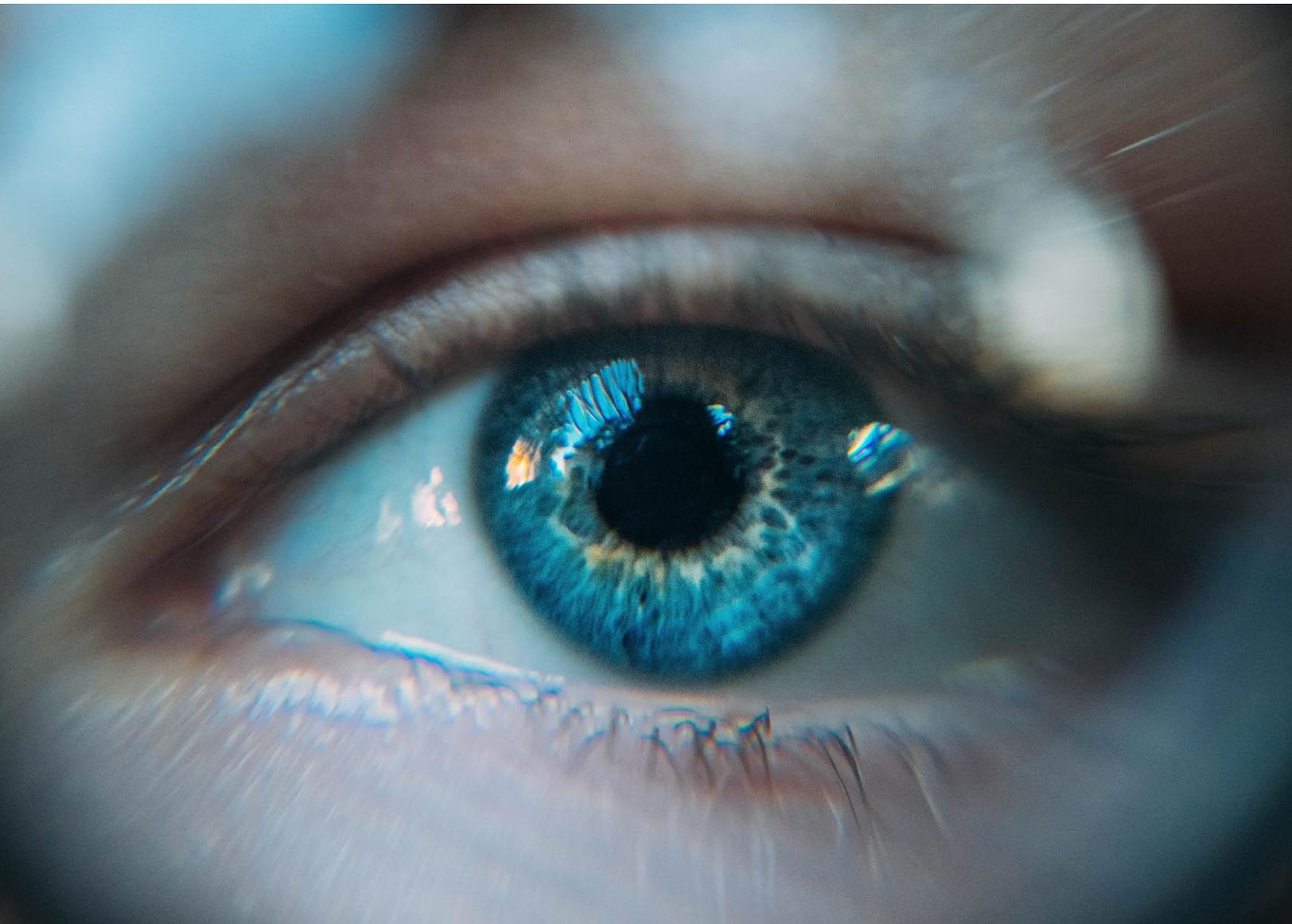




WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

*Advocacy | Education | Policy Development
Humanitarian Outreach*



BIENNIAL REPORT 2016-2017

Contents

OUR VISION.....3-4

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES.....5

WCO CONCEPT OF OPTOMETRY.....6

WCO ORGANIGRAM.....7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.....8

REGIONAL REPS. & WCO STAFF.....9

COMMITTEES.....10-12

PRESIDENTIAL REVIEWS.....13-15

OUR PARTNERS.....16

STRATEGIC PLAN.....17

2ND WORLD CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY.....18-19

WORLD OPTOMETRY FOUNDATION (WOF).....20

WCO FINANCIAL INFORMATION.....21

WCO MEMBERSHIPS & COMMUNICATIONS.....22

COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....23

REGIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....24-26

LOOKING AHEAD.....27

Our Vision



The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international optometric association founded in 1927. The WCO represents over 200,000 optometrists in more than 60 countries, through almost 300 Country, Affiliate, Corporate and Individual Memberships across six world regions. Our vision is of a world where optometry makes high quality eye health and vision care accessible to all people. Our 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 human outreach.



