



For Immediate Release

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### **World Council of Optometry and American Academy of Optometry Announce Joint Education Meeting in 2019**

St. Louis, MO and Orlando, FL USA (December 19, 2017) – The World Council of Optometry (WCO) and the American Academy of Optometry (Academy) will be co-hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry in conjunction with the Academy meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida, USA at the Orange County Convention Center. The meeting will feature joint CE tracks and will take place October 23-28, 2019. Thousands of optometrists, optometry students and other eye care professionals from all over the world will have the opportunity to receive first-class education with discussions and lectures led by distinguished speakers and world-renowned optometrists.

In conjunction with the Academy meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry will build on the excitement of the annual Academy meeting and continue the tradition of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Biennial World Congresses held in Medellin, Colombia in 2015 and Hyderabad, India in 2017, respectively. Information on all aspects of the meeting will be available in the future at [www.worldcongressofoptometry.org](http://www.worldcongressofoptometry.org) and [www.aaopt.org](http://www.aaopt.org).

As in past World Congresses, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry will serve as the global platform where practitioners, students, researchers and educators will share expertise and engage in the development of the future of the profession. The Congress will have two principal tracks: Scientific and Educators. The specially designed Educators' track of the Congress will offer lectures, workshops and poster presentations maximizing the opportunity to advance the optometric education agenda across the world and will support the sustainable development of highly needed human resources. The Scientific track of the Congress will provide a rich and diverse programme of lectures, symposia and clinical workshops complemented by poster presentations, video and photography covering a spectrum of significant themes.

The Academy's 98<sup>th</sup> annual meeting will feature a wide array of clinically relevant CE courses and cutting-edge research in the clinical and vision sciences. Attendees can choose from over 250 hours of lectures and workshops, Section and Special Interest Group symposia, hundreds of scientific papers and posters, and several memorable social events. Attendees will also have access to learn about the latest optometric products and services in the exhibit hall.

"The Academy is very excited to announce our partnership with the WCO on our joint 2019 meeting in Orlando. The cutting-edge and diverse educational program coupled with Orlando's world-class attractions will make for a truly exciting meeting," said Dr. Joseph Shovlin, Academy President.

In 2019, the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress will showcase the latest advances in vision sciences, research in optometry, optics and contact lens cutting-edge technology, recognizing the United States as a world benchmark in vision sciences. Also, our partnership with COPE-approved Continuing Education Credit providers in the United States will ensure that the academic standards for the conference and workshops meet the highest and most widely recognized global education quality standards.

“We recognize that the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry, in conjunction with the Academy meeting, will be an excellent platform where we share, learn, strategize and plan together for the future of optometry worldwide. We invite you to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry and Academy meeting in Orlando, Florida and work with us to make this event the largest and most recognized optometry meeting in the world for 2019. Together, we will do great things!” remarked Dr. Scott Mundle, WCO President.

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### **About the World Council of Optometry (WCO)**

Founded in 1927, the WCO is a professional association with thousands of members. Its vision is of a world where optometry makes high quality eye health and vision care accessible to all people. To achieve its vision, the WCO’s mission is to facilitate the development of optometry around the world and support optometrists in promoting eye health and vision care as a human right through advocacy, education, policy development and humanitarian outreach. The WCO’s dedicated volunteers provide leadership, strength and guidance and form the foundation of the organization through its Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Education, Legislation, Regulation & Standards, Membership and Public Health Committees.

Celebrating its 90-year anniversary in 2017, the WCO now collectively represents more than 200,000 optometrists in more than 60 countries through almost 300 affiliate, country, corporate and individual memberships across six world regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Latin America and North America. The WCO is the only optometric body in official relations with the World Health Organization.

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### **About the American Academy of Optometry (AAO)**

The American Academy of Optometry enhances excellence in optometric practice by fostering research and disseminating knowledge in vision science through its journal, Optometry and Vision Science, and the continuing education presented at its annual meeting. Fellows of the Academy are committed to the premise that learning is a lifelong obligation of a professional, as is the commitment to expand the profession’s knowledge base through ongoing fellowship and exchange.

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