



IFOS / ICO NEWS *letter*

IFOS/ICO Newsletter

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President's Message



International ophthalmology has a long history dating back to ancient times. In 1857 the first International Congress of Ophthalmology was held in Brussels. The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) was established in 1927 in Scheveningen/Netherlands. The "International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies" (IFOS) was formed in 1933 in Madrid/Spain. Only in the last 50 years through the initiative of personalities like Duke Elder, Francois, Maumenee and Nakajima a truly global network of international ophthalmology has developed. The International Federation of Ophthalmic Societies (IFOS) has been officially registered in Zurich in the summer of 1998. The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) is only the Executive Body of IFOS and the four officers are only the Executive Committee of ICO. May this newsletter help to develop a dynamic relationship to reduce avoidable blindness around the world.

Secretary General's Message



Bruce E. Spivey, MD

The International Council of Ophthalmology serves as the Executive Body of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies. The Council members are drawn widely, representing all areas of the world, including various supranational organizations (Pan American, European, Asia-Pacific, Pan Arab African and Afro-Asian). The challenge to communicate and inform the leadership, let alone the members of the national ophthalmologic societies who comprise International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies, is difficult and daunting. Clearly, the new potential of communications through fax and internet, make this a less technically demanding task. Yet, leadership changes with many international organizations, the lack of infrastructure in the various national organizations and the various times through out the year when leadership changes occur, make contact with the appropriate individuals a problem and thus communication difficult.

With the inauguration of this newsletter, we hope to do a far better job in communicating ideas, plans, programs and opportunities to the IFOS membership, as well as utilize this space for international initiatives for the Preservation and Restoration of Vision. We will post this newsletter on our web site (www.icoph.org) and hope to communicate most of this to you through the internet. We would encourage each international society to determine at least one individual who can receive communications through the internet and is willing to monitor the web site.

As stated above, the difficulty in communication, particularly when the International Federation of Ophthalmological societies meets only every four years, requires creative and dedicated individuals on both ends of the communications equation. We pledge to do our best, and we would appreciate your passing on this information to your leadership, and we hope, to as many of your members as possible.

What are ICO, ACICO and IFOS and how are they connected to Individual Membership Of National Ophthalmological Societies.

The "International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies" (IFOS) currently 102 member societies and its Executive Body the "International Council of Ophthalmology" (ICO) are committed to reduce avoidable blindness by education in the broadest sense of the word. In the past, International Congress every four years, development of international standards, recognition of outstanding achievements by awards such as the Gonin, Duke Elder and Francois Medal have been the visible tools. Today IFOS/ICO are committed to a joint effort with World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), the Non-Government Organizations and local government, to intensify the training of ophthalmologists in the developing countries. Industrialized countries have set as their goal to devote 5% of their teaching capacity to this purpose. This involves retired teachers, twinning of individual ophthalmologic institutions and national societies in the effort to fuse private interest and public passion and make global and international ophthalmology the fourth pillar of academic departments of ophthalmology. Around 150.000 ophthalmologists (eye MDs, eye Physicians, Oogarts, Augenarzt etc) are encouraged to "think globally and act locally" (Club of Rome). Advisory committee to ICO (ACICO) helps ICO to achieve its mission.

Prof. Dr. G.O.H. Naumann
President

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on behalf of **International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies**

NEWSLETTER

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Ophthalmology
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Asia Pacific Academy of
Ophthalmology
6. Dr. G.O.H. Naumann - President
7. Dr. Bruce E. Spivey - Sec.
General
8. Mr. Peter G. Watson
9. Dr. P.N. Nagpal
10. Ms. Wendy Ovaitt-AAO



Dr. Akira Nakajima
Immediate Past
President and Hon.
President for life

IFOS Meeting at Amsterdam CONGRESS

Secretary General

The then President ICO Dr. Akira Nakajima of Japan convened the meeting of national representatives to the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS) on 23rd June, 1998 at Amsterdam. Following a report by treasurer Dr. Balder Gloor, of Switzerland and Secretary - General Dr. Bruce E Spivey of the United States, reports regarding the Basic Science Assessment Test and the evolving Clinical Science Assessment Test were heard.

Following the report by the Congress organizers for Sydney 2002, the organization accepted the invitation from Brazil, to hold the XXXth Congress in Brazil, 2006.

There was an enthusiastic reception of the reports on twinning of academic organizations, regional IFOS meetings and support for professors teaching in needed areas after mandatory retirement.

A complete revision of the statutes and regulations of IFOS, the ICO, and its awards at congresses was made and adopted. IFOS is now registered in compliance with the Swiss law. Special thanks were given to Drs. Balder Gloor and Bradley Straatsma for their work on this activity.

