



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
of OPHTHALMOLOGY

2019 Annual Report



Letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) is proud to celebrate 162 years of service to the global community to improve eye health worldwide. 2019 marks a year of many achievements. The ICO welcomed six new society Members to our global network of 176 national, regional, and subspecialty ophthalmology societies. The ICO plays an important role as the primary international organization representing and serving ophthalmologists around the world.

As you will read in this program update, during the course of 2019, the ICO has been working to implement and grow programs that support our strategic plan goals to empower societies and leaders, enhance ophthalmic education, and to advance eye health by increasing access to high-quality eye care around the world.

We would like to thank our fellow Officers, Board, program chairs, committee members, and volunteers for their outstanding work. In addition, thank you to all of the professional ophthalmologic societies, non-governmental development organizations, and related organizations worldwide who the ICO works so closely with. Together, we are building a "World Alliance for Sight."

The ICO's programs are made possible by generous contributions from our many donors who are recognized in this publication and on the ICOFoundation website at: www.icofoundation.org. The success of the ICO is directly related to all those who are committed to our efforts.

Thank you for your support of the International Council of Ophthalmology.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Wiedemann".

Peter Wiedemann, MD
ICO President



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivo Kocur".

Ivo Kocur, MD
ICO Chief Executive Officer



ICO Highlights

ICO Member Societies include **124 National Societies**, **8 Regional Societies**, and **44 International Subspecialty Member Societies**.

Since the ICO Fellowship program conception, more than **1,200 ICO Fellowships** have been granted to ophthalmologists from **84 low-resource countries**.

Thus far, more than **40,000 ophthalmologists in 84 countries** have taken ICO Examinations at our **137 testing centers** around the world.

Over **2,400 program directors and faculty** have participated in **ICO Residency Program Directors Courses**.

Empowering Societies and Leaders

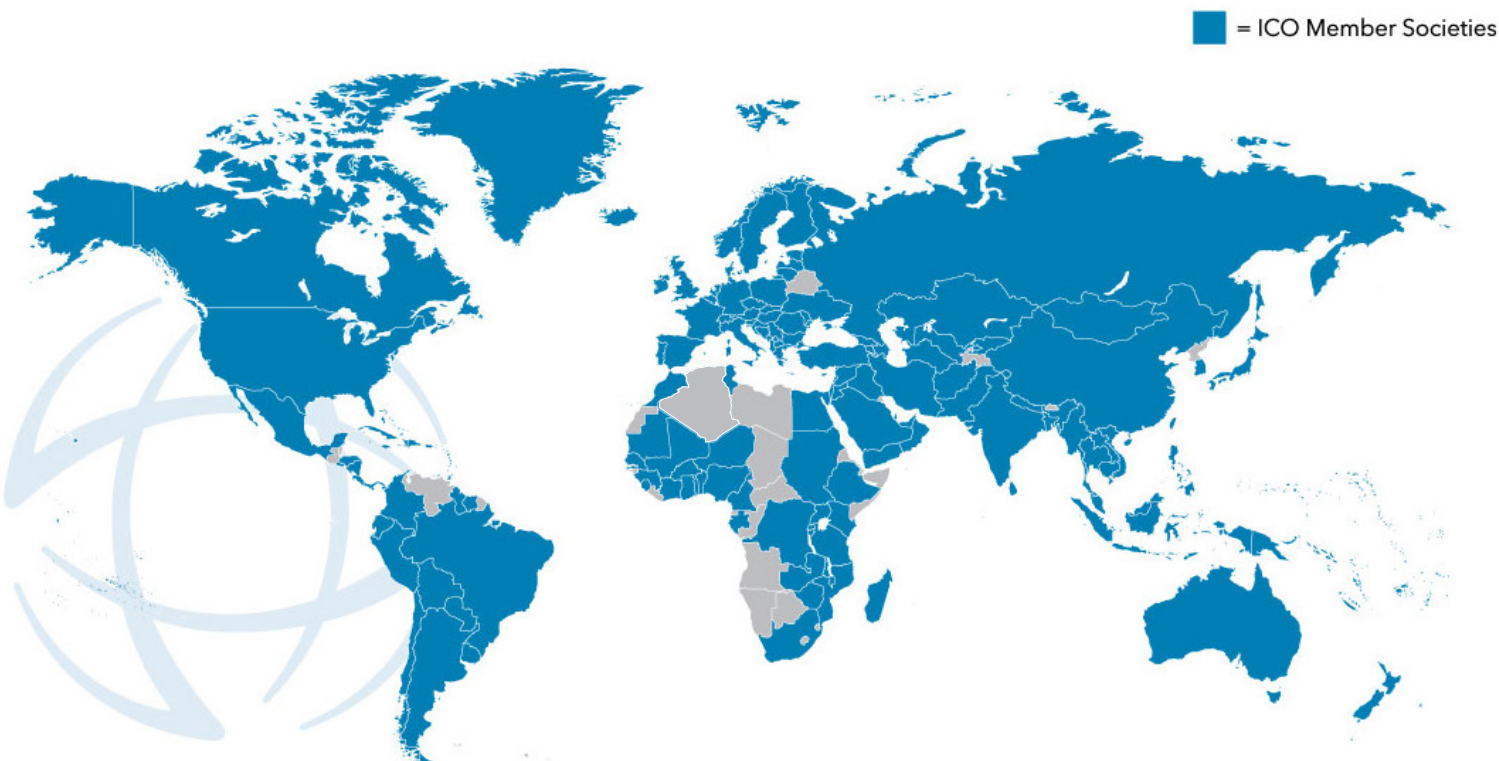
ICO Member Societies

By the end of 2019, 124 National Societies, 8 Regional Societies, and 44 International Subspecialty Societies were members of the ICO making up a strong community that connects the world's ophthalmologists. This global network is working together to share knowledge and increase access to high-quality eye care.

