



NEWSLETTER
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European
Council of
Optometry
and Optics

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DEAR COLLEAGUES, DEAR FRIENDS,



Just a few weeks ago, we had a very successful meeting in Malta where, once again, it was shown that small countries can host just as well as the biggest ones. In fact, it was one of the loveliest get-togethers; we enjoyed warm weather and the warm embraces of many colleagues from all over Europe. We happily welcomed Italy back into ECOO, had some insightful lectures, and a workshop with Mario Teufl from Carinthia / Austria, who gave us a presentation on his concept of comprehensive eye care. The discussion that followed, revealed some (known) differences among regions with regards to regulation and professionals' skills, but also highlighted the diversity of the views on what "comprehensive eye care" actually is. One of the conclusions was that, in most countries, the provision of eye and vision care services and the supply of optical appliances to patients are intertwined to such extent that they can (should) be kept together. There also seemed to be agreement among colleagues that patients who are offered comprehensive services embrace and value them; once getting this higher standard of eye care, they are no longer happy with partial solutions. This all also speaks for the benefits of collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach. Optometry and optics are best suited to be at the intersection of ever-growing demand for a holistic approach in eye and vision care.

I am grateful to you all for having me as President of the ECOO. On the one hand, I feel the challenge of difficult times, the diversity of the issues which need to be addressed and the constraints on operational freedoms within the modern regulatory framework.

But on the other side, I know I can count on the great work of ECOO's secretariat with Fabienne and Ann. Also, I am so happy to follow on the great heritage of Cindy Tromans, who led ECOO in an exemplary way, achieving important milestones for our profession and handing on to me the Presidency with the Council in such very good shape. So, Cindy, thank you again for all your efforts and devotion! I also wish to warmly welcome Gabriëlle Janssen, our new President-elect. Gabriëlle is known for her conscientious work for the profession and I have no doubt, she is the right person to take ECOO to the next level.

There are plenty of challenges and opportunities ahead. This year, ECOO has become involved in a large project proposal – the "Shared care" concept in detecting dry age-related macular degeneration in optometric practices with OCTs and referring patients to hospitals. Certainly there are countries where this is already taking place but even in those instances it is often limited to certain regions or counties. The newly proposed model, if accepted, would promote the framework for collaboration between optometry and ophthalmology throughout EU and wider.

I wish you all a pleasant autumn!

Matjaž Mihelčič
ECOO President



Autumn Meetings

2022 **Sliema
Malta**



ECOO AUTUMN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN SLIEMA, MALTA



Dr Cindy Tromans congratulating Dr Matjaž Mihelčič, who succeeds her as ECOO President

The ECOO autumn General Assembly and meetings were hosted by one of our newest members, the Malta Association of Optometrists, in Sliema, Malta, 14-16 October. ECOO delegates were officially welcomed to Malta at the start of the General Assembly in a video message from the Maltese President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola.

Delegates at the GA also heard from Renato Sopracolle, the President of EUROM1, the optical industry association, about the optical market and the work underway by industry to become more environmentally sustainable. And Helmer Schweizer, from affiliate member ALCON, formerly President of EUROMCONTACT and longstanding supporter of ECOO, who is retiring at the end of the year, gave a speech reflecting on his time in the sector. In particular he emphasised the importance of all voices representing the optical sector talking to each other and working together.

ECOO's biennial elections also took place during the GA. Dr Matjaž Mihelčič succeeded Dr Cindy Tromans as ECOO

President, while Gabriëlle Janssen of Dutch member the Optometristen Vereniging Nederland (OVN) joined the Executive Committee as President Elect. Cindy, who remains on the Executive for a further two years as Immediate Past President, was given a standing ovation by members, in recognition of her commitment to ECOO, in particular having stepped back into the role of President in 2021.

There were also some changes to ECOO's two sub-committees (Professional Services, and Public Affairs and Economics), with longstanding members Peter Black (UK), David Hewlett (Ireland), Luiza Krasucka (Poland) and Christian Müller (Germany) all standing down. In their place Daniel Hodgson (Ireland), Kai Jaeger (Germany), Daryl Newsome (UK) were all newly elected.