Particular emphasis was paid by the incoming president, Dr. G.O.H. Naumann of Germany, regarding the intent that industrialized countries should maintain 5% of their training capacities for students from developing countries. An election of the new officers and members was held. The list is appended (Page 5). The next meeting of IFOS will be in Sydney, in April 2002.

"Supranational" News

Pan American Association of Ophthalmology is meeting at Orlando this year in conjunction with AAO. The dates are 24th-27th Oct, 1999.

Dr. Juan T. Verdaguer - Chile

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The XII Congress of the Societas Ophthalmologica Europea meets on June 27 to July 1 1999 in Stockholm, Sweden. For information visit <http://www.congrex.com/soe99>.

The 17th Congress of the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, another large event, meets in Vienna, Austria on 5-8 September 99. Information can be found on <http://www.esrcs.ie>

Those who feel that scientific research is the key to future progress should go to the meeting of EVER, the European Association for Vision and Eye Research at Palma de Mallorca, Spain from 6 to 9 October. More than 600 young and not so young researchers will exchange results and hypotheses while profiting from the last summer days in the Mediterranean. Info-<http://www.ever.be>

Prof. L. Missotten,
Belgium

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Pan Arab African Council of Ophthalmology (PAACO) met at Cairo from 1st-5th March, 1999 and was attended by over 2500 eye surgeons of that region.

The next meeting is at Labanon 16th-20th March, 2001.

Dr. Akef El Maghraby - Saudi Arabia

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Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology met at Manila from 7th to 10 March and was a very successful meeting.

Its next meeting will be in 2001

Dr. S. Selvarajah - Malaysia

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The 12th Afro-Asian Congress of Ophthalmology will take place on Nov. 11th-15th, 2000 at Guangzhou (Canton), China, Dr. Lezheng Wu is making arrangements for the same.

Dr. A. Siam
Egypt

Twinning Of Institutions And National Societies

*Dr. Frank Billson
Member ACICO*

On Feb, 18 1999 the World Health Organisation (WHO) and a broad coalition of International, Non-governmental and Private Organisations launched in Geneva a global initiative "Vision 2020 : The Right to Sight". The objective of the new initiative is to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020 and so reduce global burden of blindness which currently affects an estimated 40-45 million people worldwide.

The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) through its constituency of International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS) and The International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and its task force and partnership of participating International Non Government Development Organisations (INGDO) are supporting this initiative. One of the strategies through which support can be given is twinning.

Twinning is defined in the Concise Oxford Dictionary as "the formation of closely related pairs". The term is used mainly in a biological sense and has the connotation of growing together and commitment over an extended period of time.

As ties between nations have become closer it has become common practice for cities and towns to "twin with each other in order to compare their systems of government and organisations. This has led to greater understanding, more rapid exchange of information, considerable material advantage and in many cases changes of practice for the better. The International Council of Ophthalmology believes that equal benefit can come from sustained mutual contact between individuals, eye departments, academic institutions or societies whether these are within cities already twinned or on a much wider basis.

There are already a number of examples where twinning has been successful in mobilising human and material resources to the mutual benefit of the institutions involved. For further information :

Website : www.eye.usyd.edu.au/twinning

E-mail : icotwin@mail.eye.usyd.edu.au.

Fax : 612 9382 7318

ICO Website - How we can take advantage of it

Mr. William Felch -- U.S.A.

Website Designer

The website of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) offers leaders of ophthalmologic organizations a variety of information and resources related to ophthalmology and eye care around the world.

Please visit the site at www.icoph.org and let us know how you think could it be improved.

The ICO site offers :

- a forum/discussion group where ophthalmologic society leaders can ask questions and discuss issues with colleagues from around the world (please stop by this forum at www.icoph.org/soc/socdis.html and say hello!)
- information on the International Congress of Ophthalmology, other international ophthalmologic meetings and educational resources, including the ICO's International Basic Science Assessment and its new Clinical Sciences Assessment.
- information on national and international programs and resources related to the preservation and restoration of vision and prevention of blindness around the world.
- links to information and resources for developing more effective organization, covering subjects such as : leadership development, membership recruitment, strategic planning, communications and marketing
- a list of Council members, the Advisory Committee to the ICO, and IFOS representatives from each country
- news of international eye care and the ICO
- information and resource for individual ophthalmologists and the public
- links to other eye care resources and Web sites.

You may also want to visit the new site for the 29th International Congress of Ophthalmology at www.opthalmology.aust.com. The Congress is scheduled from April 21 to 26, 2002 in Sydney, Australia.

