed minimal requirements) for residency training designed to be adapted for use around the world.

SUBSPECIALTY EDUCATION: Advisory Committee Member Dr. Richard Collin has agreed to chair the Task Force on Ophthalmic Subspecialty Education, which will focus initially on working with subspecialty societies to define principles and guidelines for training in ophthalmologic subspecialties.

ALLIED HEALTH EDUCATION: Dr. William Astle's Task Force on Para-ophthalmic Vision Specialist Education is evaluating the curriculum and developing programs on training of allied personnel, including symposia at the 2008 WOC.

:: SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA ::

ADVISORY LEADERSHIP GROUP FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: The ICO and Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology asked participants in the WORLD meeting in Dubai to join an ongoing Advisory Leadership Group to advise us how we can contribute most to strengthening ophthalmology in Sub-Saharan Africa. The participants in Dubai decided to form five working groups:

Equipment and Materials for Training and Practice

Chair - Dr. Mansur Rabiou, Nigeria

Society and Professional Development

Chair - Dr. B.G.K. Ajayi, Nigeria

Enhancing Residency Education

Chair - Prof. Andries Stulting, South Africa

Subspecialty Development

Chair - Dr. Stephen Akafo, Ghana

Advocacy for Increased Support for Eye Care

Chair - Dr. Grace Chipalo-Mutati, Zambia

The Coordinating Committee for the ICO/MEACO Advisory Leadership Group is composed of the working group leaders listed above, plus:

- Dr. Daniel Etya'ale (Switzerland): *Chair*
- Dr. Abdulaziz AlRajhi (MEACO President, Saudi Arabia)
- Dr. Dan Kiage, Kenya
- Dr. Amel Ouertani (MEACO Vice President, Tunisia)
- Dr. Bruce Spivey (ICO President, USA)

At a second meeting of the Advisory Leadership Group (jointly sponsored by the ICO, MEACO and the ICOFoundation) in Nairobi, Kenya on October 27 - 28, 2007, the working groups defined long-term and short-term objectives and action plans to achieve them. A sixth working group was formed to develop a leadership training program for members of the Group.

NIGERIA FOLLOW-UP AND ZEISS TRAINING CENTER: Nigeria has been the focus of considerable effort by the ICO, including providing (with the ICOFoundation) hardware for six residency resource centers with broadband Internet connections.

The medical school in Ibadan (UCH) was selected as a site for the Carl Zeiss Training Center. We have been deeply involved in assisting the training of a faculty at Aravind and LV Prasad.

There is also a Carl Zeiss training center in Moshi, Tanzania with which we have some involvement. The fourth site is likely to be in Tunis, Tunisia and a determination will be made soon. The first Zeiss site is in Indonesia, and the fifth site will be in the Western Pacific.

SENEGAL: Because of the commitment of Dr. Akef El Maghraby, a regional training center is being planned for Dakar, Senegal. Under the overall leadership of Dr. Bradley Straatsma, Daniel Etya'ale, Dr. Akef El Maghraby and Mr. David Green are heavily involved in the planning and initial implementation of this West Africa Francophone training center.

:: RESIDENCY & SPECIALTY TRAINING: CENTERS & PROGRAMS::

COURSE FOR RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTORS, FEBRUARY, NAIROBI: Under the leadership of Dr. Karl Golnik and with a core faculty of Drs. Andy Lee, Tony Arnold, Alfredo Sadum, Tetsuro Oshika, JP Dunn, Richard Harper and Amel Ouertani, there have been six Residency Program Director's Courses, held in Mexico, Peru, Egypt, Pakistan, Argentina and Brazil. Supported by the ICOFoundation, Allergan and Alcon, the Courses have been highly successful, leading to significant enhancements in residency training. Credit must be given to Dr. Enrique Graue who proposed the general format and organized the first Course in Mexico.

Two Residency Program Director's Courses are being planned for 2008, one for all Program Directors or Department Chairs in Sub-Saharan Africa and one for Eastern Europe at the end of September. There are initial plans for a Course in Indonesia in March 2009, with others to follow. We are adding international faculty to provide wider availability for this highly sought after Course.

ADDITIONAL NEW REGIONAL TRAINING CENTERS:

- **Peking University Eli Lilly Diabetic Eye Disease Center**
The Eli Lilly Foundation has provided a \$US 150,000 grant through the ICOFoundation for a regional training center and public education program in diabetes. The Peking University Eli Lilly Diabetic Eye Disease Center was launched in Beijing, China on March 20, with Professor Zhizhong Ma as Director.

Lilly made an additional grant of \$35,000 to the ICOFoundation for the development of a companion diabetes education program. The Aravind Eye Health Care System is consulting with the new Diabetic Eye Disease Center on the development of this educational component. If this program is successful, there may be one or more to follow in other sites.