We are committed to promoting established, we work towards improving optometry worldwide, providing optometric services and expanding the scope of practice. We support the development of a network for exchanging ideas and innovation. We serve as a forum for member organisations to respond to public health needs and opportunities around the world. In the changing world of optometry, we act as a unifying voice encouraging the launch of international projects and services that meet the needs of patients, optometrists and the optometry industry. In countries where optometry is well

Primary Objectives

- **Enhancement** and development of primary eye and vision care by optometrists
- **Provision** of support to aid programs directed at providing eye care and vision care to societies in need
- **Promotion** of high standards of education and practice while promoting international coordination of optometrists
- **Promotion** of the advancement of the science of optometry

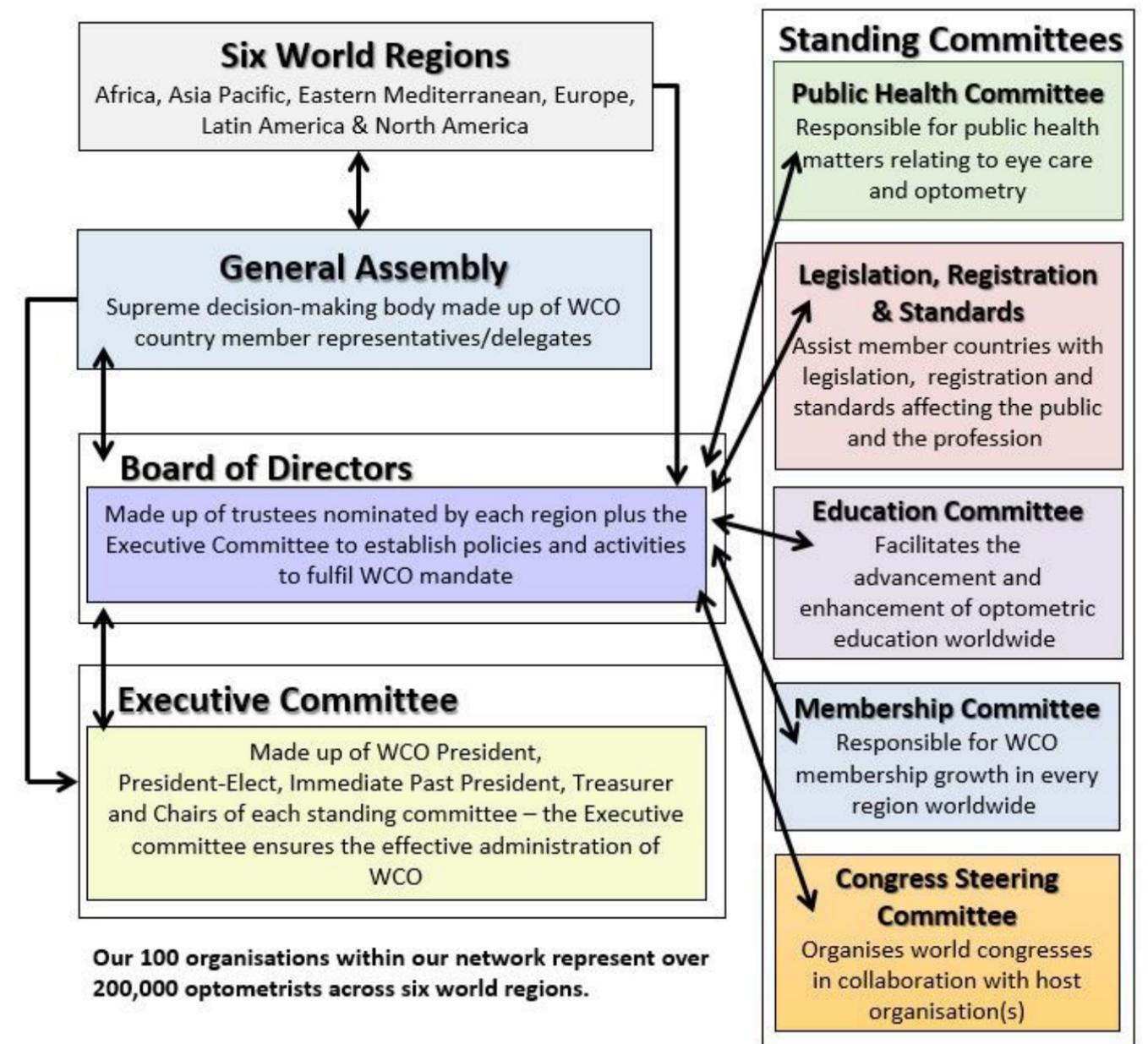


WCO Concept of Optometry



Optometry is a healthcare profession that is autonomous, educated and regulated. Optometrists are the primary healthcare practitioners of the eye and visual system who provide comprehensive eye and vision care that includes refraction and dispensing, detection/diagnosis and management of disease in the eye and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system.

WCO Organigram



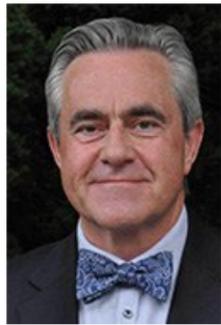
Board of Directors

The [Board of Directors](#) is comprised of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Committee Chairs and representatives from each region worldwide: Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Latin America and North America.

