



Dear Colleagues,

“Hope in Sight’ is the call to action for World Sight Day, October 8, 2020. World Sight Day is a major advocacy and public awareness occasion to focus attention on the global issue of visual impairment and eye health.

It is a time for optometry to celebrate our achievements but also to reflect on what more can be done to advocate and support universal access to eye health and vision care. All eye care professionals need to work together to help prevent and treat vision impairment and blindness. We need to collaborate to best serve our patients and communities.

World Council of Optometry (WCO) members are working in their regions to address the rising prevalence of uncorrected refractive error both locally and globally. Through expansion of human resources, improved education and research, our members are working to educate stakeholders and patients as to how we can all work together to prevent, diagnose and treat patients with vision impairing conditions including uncorrected refractive error and eye disease.

The World Health Organization (WHO)’s World Report on Vision recognizes the importance of including eye health and vision care as an integral part of universal health coverage. This report is a call to the optometric profession globally to promote change in countries to support universal access to eye care. WCO encourages optometry to take action and utilize the World Report on Vision to:

- Increase awareness of the need for comprehensive eye care services
- Raise awareness of eye health issues linked to increasing prevalence of chronic diseases
- Increase awareness of the myopia epidemic to the public, health ministers and educators
- Emphasize the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of uncorrected refractive errors and eye disease
- Advocate for increased manpower for delivery of services

WCO works closely with the WHO, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and its international partners to promote accessible comprehensive eye care for all. World Sight Day is an opportunity to unite, to celebrate accomplishments, highlight opportunities and consider strategies to enhance eye care around the world!

We hope that this World Sight Day serves as a reminder that we can all work together to fight against vision impairment and blindness. World Sight Day 2020 is a great opportunity for us to make a difference, because together we can accomplish much!

Sincerely,

Mr. Paul Folkesson
WCO President