The Advisory Committee to the International Council of Ophthalmology (AC-ICO).

Dr. J. J. De Laey
Chairman ACICO

In 1983 Dr. Maumenee suggested the creation of an Advisory Committee to the ICO, consisting of responsive "younger" representatives of world ophthalmology. This idea was approved by the ICO and the first meeting of the ACICO took place in San Francisco on October 4, 1985 just prior to the ICO meeting. Since then the ACICO meets annually. This committee was chaired by Dr. B. Spivey, who became in 1994 the ICO Secretary General and was replaced as chairman of the ACICO by Dr. De Laey. The first ACICO members were P. Amalric (France), T. ffytche (UK), G. Krieglstein (Germany), K. Shimizu (Japan), J. Verdaguer (Chile), Xun-Chaun Ji (China), A. Zayed (Egypt.)

It was the intention that the ACICO should provide the ICO with suggestions and programs that stretch across international boundaries. Such suggestions can also be made directly to the various ICO committees e.g. on education, on prevention of blindness, on standards. The ACICO could be considered as an independent think tank which amongst others, could discuss topics which, for one reason or the other, may still be too controversial to be debated in an official forum such as the ICO. The suggestions given were adopted or rejected by the ICO. Advice can be given at the initiative of ACICO or requested by the ICO. Examples of initiatives taken or issues supported by ACICO in recent years are the followings :

1. The Basic Science Assessment Test in Ophthalmology was initiated by Mr. P. Watson, chairman of the Education Committee of the ICO. The test is now taken by over 1.000 residents in ophthalmology each year all over the world. The ACICO also supported the idea of an International Clinical Science Assessment test in Ophthalmology which was introduced in 1998.

2. A document on Twinning of Academic Institutions was drafted by Dr. Billson, discussed at ACICO meetings and adopted by the ICO at its meeting in 1998.

3. A document on guidelines for Continuing Medical Education was prepared by Dr. D. Hoskins and approved at the 1999 ACICO meeting. It will be submitted to the ICO at its next meeting.

4. The situation of allied health personnel was analysed for Africa by Drs. Abiose and Hartani and for India by Dr. Nagpal. ACICO wishes to obtain this information of the role of allied health personnel in ophthalmology all over the world and make recommendations to the ICO based on the analysis of the situation.

5. Prevention of avoidable blindness is a major concern of ACICO and of ICO. Members of ACICO currently report on the situation in their region. Recent reports concern Latin America (Dr. F. Contreras), Eastern Europe (Drs. Vassilieva and Zagorski), Africa (Drs. Wade, Abiose and Yaya), India (Dr. Nagpal).

The ACICO intends to further reflect on various problems in world ophthalmology and to make proposals to the ICO. Its commitment to prevention of blindness is illustrated by the fact that its meetings are regularly attended by Dr. Pararajasegaram, president of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and that the WHO is represented in the ACICO by Dr. B. Thylefors.

Current composition of ACICO :

Chairman	J.J. De Laey
Regional representatives	
Western Europe	T.J. ffytche
Eastern Europe	Z. Zagorski
Latin Europe	R. Brancato
North-Africa and Middle East	D. Hartani
Africa	G. Yaya
China	Zi Lang Li
Asia Pacific	Y. Tano
Latin America	F. Contreras
North America	H.D. Hoskins Jr.
Advisors :	
NGO representatives	F.A. Billson A. Sommer
WHO representative	B. Thylefors



Peter G. Watson
FRCS, FRCOphth,
Chairman
Education Committee
ICO

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY BASIC AND CLINICAL SCIENCE ASSESSMENTS FOR OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

The Council firmly believes that ophthalmologists wherever they practice their speciality are required to have the same theoretical knowledge of the sciences relating to their subject. It is only by acquiring this knowledge that they can fully understand the advances which are happening with such speed in ophthalmology.

To ensure that there was some adequate method of deciding whether an individual had acquired this knowledge the Council has established a Basic Science Assessment and a Clinical Sciences Assessment. These test the theoretical knowledge through multiple-choice questions set by an international panel. They do not set out to assess practical skills or training and, therefore, cannot be used alone as accrediting examinations.

The Assessments are undertaken in the candidate's own country, but they are marked centrally. The standard of the Assessments is intentionally high, is scored by an international panel and is independent of any local influences.

In 1999 916 candidates from 44 countries applied to take part in the Basic Science Assessment and 186 applied to take the Clinical Sciences Assessment. Different countries and institutions use the Assessments in different ways. Some countries expect all those in residency programmes to take the Assessments in order to ensure that they achieve a high level of knowledge at different stages during their training and others use them as a path to exemption from other examinations. Candidates also use the acquisition of the Assessments as a guarantee that they have reached a high standard of theoretical knowledge when applying for posts. The Assessments also enable those in training in countries which have no facilities for testing to have the same opportunity as those in countries which have well developed examination systems.