As ever, there were lively discussions at the two committee meetings and the workshop. Delegates had the opportunity to hear about lobby practice and experience in Spain, the UK and Poland. This was followed



by a video presentation from Stuart Keel of the World Health Organization (WHO) introducing the new WHO eye care in health systems guide for action and the four tools they have developed to support country planning. There were also country updates from Malta, the Netherlands and Ukraine. The workshop, facilitated by Matjaž Mihelčič and Mario Teufl, CEO of the Board of Optometry in Carinthia, explored potential future business models for optometry and optics.

A second [position paper on myopia management](#) was adopted by delegates (see page 07), a statement

on how to achieve [better vision and eye health in Europe through digital development](#) was agreed and new guidance on environmental sustainability was presented.

The informal opportunities to meet, catch up with each other and share ideas are always an important part of the event for ECOO members. It was a real pleasure that all member of the Malta Association of Optometrists were able to attend both the formal and social parts of the autumn meetings, to find out more about ECOO and for ECOO members to find out more about them.

Julien Tua, Mattea Gabbarretta and Kerstien Gabbarretta of host, the Malta Association of Optometrists, prepare to welcome delegates





ON THE EU AGENDA

DIGITAL AND GREEN – THE EU AGENDA

A Europe fit for the digital age and the European Green Deal are two of the European Commission's six priority work areas for 2019-24. The European Commission has provided guidance to EU member states on how best to address the social and labour aspects of climate transition and has published a variety of European Green Deal legislative proposals to make sustainable goods the norm and to empower consumers.

The European Green Deal underpins a variety of legislation, on travel, energy efficiency, manufacturing, goods and services, and consumers, among many others. While few, if any, of the proposals in the Green Deal will be specific to eye care, the impact of these new legislative proposals will apply to all aspects of daily life for individuals, professionals and businesses. At the same time, digital solutions and emerging technologies have enormous potential to significantly improve the effectiveness and quality of healthcare provision and enable more resilient and sustainable health systems.

ECOO is therefore monitoring these priority policy areas and providing information and advice to help its members to be aware of, understand and respond to the challenges and opportunities arising from both the growth in digital care and services, and of climate change, so that eye care professionals across Europe can deliver more sustainable eye care services.

REVISION OF THE DRIVING LICENCE DIRECTIVE

The revision of the Driving Licence Directive at EU-level is ongoing. ECOO has provided input at various occasions, including responding to consultations, attending meetings and presenting at a workshop organised by the European Commission in May 2022. The key message that ECOO conveys at all of these opportunities is firstly that visual fitness to drive requirements are needed to ensure safety and secondly they must be applied consistently. Most importantly, we highlight that ensuring that a person has adequate vision enables them to continue to drive safely, given that most visual impairment can be corrected. The proposal of the revised Directive is now expected to be published in February 2023 and will then enter the legislative decision-making process.

PFAS

It appears that the EU is moving away from a risk based approach to a hazard based approach with respect to the REACH chemicals regulations. This would mean that rather than say «this is a hazardous substance but there is minimal risk in the way it is used, so we will regulate lightly», the intention is to move to saying «this is a hazardous substance and we will prevent its use unless you can show that it is essential». Their focus applies widely to all substances and mixtures that are endocrine disrupting, or cumulatively environmentally damaging. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are one of the substances under review. The Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Denmark and Sweden are preparing to submit a restriction proposal to the ECHA to cover a wide range of PFAS uses in January 2023. A restriction proposal is a first step towards a European ban on PFAS. This would of course have a significant impact on the optical sector because PFAS are used in rigid contact lenses. ECOO is working with EUROMCONTACT and Eurom1 to consider how best to respond to this issue.

REVISION OF OPTICAL STANDARDS FOR MDR COMPLIANCE

With the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) now in force, a number of Standards, including optics specific Standards, need to be brought into line with the MDR. ECOO regularly attends the MDCG standards meetings to follow progress. Several ECOO members are also active in their national standardisation bodies, which is where the actual technical work is being carried out.

