

Optometry DistList

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Date: 12 August, 2017

From: Dinesh Fernandes (dinesh.fernandes@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: The 2nd World Congress of Optometry – Last chance to register

The 2nd World Congress of Optometry, with the theme “Accessible, quality vision and eye health” is being held in Hyderabad, India from September 11-13, 2017. Building on the excitement from the 1st World Congress in Medellin in 2015 which attracted over 2300 delegates, this biennial congress is a World Council of Optometry (WCO) initiative in partnership with the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO) and the India Vision Institute (IVI).

This year's theme ties into the World Health Organisation (WHO) 'Universal Eye Health: A global action plan 2014-2019', the target of which is a reduction in the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019. One of the ways to accomplish this is to have in place a strong and equitable eye health system within which optometry plays a valuable and essential role.

The Scientific track of the program will feature cutting edge research and clinical practice, while the Educators' track will offer a unique platform to shape optometric education. The World Congress will bring together optometric expertise from across the world offering delegates globally recognized US COPE and UK CET continuing education accreditation.

At a strategic level the Presidential Forum will convene Presidents of national optometric associations, Deans of schools of optometry and key industry stakeholders to discuss the progress of optometry and shape the future of the profession across the world.

Mark your calendars for this exciting event! Come and share and learn with your colleagues in optometry!

We look forward to seeing you in Hyderabad!

Registration closes on 31st August, 2017

For more information, please click <http://www.worldcongressofoptometry.org/>

Social Media: www.facebook.com/worldcongressofoptometry

Date: 10, August 2017

From: Sharath N (sharathoptom@gmail.com)

Subject: New Report published on Dry Eye Classification

A ground breaking new report has updated by The Tear Film & Ocular Surface Society (TFOS), a global leader in eye health education. The classification and diagnosis of Dry Eye Disease as the new figures reveal the condition affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The TFOS DEWS II initiative addressed the growing public health concerns surrounding dry eye. Dr Sullivan, Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School said: "TFOS DEWS II involved the efforts of 150 clinical and basic research experts from around the world, who utilised an evidence-based approach and a process of open communication, dialogue and transparency to increase our understanding of dry eye disease."

Dry eye disease remains one of the most frequent causes of patient visits to eye care practitioners, occurring more frequently in women than in men. The report concluded that Dry Eye Disease should be reclassified as follows:

"...a multifactorial disease of the ocular surface characterized by a loss of homeostasis of the tear film, and accompanied by ocular symptoms, in which tear film instability and hyperosmolarity, ocular surface inflammation and damage, and neurosensory abnormalities play etiological roles." TFOS DEWS II Report updates the classification and diagnosis of dry eye, critically evaluates the epidemiology, etiology, mechanism, and impact of this disorder, addresses its management and therapy, and proposes recommendations for the design of clinical trials to assess new pharmaceutical interventions for dry eye treatment.

For the complete report please click on tearfilm.org

Date: 12, August 2017

From: sandhya sekhara (sandhya.shekar@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: New research confirms vision impairment affects 20% of the world's population

New global estimates of the number of people blind and vision impaired have just been published including near vision figures. Vision impairment affects economic and educational opportunities, reduces quality of life and increases the risk of death.

Prevalence estimates are important for the development of public health policies, planning of education initiatives and evaluating their success.

The new research study confirms globally an estimated 36 million (0.5% of the world's population) are blind and 1.5 billion – 20% of the world's population – have some form of vision impairment.

This study is the first to include figures on near vision loss due to presbyopia which can be treated with spectacles but in many situations this solution does not occur due to contributing factors such as lack of access, lack of awareness and poverty.

Presbyopia makes up the largest proportion of vision impairment with an estimated 1095 million people aged over 35 affected, including almost 667 million people over 50.

The study also revealed gender inequity, across the global scope, with more women than men bearing the burden of vision loss, even when accounting for confounding factors such as their longer survival.

