



WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

Advocacy | Education | Policy Development | Humanitarian Outreach

Dear Colleagues,

World Sight Day is an important opportunity to highlight the important role of optometrists in providing comprehensive eye care.

More than 2 billion people live with vision impairment, and more than 1 billion of these cases could have been prevented or treated. Yet the solutions already exist. More than 90% of vision loss is preventable or treatable through interventions such as glasses and cataract surgery. The challenge is closing the gap between what is possible and the reality of accessibility to vision and eye health care.

This year, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)'s [#LoveYourEyes campaign](#) continues to encourage people everywhere to take care of their eye health and call for eye care that is accessible, affordable, and available to all.

Clear vision is essential for learning, working, connecting with others, and participating fully in society. Correcting refractive error is an important first step, but comprehensive eye care goes much further. Conditions such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and other eye diseases may develop without noticeable symptoms and require timely detection and management.

As primary eye care providers, optometrists have a critical role to play. By working alongside other health and eye care professionals, strengthening referral pathways, embracing evidence-based technologies, and advocating for strong education, training and quality standards, optometry can help expand access, improve early detection, and deliver equitable, cost-effective care across the full continuum.

The World Council of Optometry supports global efforts to reduce vision impairment and improve effective refractive error coverage, including initiatives such as the WHO SPECS 2030 program. We must ensure that efforts to address refractive error complement existing services and contribute to sustainable, comprehensive eye care systems.

This requires collaboration—within countries, across regions, and with partners including the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. As WCO President, I believe the voice of optometry must not only be heard but also translated into action. We have both an opportunity and a responsibility to demonstrate how optometry can contribute to stronger, more equitable and sustainable eye health systems.

This year, IAPB invites all glasses wearers, caregivers, vision advocates, and eye health professionals to share their unique eye health stories through the renewed "Every Story Counts" campaign. Participants will be featured on IAPB's digital story wall, showcasing real people, real stories, and real reasons to #LoveYourEyes. I fully encourage WCO Members to [add their voices](#) to a movement of people who are shaping a better future for everyone.

Together, we can help close the implementation gap and build a future where everyone, everywhere, has access to the quality vision and eye healthcare that they need and deserve.

Thank you for all you do to advance eye health and strengthen our profession.

Happy World Sight Day!

With very best wishes,

Dr. Cindy Tromans
President, World Council of Optometry