The following standards are expected to be released in May 2024:

- EN ISO 12870:2018 – Ophthalmic optics – spectacle frames – Requirements and test methods
- EN 14139:2010 – Ophthalmic optics – Specifications for ready-to-wear spectacles
- EN ISO 14889:2013 +A1:2017 – Ophthalmic optics – Spectacle lenses _ Fundamental requirements for uncut finished lenses
- EN ISO 15004-1:2020 – Ophthalmic instruments – Fundamental requirements and test methods
- EN ISO 21987:2017 – Ophthalmic optics – Mounted spectacle lenses

MYOPIA MANAGEMENT

The role of optometrists and opticians in the correction of refractive error is well established. Myopia is caused by a complex interplay between genetic and environmental factors and the understanding of the causes of the condition and our understanding of how to ameliorate these factors is increasing as the knowledge base increases. With the increased body of knowledge, eyecare professionals are better able to identify those at risk from myopia and provide advice to parents and patients to delay the onset of myopia. New technologies are emerging that research shows can slow the progression of myopia.

ECOO has developed two Position Papers. The first paper, Myopia in the 21st century and its management by ECPs, aimed more at stakeholders such as health departments, other healthcare professionals and patients/ parents, explains how the professionals that ECOO represents are currently managing refractive error and that they are ideally placed to be at the heart of any strategy in relation to myopia management. It calls upon

all eye care professionals (ECPs) to become familiar with the concept of myopia management.

The second paper, Myopia management: a comprehensive approach, addresses in more detail the current approaches to myopia management, from the definition and classification, risk factors and examination of the myopia patient. It considers the different interventions, including their indication, mechanism of action, advantages and limitations, restrictions, specific exams required as well as efficacy and side effects. It also addresses the asymmetries of scope of practice across Europe that might impact on the ability to implement each one of the existing treatments. Finally, it includes specific considerations on the involvement of stakeholders that are necessary for the implementation of these approaches to have the highest impact possible. This paper fully integrates the World Council of Optometry Statement on myopia underpinned by the principles of Mitigation, Measurement and Management.

IN SUMMARY

- *As experts in the correction of refractive error, optometrists and opticians should be at the heart of myopia management*
- *Myopia management, includes delaying the onset or slowing the progression of myopia by methods other than the traditional correction of refractive error.*
- *Eye-care professionals should be aware of new and emerging techniques in myopia management and limitations of some of the older methods used over the years.*
- *The principles of Mitigation, Measurement and Management should underpin any approach to myopia management.*

Both of these papers were developed alongside outside experts by the ECOO Professional Services Committee and accepted by consensus at the ECOO General Assembly.

WORLD SIGHT DAY 2022

ECOO continued its tradition of participation in World Sight Day, which took place on 15 October, supporting the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) campaign #loveyoureyes

This year we produced and shared an [infographic](#) that professionals can use to help communicate why it is important that they should love their eyes, and how they should do so. This was supported by a new [national article](#) to be used in member countries to help promote the campaign and the infographic.

#LoveYourEyes

Why you should #LoveYourEyes

Good vision lets you live an active and independent life



Eye care professionals help you #LoveYourEyes



Eye care professionals can help you look after your vision and eyes

With a regular eye exam* to

- Check how well you can see
- Look at how your eyes work together
- Examine the inside and the surface of your eye to check it is healthy

- If you do have a vision problem, advising on how to stop your vision getting worse
- Letting you know if you need medical attention

- Providing glasses or contact lenses to correct your vision if you need them



How to #LoveYourEyes

It doesn't take much to look after your eyes

- Have a regular eye examination
- Wear your glasses or contact lenses if you need them
- Protect your eyes from UV light



* Note that the content of an eye examination may vary from country to country – see the [ECOO Blue Book](#) page 24.

ECOO ACCREDITATION AGENCY:

57 EDO AND 21 EQO GRADUATES IN 2022

ECOO is delighted that so far in 2022, 57 graduates have received their European Diploma in Optometry (EDO). 34 students came from the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW in Olten, Switzerland, 13 graduated from the University of SouthEast Norway, 2 from the Hogeschool Utrecht, 7 from Berliner Hochschule für Technik in Germany, and 1 completed the independent examinations. These graduates have shown that they have achieved the high standard of the European Diploma in Optometry, developed by ECOO, which represents a valuable addition to a professional's qualifications. We should all be proud that since the first examinations for the EDO were held in 2000, 567 professionals have achieved the diploma.

In addition, the OHI Vienna in Austria is accredited for the European Qualifications in Optics (EQO) and in 2022, 21 students have received this qualification.

