



**WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY**  
*Advocacy | Education | Policy Development | Humanitarian Outreach*

March 23, 2021

Dear colleagues,

Today is World Optometry Day, when we can take a moment to pause and celebrate all optometrists for what you do to serve the world's eye health and vision care needs. I would like to send a heartfelt *thank you* to all of you who spend your time to serve others. This is a trait that is sorely needed in society, and we look forward to the day when all the world recognizes the hard work you do.

During the pandemic health crisis, we as profession have been called on to step up, and you have, keeping patients and staff safe while also serving needs, educating patients, and assisting with vaccination clinics in many countries. Now, we are facing a year that has completely changed from the pandemic. It has brought both many challenges and many new innovations. We have an opportunity to take back 2020 and make 2021 an even better year for optometry. The World Council of Optometry is doing our part by working on action items from the World Health Organization's World Report on Vision, producing timely and educational webinars to keep the industry informed, and we are entering into new and exciting partnerships with great opportunities to help our mission.

At this point, I encourage you to reflect on the upcoming year and ask how are you contributing to the optometric profession? Encourage your colleagues to join and support WCO, be sure to stay involved with your country or regional association, and be sure to check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#), to stay informed.

Once again, thank you for your tireless work, and happy World Optometry Day!

Sincerely,

Paul Folkesson  
WCO President