Executive Committee



President
Dr. Scott Mundle,
Canada



President-Elect
Mr. Paul Folkesson,
Sweden



Immediate Past President
Dr. Uduak Udom,
Nigeria



Treasurer
Dr. Peter Kehoe,
USA



Education Chair
Prof. Peter Hendicott,
Australia



Legislation, Registration & Standards Chair
Mr. Nigel St. Rose,
Trinidad and Tobago



Membership Chair
Dr. Susan Cooper,
Canada



Public Health Chair
Dr. Sandra Block,
USA



Congress Steering Chair
Prof. Kovin Naidoo,
Australia

Regional Representatives

African Council of Optometry (AFCO)



ANGUYO DRALEGA UGANDA
RICHARD MAVENKA ZIMBABWE
PATRICK MAWILA SOUTH AFRICA

Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO)



CARMEN DICHOSO PHILIPPINES
VICTORIA LAW HONG KONG

Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO)



HASSAN AWADA LEBANON
YOUNIS DOUDIN JORDAN
ALI MIRZAJANI IRAN

European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO)



JESUS GARCIA POYATOS SPAIN
CHRISTIAN STEBLER SWITZERLAND
CINDY TROMANS UNITED KINGDOM

Latin America (ALDOO)



RICARDO BRETAS BRAZIL
ALVARO ALCALA PEREZ MEXICO
JUAN VAZQUEZ PUERTO RICO

North America



PAUL GENEAU CANADA
ROGER JORDAN USA
STEVEN REED USA

WCO Staff



Managing Director

Susan Chiles,
M.A.

The WCO Managing Director is the chief administrative officer of the WCO who assists the Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors in fulfilling the organisation's mission to facilitate the enhancement of eye and vision care worldwide via education, humanitarian outreach and policy development. The Managing Director reports directly to the President and is accountable for the day-to-day operations of the organisation including membership, communication, governance, finance and fundraising.



Marketing Communications Specialist

Garryn Marlen,
M.A.

The WCO Marketing Communications Specialist supports the work of the Managing Director and the Board of Directors. The role ensures that WCO membership, marketing communications, events and meetings are effectively supported and expanded. This includes membership marketing, communication, responding to membership inquiries, posting on social media and the WCO website, the development and distribution of the WCO bi-monthly E-News and other forms of communication.



PASSION LED US HERE

Committees

Education

The Education Committee is responsible for advising the Board of Directors of ways in which the WCO can facilitate the advancement and enhancement of optometric education worldwide. The committee does this by advising the Board of Directors on matters relating to:

- Engagement with members and other education and training institutions internationally;
- The establishment and promotion of educational priorities for the WCO;
- WCO's contribution to continuing education, training and continuing professional development;
- The promotion of the Globalisation Model to develop common standards of qualification and to facilitate the international free movement of professionals; and,
- The development of international accreditation of qualifications.

Legislation, Registration & Standards

The Legislation, Registration & Standards Committee is responsible for advising the Board of Directors on ways in which the WCO can assist member countries with legislative and registration matters affecting the public and the profession. The committee achieves this by:

- Developing, maintaining and reviewing scope of practice online surveys, and analyzing and disseminating the results;
- Supporting the biennial World Congress of Optometry featuring international experts who address the human resources, economic, interdisciplinary and educational dimensions that link globalisation to public health; and,
- Advising the WCO Board of Directors on the development and implementation of international clinical practice standards.

Committees

Membership

The Membership Committee is a rejuvenated WCO committee reformed in 2017 and is responsible for recruitment and retention of WCO members. The committee will accomplish this by:

- Developing membership-building programs and increasing member communication and engagement;
- Making recommendations to the Board of Directors on activities to promote and retain membership.
- Developing and overseeing the implementation of survey tools such as membership needs assessments and satisfaction surveys;
- Advising and making recommendations to the Board on any issue relating to member needs and benefits;
- Partnering with other committees as appropriate on matters of common interest;
- Reporting to the Board at least quarterly or more often as required on membership committee activities; and,
- Reviewing current methods of determining fees and handling of unpaid dues/fees on an annual basis and making recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Public Health

The Public Health Committee is responsible for advising the Board of Directors on public health matters relating to eye care in general and optometry. The committee achieves this by:

- Advising the Board of Directors on the WCO's official relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO) and providing information to the WHO as needed;
- Guiding the Board of Directors on ways the WCO can work on projects and forge alliances with other organisations in support of Vision 2020: The Right to Sight and other vision related projects;
- Directing the development, maintenance, review and dissemination of the WCO public health, resources and guidelines;
- Making recommendations to the Board of Directors on the potential for major studies of populations in support of the [WHO's "Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-2019"](#) and Vision 2020 including the prevalence of vision impairment and associated refractive error, and the use of corrective spectacles in school children; and,
- Developing and implementing training programs in Public Health and Advocacy relevant to WCO members.

PAST: Immediate Past President's Review



Immediate Past President

Dr. Uduak Udom

Since serving my term as WCO President from 2015 to 2017, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many dedicated and committed optometrists and eye care professionals around the world. This opportunity has provided me with a deeper insight as to the differences and similarities of our profession in the various countries around the world.

The WCO celebrated its 90-year anniversary in 2017, and a 90-year logo and press release was published commemorating this special event in March 2017. Celebrations continued at the 2nd World Congress of Optometry in Hyderabad, India, including the launch of the new WCO logo at the Governing Board Awards Dinner. The new WCO website was also launched in early 2017.

Throughout my presidency and beyond, the WCO has focused our efforts on advocacy to improve the access and levels of eye care globally to allow optometrists to make significant contributions. Over the past two years, we sent letters of support to Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Italy, Lebanon, the Philippines and Iran. Immediately following the 2nd World Congress, the WCO, in collaboration with the Brien Holden Vision Institute, conducted an Advocacy Workshop with attendees from all six WCO regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, Europe, Latin America and North America.

The WCO also co-submitted an advocacy letter with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to the consultation on the United Nations High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth in April 2017. The WCO is well represented in IAPB work groups, which aims to help members collaborate more effectively to pursue collective strategies, as well as to facilitate the exchange of knowledge,

expertise and good practice around important eye health and related issues.