To help take forward its work, the ECOO Accreditation Agency appointed Jennifer Rasteiro as the new ECOO Accreditation Officer in mid-September. Jennifer also works for the College of Optometrists in the UK within the Education department, where she has been for the past two years, she also has experience of working in the higher education sector having previously been employed as the Membership and Qualifications Manager at the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.

You can find out more about the ECOO Accreditation Agency, including information on the EDO and EQO for institutions, recognition of the EDO and EQO and the alumni network, on the ECOO [website](#).



Graduation ceremony of the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW in Olten, Switzerland

COUNTRY UPDATES

GERMANY – NEW OPTOMETRY & CONTACT LENSES (OCL) JOURNAL

Our German member, Vereinigung Deutscher Contactlinsen-Spezialisten und Optometristen (VDco), introduces a new optical sector journal.

[Optometry and Contact Lenses \(OCL\)](#) is a new bilingual international journal, with a German language print edition and English-language publications (open access) on the English-language website. The first issue was published 1 August 2021. OCL is issued ten times a year, covering all aspects related to eye and vision care. Each paper is peer-reviewed before publication. OCL publishes scientific and clinical articles as well as case reports focusing on ophthalmic optics, optometry, ophthalmology and related disciplines. It also publishes interviews with well-known experts in the field, book reviews of current new publications in the field of eye and vision care, and association information from the Association of German Contact Lens Specialists and Optometrists (VDco). In addition, each issue also contains a section called COE Continuing Optometric Education, featuring a COE

certified article with a multiple choice quiz. COE participants can earn one COE credit when they achieve the passing score for the quiz. Each article is peer-reviewed before publication. To date, more than 50 peer-reviewed articles have been published, 31 of them in English as Open Access. International authors from the USA, UK, Switzerland and Slovenia have already published in the OCL Journal. In contrast to many other scientific journals, there are currently no article processing charges (APC) for publications in OCL.

39 international experts are members of the OCL Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Wolfgang Cagnolati as editor-in-chief together with Michael Bärtschi, Switzerland, Sven Jonuscheit, Scotland and Heiko Pult, Germany as members of the OCL Editorial Board are responsible for the conceptual orientation of OCL.

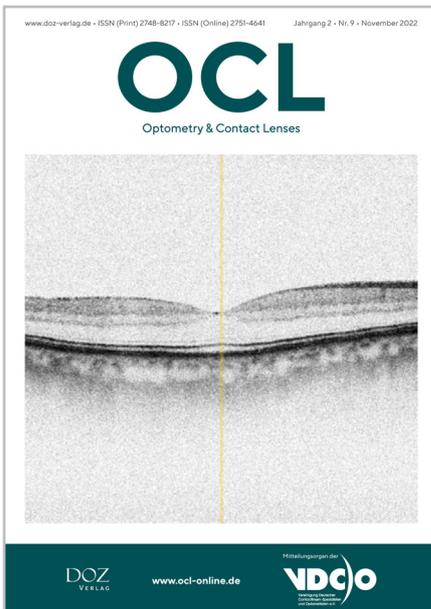
UK – ABDO SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

The Association for British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO) has been leading the way on sustainability in collaboration with all UK optical organisations. In this short update you can discover the progress that has been made and access resources to help you in your work on sustainability.

Representatives from UK optical bodies met to address the issues surrounding sustainability for the first time in 2021 and have continued to meet this year. This culminated in the release of a statement of intent, with aims for the professions and industry in terms of

long-term environmental sustainability. The statement is as follows:

The top sustainability priorities for the optical sector are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to reduce waste and develop sustainable ways of practice.



Optical bodies will join together to help inform, educate and support their members, and review their own activities, in order to stimulate rigorous and immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within the optical sector in line with the current UK commitment of 78 per cent by 2035 (compared to 1990). We will also develop targets to reduce waste, develop sustainable ways of practice, and deliver a healthier, fairer zero carbon world.

Since the statement was issued in March 2022, meetings have continued and the optical bodies have been working on their own internal sustainability journey and also providing resources. Notably, [ABDO is now carbon neutral](#), and through the appointment of sustainability champions for each department, the association is working to decrease carbon emissions at its premises in Kent and Birmingham.