Alfred Sommer
MD, MHS
MEMBER ACICO

Global Ophthalmology and the Global Initiative

Commitment to protecting vision and preventing blindness stands at a critical juncture. The World Health Organization, in partnership with 20 voluntary, professional and governmental agencies, has launched the Global Initiative to Eliminate Avoidable Blindness by 2020.

We in the ophthalmic community are challenged to identify our role and demonstrate our commitment to a goal that is, after all, our *raison d'etre*. While all ophthalmic diseases

are important, poorer developing countries deserve special attention as they contain fully 90% of the cases of blindness for which solutions already exist.

Three of the four major causes of readily avoidable blindness, vitamin A deficiency/measles, trachoma and river blindness, will largely be solved by public health approaches benefitting from ophthalmic guidance. The single largest cause of blindness, cataract, will only respond to our unique surgical skills. Our challenge is to organize our profession's global resources so as to make those skills available to all who can benefit from them.

Given low quality surgical outcomes in some countries, and inefficiencies and shortages of surgical staff in others, our unique contribution may lie in expanding training and educational opportunities, combined with the development of innovative, cost-effective and efficient approaches to delivering cataract surgical services in resource-constrained communities.

To meet this challenge, we must find new ways to mobilize, coordinate and harness the rich technical resources of our profession. "International ophthalmology" can no longer rely on the casual nature of our existing confederation of national societies meeting once every 4 years for learned discourse and social interaction. The "global village" spurred the "Global Initiative". The Global Initiative deserves a more vigorous response from global ophthalmology than we and our organizations have been prepared to provide in the past. The International Council is actively engaged in pursuing new directions and identifying innovative responses to meet these challenges.

Future Congresses- When & Where/ Inviting Invitation for 2010 & 2014 - Secretary General

The Congress sites for 2002 (Sydney, Australia) and 2006 (Brazil - either Sao Paulo or Rio de Janeiro) have been selected. The dates for Sydney, Australia are 21-26 April 2002. The exact dates for Brazil have not yet been determined.

In an attempt to hold the International Congresses variously around the world, there is presently a cycle of three : the Americas (most recently Toronto in 1994), Europe and Africa (most recently Amsterdam in 1998), Asia, including Australia (Australia in 2002). The cycle begins again in the Americas (Brazil in 2006).

The general cycle would indicate that the next meeting should be in Europe or Africa in 2010 (we have initial invitations from Berlin, Germany and Barcelona, Spain for 2010, as well as India). There is also an invitation from India for 2014. If your national society is prepared to offer an invitation and would be responsible for creating the infrastructure supporting an International Congress, please contact the President, Gottfried O.H. Naumann (naumann@augen.med.uni-erlangen.de) or the Secretary-General, Bruce E. Spivey (bspivey@cccure.org).

There is also initial discussion regarding holding the International Congresses in conjunction with the supranational organizations, such as the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology, the European Society of Ophthalmology, the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology and the Pan Arab African Council of Ophthalmology, or Afro-Asian Society of Ophthalmology. There will be more discussion about this in future newsletters.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

The 28th International Congress of Ophthalmology took place at Amsterdam, Netherland from June 21-26 1998.

The following features are worth noting.

- 3.500 participants from 120 countries
- 450 posters on 23 various subjects in ophthalmology
- 57 courses on various subjects
- 120 major sessions on a variety of topics in ophthalmology
- 100 travel grants given
- 18 Flying Tulips from developing countries

A.F. Deutman MD
President,

XXVIIIth International Congress of Ophthalmology

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The 29th International Congress of Ophthalmology will be hosted by our Australian Colleagues.

The Congress will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from Sunday 21 to Friday 26 April, 2002.

The Scientific Program will befit a World Meeting of Ophthalmology with a quality and range that will include Cornea and External Disease, Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Oculoplastics and Orbit, Strabismus and Paediatric Ophthalmology, Glaucoma, Inflammatory Diseases, Neuro-ophthamology, Retina, Contact Lenses, Public Health and Prevention of Blindness, Oncology, Pathology, Epidemiology and Genetics and Molecular Biology.

There will be extensive teaching courses and "wet labs" and a feature of the program will be a Live-Televised Surgical Session. The International Speciality Societies and their programs will be integrated into the main meeting and this proposal has met with a very encouraging response.

The Industry Exhibition will be held over an area of 20,000 square metres which is linked directly to the Convention Center. The whole complex is within easy walking distance of the central business district of the City of Sydney.