The publication reports an 18% increase overall in prevalence of blindness since 1990. The increase is attributable to population growth and ageing. However, when these factors are accounted for, we find that rates have declined over this time period.

This suggests that the modest investments made in alleviation of vision impairment over this period have reaped considerable benefits. However, the growth and change in age structure of the world's population is causing a substantial increase in the overall number of people with blindness and vision impairment, highlighting the need to scale up our current efforts in the years to come.

For complete article please click here:

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(17\)30293-0/fulltext?elsca1=tlpr](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(17)30293-0/fulltext?elsca1=tlpr)

Date: 14, August 2017

From: Sheeba Swarna (sheeba.swarna@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: The World Council of Optometry (WCO) announces international optometry award winners to be presented at the 2nd World Congress of Optometry

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) has announced the winners of two prestigious international awards recognizing outstanding contributions to optometry. The awards will

be presented immediately preceding the 2nd World Congress of Optometry at the WCO Governing Board VIP Dinner which will be held on Sunday, September 10 at the Novotel Hotel ballroom in Hyderabad, India.

WCO Distinguished service award: Dr. Robert Chappell, OBE MPhil DSc FCOptom, trained as an community optometrist at City University London. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Management for the European Diploma in Optometry. Dr. Chappell will be presented with the WCO Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding contribution over time to the achievement of WCO's vision and mission. This is the highest award that WCO can bestow on an individual.

WCO Paul Berman Young Leader Award: Priya Morjaria will be presented with the WCO Paul Berman Young Leader Award which is awarded to an optometrist who has made an outstanding contribution over time to the achievement of WCO's Vision and Mission and shows promising future leadership in world optometry.

The WCO congratulates Dr. Robert Chappell and Ms. Priya MorJaria on being awarded as international optometry awardees recognizing their outstanding contributions to the field of optometry.

For more information click here: <http://worldcongressofoptometry.org/index.html>

Date: 15, August 2017

From: Sheeba Swarna (sheeba.swarna@indiavisioninstitute.org)

Subject: New eye control feature in Windows 10 – Optometry Today

An email from a retired American football player, living with motor neurone disease inspired a new eye tracking feature in the latest Microsoft operating system. Steve Gleason, challenged Microsoft employees to create a technology that allowed him to play with his son, talk more easily with his wife and move his wheelchair by himself. After which, the Windows 10 Eye Gaze feature was developed.

Technology experts endeavored to meet this brief during a Microsoft hackathon. They created the Eye Gaze Wheelchair – a device that allows the user to control the direction of the wheelchair through eye movement.

This invention then inspired the development of a series of built-in features to make Microsoft 10 more accessible for people with disabilities.

Eye tracking technology allows users to operate an onscreen mouse, keyboard, and text-to-speech technology using only their eyes. The Eye Gaze feature requires a compatible eye tracker, which unlocks access to the Windows operating system to be able to do the tasks traditionally accomplished with a physical mouse and keyboard.

Source:

<https://www.aop.org.uk/ot/science-and-vision/technology/2017/08/15/microsofts-latest-operating-system-includes-eye-tracking>

Details of the eye-tracking software will be on Microsoft's [accessibility page for Windows](#) soon.

Date: 11, August 2017

From: Parthasarathi Kalaiselvan (parthuoptom@gmail.com)

Subject: How colour vision came to animals

Animals are living color. Wasps buzz with painted warnings. Birds shimmer their iridescent desires. Fish hide from predators with body colors that dapple like light across a rippling pond. And all this color on all these creatures happened because other creatures could see it.

The natural world is so showy, it's no wonder scientists have been fascinated with animal color for centuries. Even today, the questions how animals see, create, and use color are among the most compelling in biology.

Until the last few years, they were also at least partially unanswerable because color researchers are only human, which means they can't see the rich, vivid colors that other animals do. But now new technologies, like portable hyperspectral scanners and cameras small enough to fit on a bird's head, are helping biologists see the unseen.

It is described in detail in [new Science paper](#). For complete article please click here: <https://www.wired.com/story/evolution-color-vision>

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