You can find more resources to help you on ABDO's [SEE Hub](#).

A second [SEE Summit](#) took place in October 2022. Packed with fast moving talks, the event focussed on how to make a difference in practice. Speakers represented organisations including Planet Zero, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Specsavers and covered topics including:

- Research into the carbon footprint of a practice
- What is a carbon footprint and how to find yours
- Making a practice more sustainable - real life case studies

ABDO has also been working with Local Optical Committees (LOCs) on sustainable commissioning of services. The ABDO team attended the National Optical Conference to provide a drop-in session which saw plenty of discussion about areas that the optical community can work on to become more sustainable. ABDO also offered LOCs [resources to support their discussions which can be found here](#).



POLAND LOOKS FORWARD TO WELCOMING ECOO AND THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY AND OPTICS IN SPRING 2023

In January 2022, the Polish Ministry of Health prepared a long-awaited draft law on medical professions that would regulate 17 medical professions, including, among others, the profession of optometry. The Polish Optometric Association (PTOO) and representatives of universities training optometrists sent their comments to the draft law. The planned completion of the preparation of the final version of the law was set for the 3rd quarter of 2022, but we already know that this date will be delayed. Nevertheless, work on the law that will regulate the optometric profession is underway and the optometrist community in Poland is eagerly awaiting this regulation.

The origins of optometry in Poland date back to 1983, when a department of optometry was established at the Poznan University of Medical Sciences, while in 1994 the first postgraduate programme in optometry was launched at the same University. On 18 August

1994, the Polish Optometric Association was established; the organisation is a member of ECOO. A few years later, in 1998, the first full-time bachelor's degree programme in ophthalmic optics was launched as a joint project of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Finally in 2001, the first Master's degree programme in optometry was launched at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan.

The history of optometry in Poland is very strongly associated with the city of Poznan, with the training of optometrists carried out in this city at the two universities mentioned. This is why it is so important for the Polish optometrists to host next year's European Academy of Optometry and Optics conference in Poznan on 12-14 May 2023, along with ECOO's spring meetings and General Assembly on 11-13 May 2023.



GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE IN ECOO

IN THIS NEW FEATURE, WE FIND OUT A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ECOO.

WE START WITH
**ECOO'S SECRETARY GENERAL,
FABIENNE ECKERT.**



What is your professional background, and what is your role at ECOO?

Following my studies in international management, languages and politics, I completed internships in the European Parliament and the European Commission. I then worked as a consultant in European public affairs and communications in Brussels for over 8 years, completing a wide range of EU-related projects for clients in the healthcare field. I then launched my independent activity as a public affairs professional and coach. Since the early days of being a consultant I have specialised in stakeholder relations and association work. I have worked with ECOO since 2010 and became the Secretary General in 2013. In this role I am in charge of all organizational aspects of the association, including member relations, preparing the content for meetings, shaping and delivering the strategy together with the Executive Committee and representing the interests of opticians and optometrists at EU-level.

What are the most important skills/ personal attributes needed to do your job?

I think a combination of skills are needed for this kind of job. Strong organisational skills, language and drafting capabilities but also sensitivity to pick-up on delicate matters and to deal with them diplomatically but assertively. I have worked with seven ECOO Presidents so far, so flexibility and the ability to adapt to different working styles is also important. Finally, I would add good lobby skills and relationship building for the EU work is key.

What has taken you by surprise in your work with ECOO?

I have worked for many associations and clients but ECOO really stood out for me thanks to their passion and human approach. The people involved in ECOO are collaborative, constructive and committed. They genuinely love what they do and dedicate their free time to add value to ECOO. The Executive Committee always has the best interest of its members at heart and works as a team. This creates an environment in which people not only work well together, but also feel comfortable to disagree, which is important to move forward and to build a very supportive community among professionals.

What is your biggest achievement at ECOO so far?

I would say from an organisational point of view, I am proud about having built and shaped the Brussels office of ECOO, in particular its presence at EU policy/political level. Building strong relationships with EU institutions and other stakeholders has allowed us to have our say and be heard, even as a small association compared to other players at EU-level. One example of this has been the recent classification of Fluorescein strips for contact lens-fitting as medical devices, which concluded a 10-year long lobby effort that I have managed.

What is the best piece of professional advice you have received?