Over 4000 rooms have been reserved ranging from budget style hotels to world-class accommodation. Seventy-five percent is adjacent to the Center.

The Social Program will include the Opening Ceremony and reception on the Sunday evening and an Official Congress Party for all physicians and their guests on Wednesday 24th April.

The Sydney Opera House will be the venue for Tuesday evening and negotiations are under way for performances by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Australian Opera or the Australian Ballet.

Pre and post Congress Tours will be arranged to the Great Barrier Reef, Out back Australia, and the many other internationally known tourist regions of Australia.

Dr. Peter Hardy Smith, Congress President

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PANAMA
Honorary Life Member

Sir John Wilson, CBE
ENGLAND



Bradley R. Straatsma
President AOI MEMBER ICO

News From Academia

Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis

Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI) is a 50 members (chairs) organisation of Peers who have devoted their life time to the progress of ophthalmology. It meets every year along with International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO).

The Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis (AOI) participated as a co-sponsor with the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) in the Nile Meeting, Egypt, on February 24-28, 1999. Utilizing the professionalism of all participants, the draft International Ophthalmology Strategic Plan presented a mission statement, identified 6 goals that require sustained activity, and benefited from volunteers among the meeting participants who agreed to specific follow up responsibilities and schedules.

During the subsequent Vth International Congress of The Pan Arab African Council of Ophthalmology (PAACO), convened under the President, Dr. Akef El-Maghraby, AOI members participated in the International symposium on Blindness Prevention. Dr. Straatsma represented the AOI in the Opening Ceremony and the symposium on "Diagnosis and Management of Uveitis and Ocular AIDS" was sponsored by the AOI and the International Uveitis Study Group with Chairpersons : Dr. Rubens Belfort, Dr. Gabriel Coscas, and Dr. Khalid Tabbarra.

Further discussion of the international ophthalmology strategic plan draft report is scheduled for a joint meeting of the ICO and AOI in Orlando, Florida, on October 23, 1999. This meeting is planned in conjunction with an AOI meeting in Orlando on October 24 and a joint meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology in Orlando on October 24-27, 1999.



Dr. Balder B. Gloor
Treasurer I.C.O.

THE REVISED STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETIES (IFOS) AND OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY (ICO)

Revised Statutes of "The International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies" (IFOS) had been approved unanimously by the General Assembly of IFOS during the last International Congress in Amsterdam on June 23rd 1998.

Because ICO, the executive committee of IFOS, went into active business taking care of standards in education and organizing Basic and Clinical Science Assessment Tests during the last years, it became mandatory to be prepared against liability suits e.g. of candidates disagreeing with the obtained results. Official registration had to be attempted and therefore the statutes had to be revised.

Before the General Assembly in Amsterdam the matter of the International Federation was regulated by three loosely connected Statutes : 1st thoses of the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO), 2nd thoses of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies (IFOS) and 3rd thoses of the International Congress of Ophthalmology. Additionally Bylaws of the Congress and the Regulations of Awards existed.

To merge the Statutes of IFOS, of ICO and of the Congress was the most logical step. The revised "Statutes of the International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies" are now regulating also the matters of the International Council. Details of Organisation of ICO, of the Congress and for Distribution of the Awards are layed down in "Regulations".

The content of the revised Statutes doesn't differ greatly from the old one, but legally conform with the Swiss Civil Code. The Council remains the executive committee of the Federation. The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Federation (IFOS). The General Assembly of IFOS consists of the delegates of the National Societies and of the members of the Council. One fifth of the delegates, or if one fifth is more than 15, also not more than 15 delegates have the right to let the president convoque a general assembly. The General Assembly has a non-transferable right to revoke the Council members at any time. Matters of liability are laid down : The liability of IFOS is restricted to the assets of the society and each affiliated society is not liable for the obligations of the Federation beyond its due subscription. Except for their wrongful acts or omissions in violation of their statutory powers or of legal provisions, the Council members, Federation delegates or their agents are not liable for the obligations of the Federation.

After the revised Statutes were approved by the general essembly and signed by all the council members in Amsterdam, IFOS was registered at the Commercial Register of Zurich, Switzerland, as a Society following Swiss Civil Code August 27th 1998.

With a short historical Introduction the old and new Statutes and Regulations will be published and sent to all the delegates, the members of the Council and the Presidents of the national societies.

Best wishes from



A subsidiary of

For Starting

IFOS/ICO NEWSLETTER

To Increase International Communication in Ophthalmology

Makers of **VISCOMET***



THE 'BEARING' OF OPHTHALMIC SURGERY