From 2015 to 2017, either I, Dr. Scott Mundle, or both of us represented the WCO at many global meetings: IAPB 10th GA in Durban, South Africa and IAPB in Beijing, China, the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO) and European Academy of Optometry & Optics (EAOO) in Berlin, Germany, the Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO) in Beirut, Lebanon, and Latin America, the Asociacion Latinoamericana de Optometria y Optica (ALDOO) in Medellin, Colombia, the American Optometric Association (AOA) in Washington, D.C., USA and the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) in Ottawa, Canada.

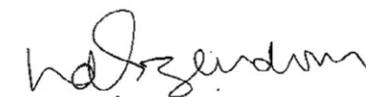
The WCO is the only global optometric organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Sandra Block represented the WCO at the initial meeting on the World Report on Vision meeting in Geneva, September 2016. Subsequently, I was appointed a member of the Advisory Committee for the World Report on Vision and have since completing my term as WCO president, been contributing to the report which, at present, is in draft stage. Following submission of two papers to WHO on human resource in optometry, I was invited to participate in the meeting of the WHO International Expert Consultation on the development of Human Resources for Eye health which held on September 25 and 26, 2017 at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. The final report on the WCO-WHO Collaboration Plan: 2015-2017 was submitted in June 2017 and work on the next collaboration plan will begin early in 2018. With input from the Public Health committee, the WCO also participated in the review of the WHO TARES (Tool for the Assessment of Refractive Error Services). Moving the WCO to the USA necessitated adhering to new regulations governing non-profit organizations. This required changes to our Articles of Association and By-laws, and it was decided this would also be an opportune time to do a full governance review of the WCO. This process began in early 2017 and will be completed in 2018. As members, you will be kept fully apprised as this process continues.

PRESENT: PRESIDENT'S REVIEW

The WCO Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the World Optometry Foundation all work hard on behalf of the WCO and its members. The WCO accomplishes a great deal for our profession on a minimal budget. It is only with the dedication and many hours given by our volunteer board and committee members that this is possible. We have a great team and I offer them my heartfelt gratitude for their support in the past, currently, and in the future. I thank you all so much for your support, and for

the opportunity to serve. Many, many thanks to the wonderful team of the EC, the Board and office staff I was privileged to work with.

Respectfully submitted,



UDUAK CHRISTABEL UDOM, O.D., MPH, FNCO, FAAO
WCO IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT 2017-2019
WCO PRESIDENT 2015-2017

PRESENT: President's Review



**President
Dr. Scott Mundle**

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve the WCO as President-Elect from 2015-2017. Since our 1st World Congress of Optometry in Medellin, Colombia, much has transpired; some of it positive, some of it challenging. It began with our move from London, UK to St. Louis, Missouri, USA in the fall of 2015. The American Optometric Association (AOA) has been a gracious and generous host to us. They have been stellar in helping us set up our office, and we greatly appreciate their ongoing support.

I was appointed as the WCO's representative to the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and have attended meetings in Bahrain (May 2016) and Dubai (April 2017). Much like the learning curve for the WCO, the IAPB curve is quite steep, but having the WCO background has given me perspective on the value of history and relationships in the international politics of our profession and its place in the broader public health world. I was pleased to accept my appointment as WCO President in Hyderabad, India in September 2017.

Working together, WCO Immediate Past President, Dr. Uduak Udom; WCO President-Elect, Mr. Paul Folkesson; Managing Director, Ms. Sue Chiles and myself have communicated regularly to stay on top of current issues and trends affecting our members.

I represented the WCO on behalf of Dr. Udom at the 1st Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO) Conference on Optometry in May 2016 in Beirut, Lebanon. While EMCO is our "youngest" region, I am impressed with its organization and passion for optometry. EMCO has invited the WCO Board of Directors to hold our next Board meeting in Marrakech, Morocco in September 2018 during the 2nd EMCO Congress, and we have accepted this generous invitation.

I would like to thank the entire Executive Committee for its support now and going forward, and especially to Dr. Susan Cooper for her timeless energy, dedication and friendship. We could not

Once we were settled in the USA, I chaired the Executive Director Search Committee and after an extensive search, an Executive Director was hired, who served from January-July 2016. After a further search, we are pleased that Ms. Susan J. (Sue) Chiles, formerly with the AOA joined us in the role of Managing Director in February 2017. Dr. Susan Cooper, having served as WCO Interim Executive Director, stayed on through the transition as an advisor to help integrate Sue into her new role. We know that with the 2nd World Congress in Hyderabad, India in 2017 now behind us, Sue and our newly hired Marketing Communications Specialist - Ms. Garryn Marlen - will help the WCO move forward into the future!

have accomplished what we have without her and for that we should all be grateful. I look forward to continuing to serve as your WCO President until 2019 when Mr. Paul Folkesson takes the lead. In the meantime, let's work together to take optometry to the next level - nationally, regionally and globally.

Respectfully submitted,



SCOTT MUNDLE, OD
WCO PRESIDENT 2017-2019
WCO PRESIDENT-ELECT 2015-2017

FUTURE: President-Elect's Review



**President-Elect
Mr. Paul Folkesson**

It is with humble and great respect that I was elected to serve the WCO from 2017-19 as President-Elect at the 2nd World Congress of Optometry and General Assembly meeting in Hyderabad, India.

Before the 2nd World Congress of Optometry, I served as one of three European Council of Optometry (ECOO) representatives on the WCO Board of Directors. In

that role, I had the pleasure to work on the Managing Director Search Committee, and as Chair for the Governance Review Committee. It has been with great respect that I have gotten to know the WCO Board and committee members. I'm pleased to learn how dedicated and involved they are in the development to increase the WCO's work throughout the world.