Don't wait for opportunity, create it.

Bonus question:

When you manage to escape from ECOO, how do you like to spend your time?

I actually have too many hobbies, which can be a blessing or a curse. Next to spending time with my family, I enjoy contemporary dancing, painting and drawing, playing the piano and reading. I also love doing sports ranging from swimming over biking to skiing.



European Academy
of Optometry and Optics

UPDATE FROM THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY AND OPTICS

SILMO PARIS 2022



The European Academy of Optometry and Optics was present at the Silmo Paris optical exhibition, 23-26 September. What a pleasure for the EAOO Board of Trustees who were present at the event to welcome everyone in person on our booth! We enjoyed meeting many of EAOO's members, fellows, supporters, friends, and all other visitors, including young opticians and students. It was a great opportunity to renew relationships, make new connections, discuss inspiring topics around optometry and optics in Europe, and promote our next EAOO 2023 annual conference in Poland. Looking forward to coming back next year!

NEXT EAOO 2023 IN POLAND!

The next annual conference EAOO 2023 will take place in Poznań, Poland on 12-14 May 2023, alongside the ECOO spring meeting starting from 11 May 2023. The event will be hosted by local ECOO member, Polskie Towarzystwo Optometrii i Optyki (PTOO). Conferences and workshops will be held in English. The deadline for the abstract submission is 28 December: www.eaoo2023.com. Decisions will be communicated by the end of January 2023. For those proposals which are accepted, the scientific programme will be presented from the 12 to the 14 of May 2023.

Submit your abstract
now for the

**European Academy of Optometry
and Optics 2023**

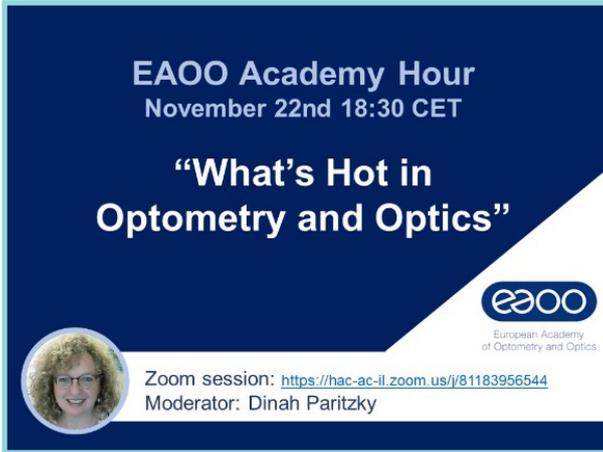
taking place in Poland from 12 - 14 May 2023

DEADLINE: 15th December 2022

www.eaoo2023.com

POZNAŃ POLAND
12-14 MAY 2023

PTOO



“ACADEMY HOUR”, A NEW EAOO INITIATIVE

On the occasion of World Sight Day, the EAOO launched its new initiative called “Academy Hour” - a series of online discussion sessions, available to everyone in open access. The first session held on 12 October looked at opportunities to raise awareness and promote Visual Health across Europe. This theme was chosen in alignment with the International Association for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) campaign “LOVE YOUR EYES”. The session was introduced by Liliana Stankova, President of EAOO, and discussion evidenced that most of the attendees were frequently involved in visual screenings, lectures, and other actions in the community to promote eye health to all segments of society. Most of the community actions are promoted by professional associations and individual practitioners rather than local, regional, or national governments. Along with the paediatric and elderly population, the adult population was a core target for those health promotion activities. The involvement of populations with special needs and underserved communities was also targeted as a call for action for eye care practitioners. Attendees listed several opportunities during events such as World Sight Day and others to promote eye health in 2023.

The second Academy Hour was scheduled for 22 November and discussed “What’s Hot in Optometry and Optics” from technical, scientific, clinical and professional perspectives. Info at: <https://eaoonline>, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

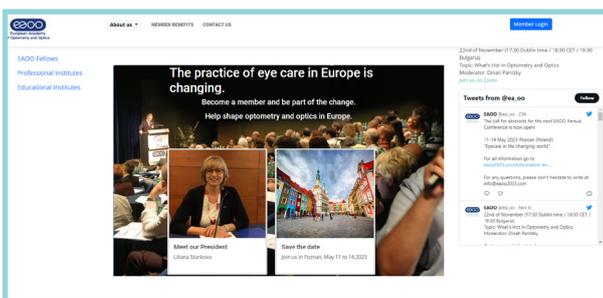
Academy Hour link:

<https://hac.ac.il.zoom.us/j/81183956544>

EAOO LAUNCHES ITS NEW WEBSITE!

