



February 19, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Looking into the next month, March 7th will be the start of Glaucoma Awareness Week. I wanted to take this opportunity to focus on what that means for the optometric community and what we can do to raise awareness globally.

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s World Report on Vision states that there are presently 76 million people with glaucoma globally. This is an alarming statistic and as we look at this growing problem, we need to ask ourselves in what ways can we realistically address this issue. We need to consider:

- How can we prepare patients to advocate for themselves?
- How can we work with other eye care providers to ensure patients are getting the care they need to treat glaucoma effectively?

The World Council of Optometry believes that it is essential that optometry and ophthalmology work together to bring patient centred care to the forefront of glaucoma treatment. I urge all of you to think about what you have the power to do in your community and join us on social media during World Glaucoma Week to share ways you can make a difference.

WCO will be posting a World Glaucoma Week webinar on our website and will alert our members once the webinar has been uploaded.

Sincerely,

Paul Folkesson

WCO President