In my work as WCO President-Elect, I will bring my experience from serving as President of ECOO. ECOO shares the same challenges on a regional level as the WCO does on a global level. My intention as WCO President-Elect is to bring the very best practices we have learned from ECOO and apply them to the WCO.

From a regional, national and global perspective, I believe we all share the same concerns about our profession. I believe my experience with ECOO, my 22 years of experience as President of the Swedish Optometric Association, and serving for many years on the "profession's political battlefield" has shaped diplomacy. I believe this experience will serve the WCO and our members well in

continuing our world level perspective for optometry.

I, WCO President, Dr. Scott Mundle; Managing Director, Ms. Sue Chiles and myself have kick-started a very fruitful cooperation. I'm very pleased to gain and grow from our collective experience and desire to serve WCO members. Also, I would like to thank Past President Dr. Susan Cooper and North America Regional Representative, Dr. Paul Geneau for their valuable contributions in development of the WCO's Governance Review process.

The WCO has formed a strong leadership team for worldwide optometry. The entire Executive Committee has an important role in this leadership, and I will do my best in my role as President-Elect. I would like to thank the Executive Committee for its continued support, because the more transparent we can be, the better we can communicate with our members around the globe.

With humble respect,



PAUL FOLKESSON
WCO, PRESIDENT-ELECT 2017-19
ECOO, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT 2016-18
SWEDISH OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT 2018

Our Partners

The WCO is committed to meeting global eye and vision care needs through collaboration and is involved in supporting humanitarian outreach programmes and improving social welfare with its partners in the developing world.



The WCO established the World Optometry Foundation to finance projects that foster self-sufficiency and long-term independence among developing nations.



The WCO is the first and only optometric organisation that has an official relationship with the World Health Organization (WHO).



Optometry Giving Sight (OGS) is the only global fundraising initiative that specifically targets the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error – simply the need for an eye exam and a pair of glasses.



The WCO supports Our Children's Vision whose purpose is to upscale, accelerate and expand access to eye health services to more children in more locations through powerful partnerships, child eye health services, driving awareness, local knowledge and support for services.



The WCO supports the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Optometry Giving Sight (OGS), its global fundraising initiatives including Our Children's Vision, and specifically targets the prevention of blindness due to refractive error and helps those with permanent low vision.



The WCO is represented at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Global Board level and is actively involved in many of its committees such as the Diabetic Retinopathy and Refractive Error working groups.

Strategic Plan 2017-2020

In November 2013, the Board of Directors adopted an Advocacy Strategy for 2014-2017. This strategy emphasised optometry's intrinsically important role in solving the global problem of Uncorrected Refractive Errors (UREs). The Board of Directors recognised that this strategy fits with the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Global Action Plan 2014-2019](#), which aims to further improve eye health, reduce avoidable visual impairment and secure access for rehabilitation services. In addition, the WHO Global Action Plan 2014-2019 sets up a global target to reduce the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019. The new WHO Global Action Plan 2014 – 2019 intends to address previous limitations, such as its capacity to mobilise high levels of political will. The framework provided by this Global Action Plan will:

- support the inclusion of primary eye care into primary health care
- improve coordination mechanisms
- ensure funding for eye health within a comprehensive integrated health care service
- develop human resources for eye health, including optometrists, as part of wider human resources for health planning.

Multi-sectorial approaches and effective partnerships with other WHO programmes and the non-communicable diseases agenda will be needed for the successful implementation of this plan.



Next, the WCO Board held a Strategic Workshop in Maputo, Mozambique in 2014. Here, the Board dissected the successes and unmet challenges from the Strategic Plan 2012-2014, with the intent of giving early direction for the drafting of the next [Strategic Plan 2017-2020](#). With this in mind, some areas to consider for attention and action included:

- Advocacy
- Public Health
- Philanthropy
- Collaboration with Others/Good Global Citizens
- Education
- Strategic Global Research
- Regulation

To achieve this, our work over the next three years will fall under the following five themes:

1. Enhance optometric education globally for the benefit of patients and the profession
2. Support the Maintenance and Development of Legislation, Registration and Standards for the benefit of patients and the profession
3. Increase access to quality eye health and vision care by integrating optometry within the global public health community
4. Leadership of the optometric profession globally
5. Partnerships and strategic alliances
6. Membership, Sustainability, Communication, Governance

2nd World Congress of Optometry



2nd WORLD CONGRESS OF
Optometry

"Accessible, quality vision and eye health"

An initiative of the World Council of Optometry

Presented In Conjunction With The 21st APOC

Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad - India
11 - 13 September 2017

The WCO's intention is to run a global congress biennially to harness global optometry's voice for increasing access to patients as a basic human right and empower optometrists with the necessary updates so they can appropriately meet their mandate.