We are happy to announce that our new website is up and running at: <https://eaoonline>. The area of professional development is still under construction. We would like to hear from contributors who wish to share content (posters or presentations) from previous EAOO conferences to appear on the website.

Please send content to dinah@hac.ac.il



THE EAOO'S FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that the EAOO Fellowship Application process is now open. If you look at our website under the EAOO Fellows section, there is link which will take you to the [Fellowship Application Guidelines and Application forms](#). On this page, you will find the Application Guidelines – please do look at the guidelines before you submit your application as it gives you the different categories under which you can apply as well as the timeline for applications. Applications will need to be submitted by 29 Dec 2022.

EAOO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEES

At the Dublin meeting the Board of Trustees and Education Committees were renewed with plans for an exciting and ambitious new work plan.

The Board of Trustees is made up of (from L to R) Elaine Grisdale, Rupal Lovell-Patel (Vice President), José Manuel González Méijome, Fiona Anderson, Liliana Stankova (President), Nick Rumney (Immediate Past-President), Eva Lazuka-Nicoulaud, Rob Hogan (missing is Daniela Oehring).



The Education Committee is comprised of (from L to R) Dinah Paritsky, Santiago Escandón García, José Manuel González Méijome (Chair) and Dominique Meslin.





WORLD COUNCIL
OF OPTOMETRY

UPDATE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

LEGISLATION, REGISTRATION AND STANDARDS TOOLKIT

On World Sight Day 2022, the WCO Legislation, Registration, and Standards (LRS) Committee officially launched our Legislation, Registration, and Standards Toolkit. This toolkit is the culmination of an ongoing effort by our dedicated WCO volunteers over the years, and is now an accessible WCO member benefit for WCO's Country and Affiliate Members.

This toolkit acts as a resource to help develop professional associations, legislative framework, and regulatory bodies:

<https://worldcouncilofoptometry.info/lrstoolkitpreview/>.

Those interested in utilizing the toolkit are encouraged to contact the WCO Office at enquiries@worldoptometry.org.

WCO MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT



WORLD COUNCIL
OF OPTOMETRY

LRS TOOLKIT

LEGISLATION, REGISTRATION, & STANDARDS TOOLKIT
DEVELOPED BY THE LRS COMMITTEE

This toolkit will serve as a **resource** to help develop professional associations, legislative framework, and regulatory bodies.



Please email enquiries@worldoptometry.org for more information.

DRY EYE DISEASE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) and Alcon have partnered to form a global, evidence-based dry eye disease education initiative designed to raise optometrists' understanding of dry eye etiology and prevalence, diagnosis, and practical management. Watch our first "Dry Eye Spotlight" webinar and find other practical tools to help with dry eye mitigation, measurement, and management at <https://dryeye.worldcouncilofoptometry.info/>.

The next webinar will be January 17, 2023.



Meet the

FACULTY

The World Council of Optometry has engaged global experts as lead faculty for its dry eye education initiative. These world-renowned leaders in optometry will distill the growing amount of research and clinical evidence into accessible educational content.

[LEARN MORE](#)

[WEBINARS](#) [TOOLS & RESOURCES](#) [FACULTY](#) [BLOG](#)

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4TH WORLD CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY | SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023

WCO is looking forward to next year's 4th World Congress of Optometry (WCO4). We hope to see you September 8-10, 2023 in Melbourne for WCO4 and O=MEGA23. Early registration discounts will be offered until 30 April 2023.

Register Today: <https://www.omega-event.org/>.

 **MEGA 23**
omega-event.org

and

 **4th WORLD CONGRESS OF OPTOMETRY**

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2023

 WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

 Optometry
VICTORIA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

 ODMA

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The ECOO spring meetings will take place 11-13 May 2023 in Poznan, Poland. More details will be available later in the winter.

The ECOO autumn meetings 2023 will take place 13-15 October in the Netherlands.

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