- **Alcon Training Centers**
The ICO has received a commitment through the ICOFoundation to support the development of two regional training programs similar to

those outlined for Senegal. It is our intention that the first be in Eastern Europe, and the second site is yet to be determined.

COUNTRIES WITH MINIMAL OPHTHALMIC PRESENCE: Dr. Jacob Pe'er is working aggressively to define countries we should target for ICO assistance, as well as training programs who can take primary responsibility for identifying and training ophthalmologists in those target countries with very few or no ophthalmologists. At this point, Dr. Pe'er is focusing on:

- Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland in southern Africa
- Portuguese-speaking Timor L'Este in Southeast Asia and Guinea-Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe in Africa
- Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Samoa in the Pacific.

:: SOCIETY RELATIONS ::

RELATIONSHIPS WITH SUPRANATIONAL SOCIETIES: The ICO's relationships with supranational societies are a key aspect of its present and future plans and success. We have met with the boards or leaders of the societies listed below in a very cordial and open dialogue. Most have expressed a clear desire to engage actively in mutual planning and programmatic implementation:

- Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO)
- Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO)
- Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO)
- European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE)

The Afro-Asian Council of Ophthalmology (AACO) has been informed that it does not currently fit within ICO Policies and Guidelines for a supranational organization status, as they have fundamental problems in their Articles and Bylaws (e.g. the three top officers all must come from Egypt), and the organization mainly focuses on organizing a Congress every two years. The AACO has indicated their desire to make an effort to achieve compliance.

SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLANNING: ICO Executive Director William Felch facilitated a strategic planning session for MEACO in June 2007 and for the Ophthalmological Society of Eastern Africa (OSEA) following the Advisory Leadership Group meeting in October. The ICO, MEACO and ICO Foundation are also supporting OSEA strategic planning. The formation of subregional societies like OSEA can be an excellent model for organizing ophthalmologists in countries where there are not enough ophthalmologists to support a national society.

DUES FOR IFOS MEMBERS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: ICO Secretary General Dr. Jean-Jacques De Laey and William Felch are working to define a more equitable dues system for IFOS members in developing countries. The ICO has recommended a change in the Statutes that will allow the Board to define the system. We are hoping to offer payment by credit card.

IFOS (ICO) MEMBER RECRUITMENT: Dr. Jean-Jacques De Laey and William Felch are also working on a plan to recruit members to IFOS, including more subspecialty societies with an international scope and national societies that are not currently members.

THE ICO DATABASE OF OPHTHALMOLOGIC SOCIETIES AND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS:

Marlene Verlaeckt, who is now working with Dr. De Laey, has offered to update and maintain the ICO's database of ophthalmologic societies and residency programs. Societies are asked to check and revise their listings, as described at <http://www.icoph.org/soc/database.html>. Residency programs should contact national societies to make updates.

:: CONGRESSES ::

WORLD OPHTHALMOLOGY CONGRESS (WOC):

- **WOC 2008: Hong Kong** - A successful meeting appears assured on June 28 to July 2, thanks to Dr. Dennis Lam and his team on the ground in Hong Kong and the tremendous leadership of Dr. Stephen Ryan and Clement Tham in creating an outstanding scientific program. Dr. Mark Tso has organized a very exciting World Ophthalmic Education Colloquium and Dr. Bradley Straatsma a second World Forum on Non-Profits.
- **WOC 2010: Berlin** – Drs. Gerhard and Gabriele Lang are far advanced in their planning and are comfortably in control for the 2010 Congress, which will be June 5 – 8 in Berlin.
- **WOC 2012: (Site to Be Determined)** – Because of the realities and policies of both the ICO and AAO, we agreed not to try to organize a WOC 2012 in Chicago. We have invited MEACO to host the 2012 Congress, and they have proposed Dubai as the site. We are drafting on an agreement for the Congress prior to ICO approval.
- **WOC 2014: Tokyo** – Dr. Yasuo Tano has pre-planning for this Congress well in hand. It is tentatively scheduled for March 30 to April 3rd, which is cherry blossom time.

The Strategic Planning Committee at its meeting in November recommended that the ICO take on greater responsibility for management of the WOC and assuring continuity from one Congress to another. In November, the organizers of these WOCs met with our Industry Liaison Committee to let sponsors and exhibitors know our plans and hear their suggestions.

CO-SPONSORED CONGRESSES: We have met with several of the supranational societies to discuss co-sponsorship of one of their Congresses (not a WOC). These would be in odd years (2009, 2011, 2013) and at a distance from our scheduled World Ophthalmology Congresses.

- **2009: MEACO/Bahrain** – There are preliminary plans for the ICO to co-sponsor the Tenth International Congress of the Middle East African Council of Ophthalmology, which will be March 26 to 30, 2009 in Bahrain.
- **2011: APAO/Sydney** – We hope to reach agreement with the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) and Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) to co-sponsor the 2011 APAO Congress in Sydney, but there has been no decision to date.