Courtesy of Dr. Bina Patel



Courtesy of Dr. Bina Patel



By the Numbers

1,208 Attendees

204 Total Poster Presentations

69 Lectures

66 Countries Represented

35 Themed Lectures

28 Exhibitors

18 Workshops

17 Clinical Photograph Presentations

Sponsors & Partners

Gold



Silver



Bronze



Additional Sponsors



Partners



Supporters



World Optometry Foundation (WOF)

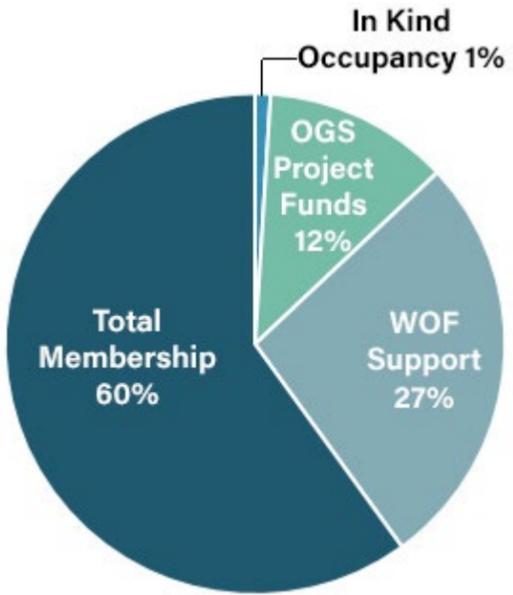
The World Optometry Foundation (WOF) is a not-for-profit organisation that finances the development of optometry around the world to reduce avoidable blindness. All funds raised by WOF are used to support the World Council of Optometry's programmes and projects that: develop or enhance education in optometry schools, provide educational materials and clinical equipment to impoverished nations, and/or create public health programs and community outreach initiatives. Funds are used for WCO fellowships and to develop sustainable eye care projects for people in need. In the past, generous donations have been received from individuals and companies that have helped fund WOF projects. Since its inception in 2000, the WOF has supported many projects to increase the availability and effectiveness of vision care programs worldwide. Fellowships support the goals and objectives of the WCO Strategic Plan (see page 17). The highest priority for fellowships are innovative projects which result in long-term sustainable results. Areas of priority are education, advocacy, public health, standards, policy and legislation. The WOF's registration in the U.S.A. allows U.S. based corporations to take advantage of charitable giving tax allowances.



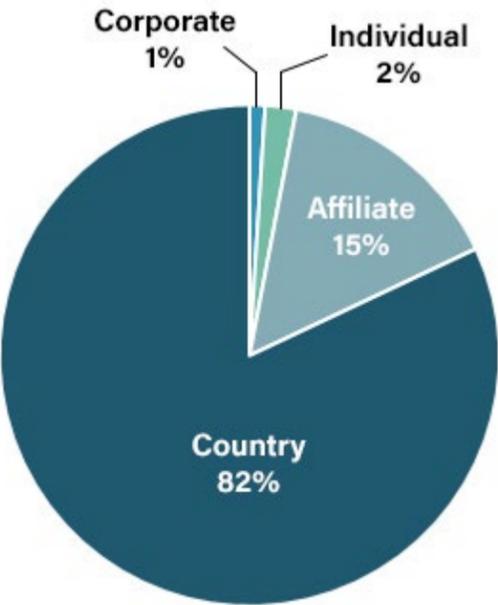
WCO Financial Information

2016 Finances

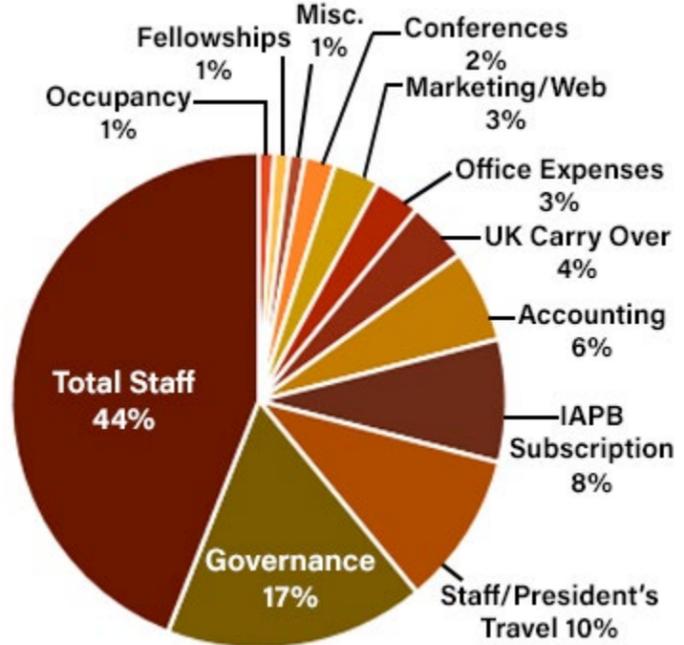
Revenue



Revenue from Membership



Expenses



WOF Board



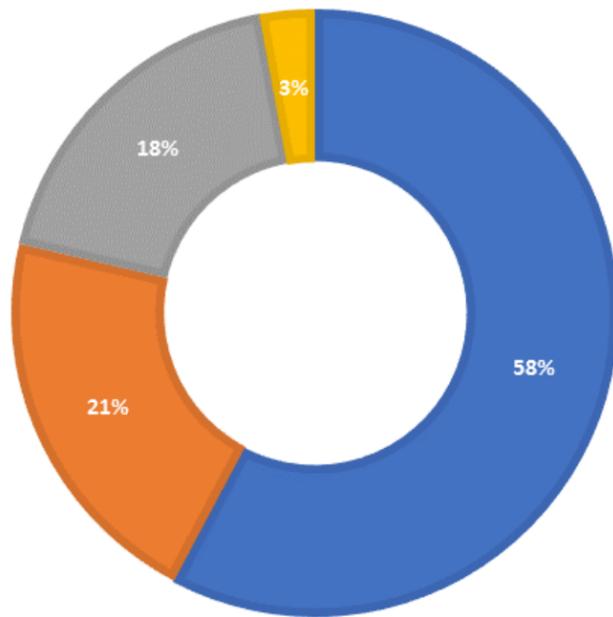
President			
TIMOTHY McMAHON, OD, FAAO	PRESIDENT		USA
Board of Trustees			
DWIGHT AKERMAN, OD, MBA, FAAO	TRUSTEE		USA
IAN DAVIES, OD, MCOPTOM, DIPCLP, FAAO	TRUSTEE		UK
ARMIN DUDDEK, DIPLAUGENOPTIKER	TRUSTEE		SWITZERLAND
PETER KEHOE, OD, FAAO	TRUSTEE		USA
SCOTT MUNDLE, OD	TRUSTEE		CANADA
HOWARD PURCELL, OD, FAAO	TRUSTEE		USA
UDUAK UDOM, OD, MPH, FNCO, FAAO	TRUSTEE		NIGERIA
SUE CHILES, M.A.	EX OFFICIO		USA
SUSAN COOPER, OD, FAAO	EX OFFICIO		CANADA

For additional WCO financial information, contact the WCO Managing Director at Sue.Chiles@worldoptometry.org.

WCO Memberships

239 Members

- Individual Members
- Country Members
- Affiliate Members
- Corporate Members



64 Countries Represented
(all membership categories combined)

Argentina · Australia · Bahrain · Bangladesh · Botswana · Brazil · Burkina Faso · Cameroon · Canada · Chile · China · Colombia · Costa Rica · Croatia · Ecuador · Fiji · France · Guvana · Hong Kong · India · Indonesia · Iran · Ireland · Israel · Italy · Jamaica · Jordan · Kenya · Korea · Macedonia · Malawi · Malaysia · Mexico · Morocco · Mozambique · Nepal · Netherlands · New Zealand · Nigeria · Norway · Oman · Pakistan · Palestine · Peru · Philippines · Portugal · Puerto Rico · Saudi Arabia · Singapore · Somalia · South Africa · South Korea · Spain · Sri Lanka · Suriname · Sweden · Switzerland · Tanzania · Thailand · Trinidad & Tobago · Uganda · United Arab Emirates · United Kingdom · United States · Zimbabwe



Communication Accomplishments

- Hiring of Managing Director to facilitate vision care worldwide through advocacy, education, policy development and humanitarian outreach
- Hiring of Marketing Communications Specialist to support communications and marketing needs
- Launch of new WCO website as a resource for members and as a marketing tool for optometry globally
- Establishing a stronger presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Bimonthly e-newsletters produced and distributed to members

Committee Accomplishments

Education

- Developed guidelines for the evaluation of optometric educational institutions.
- Updated the fellowship grant program application form, evaluated applications and funded a grant.
- Worked on developing program guidelines for upgrading practitioners who are at the WCO practice level 2 to level 3. This is in order to improve the skills and the scope of practice of these professionals.
- Continued the development of the online continuing education courses in conjunction with the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA). This program is available, in many cases at no charge, through the WCO website.

Legislation, Registration & Standards

- Worked to achieve the objectives of the [Strategic Plan](#).
- Continued to update and promote the "[Why Optometry?](#)" document.
- Promoted the development of organised optometry.
- Promoted the expansion of optometric services.
- Facilitated the gathering of knowledge of optometric practice across the world.

Public Health

- Continued collaborating with the World Health Organization (WHO).
 - Collected data regarding the number of optometrists and their scope of practice across the world.
 - Specialized in technical advice mobilized by the WCO among its members to support relevant WHO Prevention of Blindness and Deafness (PBD) advisory work.
 - Organised high level policy symposia during the First World Optometry Congress in 2015.
 - Supported the implementation of the [WHO Global Action Plan](#) at regional and national levels in 2016-2017.
 - Raised awareness among WCO members and its partners on the WHO Global Action Plan 2014-2019, using all available communication means and social media.

- Partnered with Brien Holden Vision Institute (BHVI) to develop and complete an expanded Advocacy Program with candidates representing most of the globe.

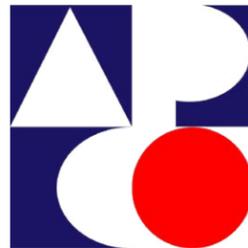
- The one-day Advocacy Training Program was updated to a six week online/face-to-face program, which included a capstone program.
- The online and face-to-face portion was sponsored by BHVI, and its Educational Department helped design the program.
- Funding to help pay for BHVI's Educational Department support was received from Optometry Giving Sight.

Regional Accomplishments



African Council of Optometry (AFCO)

- Completed Situational Analysis of Optometry in Africa in June 2016, an important strategic tool to further optometry in the region
- Successful completion of a four year Child Eye Care Project in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda in July 2017, which was part of the Seeing is Believing initiative and involved 15 organisations in East Africa
- Increased eye health awareness in the region through proactive participation in World Sight Day (WSD) 2017 commemorations, with significant activities reported in many countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe
- Fought uncorrected refractive errors (UREs) in the region through regular outreach activities and school screenings to increase spectacle availability and affordability in remote areas



Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO)

- The first four year Optometry Degree programme was launched in Vietnam by a collaboration between Pham Ngoc Thach University of Medicine, Ho Chi Min City Eye Hospital and the Brien Holden Vision Institute, with support from the Australian Government in 2016
- Changes to New Zealand prescriber status, scope of practice and responsibilities of optometrists were improved
- Asia Pacific Optometric Congress (APOC) in 2015 in Kuala Lumpur
- 2nd World Congress of Optometry and 22nd APOC meeting in Hyderabad, India in 2017
- Launch of BHVI Vision Science at LV Prasad Eye Institute
- The Optometry Act in Taiwan was enacted in December 2015
- 10th Asia Cornea and Contact Lens Conference In Hong Kong in April 2016
- In December 2017, George Woo, a Chairmen of the Consensus Common Interest Experts Group, attended the Guangzhou Accord on Eye Health Management in China, hosted by the Ophthalmic Technology Training Institute and ZhongShan Ophthalmic Centre



Eastern Mediterranean Council of Optometry (EMCO)

- In April 2016, EMCO held its first Congress in Lebanon with speakers from the WCO and BHVI
- Finalized and published the EMCO Unified Optometry University Program, designed by Dr. Yazan Gammoh
- Opened channels for memberships from North Africa
- Dr. Yazan Gammoh trained PhD holders from Lebanon in Optics Physics
- Encouraged EMCO members to become WCO country members
- Decided to host the 2nd EMCO Congress in Morocco in September 2018
- A new EMCO board was elected: Dr. Younis Doudin, President; Mr. Hassan Awada, Executive Director and Ms. Manal AlSharif, Vice President
- Dr. Younis Doudin participated in the Euro Mediterranean Vision Festival which was held in Tunisia
- Dr. Younis Doudin and Ms. Manal AlSharif participated in a debate held by the Ministry of Health in Morocco to change the current laws of optometry practice



European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECOO)

- Published its 2017 edition of the Blue Book, which is a valuable aggregation of data on the professions of optometry and optics in countries across Europe
- The ECOO European Diploma in Optometry represents the "gold-standard" in optometric education across Europe. This scheme has been very successful as increasingly more universities are being accredited with the European Diploma
- The syllabus for the ECOO Qualification in Optics has been fully drafted and reviewed by the Board of Management and Board of Examiners of ECOO, following consultation with the ECOO members, and aims at harmonising the entry level into the profession and provide a harmonised standard that will benefit many countries across Europe
- Regularly communicates on its educational efforts around the European Diploma in Optometry and Qualification in Optics in its newsletters, social media and in articles
- Closely follows a number of European Union (EU) level legislative and non-legislative developments and represents the interests of the professions of optometry and optics as needed



Latin America (ALDOO)

- Held the fourth meeting of deans and directors of optometry programs in November 2017 at the University of Las Americas (UDELAS) in Panama City, Panama
- The deans and directors of the optometry programs and the national representatives were invited to the III Panamanian International Optometric Congress at reduced tuition
- Representatives from the national optometric organizations convened in November 2017 to discuss the state of each country's organizations

Regional Accomplishments

North America

• American Optometric Association (AOA)



The American Optometric Association (AOA) continued to fight for patients through advocacy, public awareness, patient care and continuing education. In summary, the AOA:

1. Created Awareness of the Care Optometry Delivers
 - Focused its public information efforts on the integrated role doctors of optometry play in meeting the nation's health needs
 - Engaged with more media channels than ever before, positioning our profession and members as primary eye health care thought leaders
2. Led the Search for High-Value Patient Care
 - Created three clinical practice guidelines on [pediatric care](#), [ocular diabetes care](#) and [adult eye and vision examinations](#)
 - Fought against online "vision tests" and other dubious technology that can compromise well-accepted standards of care while preserving the doctor-patient relationship
3. Developed the Next Generation of Leaders
 - Created the AOA+ program offering real-world help for doctors of optometry about to enter the field and provided them with a crash course in patient advocacy
 - Launched EyeLearn 2.0, a new member online education platform offering courses, webinars and resources to help expand clinical knowledge and practice management expertise

• American Optometric Student Association (AOSA)



- The WCO congratulates the AOSA on its 50th anniversary in 2018. The AOSA represents more than 7,100 students attending the 25 schools and colleges of optometry throughout the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.

North America Region Continued

• Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO)



- Collaborated with the CNIB, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and the Canadian Council of the Blind to develop the Federal Role in Eye Health and Vision Care paper, a comprehensive proposal outlining the role of the Federal Government in the development and execution of a comprehensive eye health and vision care strategy
- Joined a coalition with other health care professionals to support a successful campaign to keep employer paid health benefits tax free in the February 2017 budget
- Opened registration in March 2016 for the Congress in 2017, which ultimately attracted more than 1,000 registrants – the highest number yet – for the three day event held in Ottawa in June 2017
- Launched a new Eye Health Library on our [website](#), featuring 110 pieces that explain aspects of eye health and vision care



Looking Ahead

The WCO aims to:

- Advocate for children's vision
- Increase the recognition and scope of practice of optometry worldwide
- Improve governance and WCO structure

We invite you to [join us](#) and help shape the future of eye care around the world.

World Optometry Coming Together

ACADEMY
2019
ORLANDO

3rd World Congress of Optometry



WORLD COUNCIL
OF OPTOMETRY



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

**We hope to see you at the 3rd World Congress of Optometry
October 23-28, 2019 in Orlando, Florida, USA.**

[Click here](#) to learn more.

WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

243 N. LINDBERGH BLVD.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63141 USA

WEB: WORLDOPTOMETRY.ORG

PHONE: (314) 983-4197

EMAIL: ENQUIRIES@WORLDOPTOMETRY.ORG

**THE WCO IS A 501 (C)(6) NON-PROFIT
ORGANISATION.**