In 2019, the ICO welcomed the membership of 6 new ophthalmologic societies:

- Ophthalmological Association of Costa Rica
- Puerto Rican Ophthalmology Society
- Ophthalmological Society of Zimbabwe
- Global Eye Genetics Consortium
- Asia Pacific Ophthalmic Trauma Society
- European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons

[View the complete list of ICO Member Societies.](#)



ICO Supports Leadership at the Second AOC Summit

The second Summit of the African Ophthalmologic Society Presidents was held before the start of the Ophthalmology Society of South Africa Congress 2019, in Cape Town, South Africa. The Summit was convened and organized by the African Ophthalmology Council (AOC) in conjunction with the Ophthalmology Society of South Africa and with the generous support of The Fred Hollows Foundation.

The primary goals of the summit were to:

- Continue with the process of society development that was started at the World Ophthalmology Congress 2018 which took place In Barcelona, Spain.
- Further strengthen the relationships between the AOC and society leaders in Africa so that there is improved collaboration amongst stakeholders.

The Summit agenda was focused on the following topics:

- Developing leadership
- Encouraging collaboration among societies in Africa
- How to strengthen ophthalmology societies in Africa

Keynote speakers included representatives from international organizations including the ICO, World Health Organization (WHO), Fred Hollows Foundation and Orbis International. Strategic outcomes included formation of committees within the AOC to increase organization and cooperation between societies and ophthalmologists, Attendees were reminded to encourage active membership within the AOC for all African ophthalmologists.

[Learn more about the African Ophthalmology Council.](#)



Enhancing Education



The ICO Fellowships Program provides important opportunities for promising young ophthalmologists, primarily from low-resource settings, to improve their practical skills and enhance their knowledge of ophthalmology. Fellows bring the acquired knowledge and skills back to their home countries and take part in vital programs that preserve vision and prevent blindness.

To date, nearly 1,200 ophthalmologists from 84 low-resource countries have been granted ICO Fellowships. Our network of host institutions includes 136 hospitals and universities across 33 countries.

The ICO is grateful to fellowship host institutions and to our donors for generous contributions that make these opportunities possible.

[Make a donation to the ICO Foundation.](#)

[Learn more about ICO Fellowships.](#)

We invite subspecialty societies to partner with the ICO to create additional ICO Subspecialty Fellowships.

Please contact us at fellowship@icoph.org for more information.





INFORMATION FOR ALL FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS

Applicants from low-resource countries whose societies are ICO Members, as well as applicants who pass one or more ICO Exams, receive special consideration. Female ophthalmologists are particularly encouraged to apply. These three-month fellowships are awarded twice a year to ophthalmologists serving low-resource settings.

ICO Three-Month Fellowships

ICO-World Glaucoma Association Fellowships

ICO-International Uveitis Study Group Fellowships

ICO-Children Eye Cancer Foundation Fellowships in Retinoblastoma

These three-month fellowships are awarded twice a year to ophthalmologists from low-resource countries.

ICO-ECF Six-Month Fellowships

ICO and the Eye Cancer Foundation (ECF) offer six-month fellowships to candidates from low-resource countries on the diagnosis and therapy of retinoblastoma.

ICO-Fred Hollows Foundation One-Year Subspecialty Fellowships

These one-year fellowships for candidates from low-resource countries provide subspecialty training at a designated ICO Fellowship Training Center.

ICO-Retina Research Foundation Helmerich One-Year Fellowships

This fellowship allows the outstanding young ophthalmologists to continue basic or clinical research in one of eight subspecialties at the university of his or her choice, preferably in another country.

ICO-Allergan Advanced Research Fellowship

This fellowship allows the best young ophthalmologists (basic or clinical) from both developed and low-resource countries to continue research in one of eight subspecialties at the university of his or her choice, preferably in another country.

ICO-NEI One-Year Fellowships in Ocular Genetics

Offered in collaboration with the National Eye Institute (National Institute of Health) in Bethesda, USA, this twelve-month training will be served at NEI/NIH for ophthalmologists serving low-resource settings.

ICO Examinations

One of the ICO's primary objectives is to promote excellence in eye care worldwide by encouraging individuals to acquire and maintain the highest standard of knowledge for the practice of ophthalmology. The ICO examinations in Visual Science; Optics, Refraction and Instruments; Clinical Ophthalmology, Advanced Examination and the Fellow of the ICO (FICO) designation are part of that initiative.

Thus far, more than 40,000 ophthalmologists in 84 countries have taken ICO Examinations at one of our 137 testing centers around the world to evaluate their knowledge or to meet requirements in their countries to practice ophthalmology.

This year we had 8,300 candidates taking the exams, and for the first time our exams were offered in Mozambique, New Zealand, and Portugal. The ICO is pleased to continue offering subspecialty examinations in:

- Cornea and External Eye Disease
- Glaucoma
- Neuro-ophthalmology
- Oculoplastic
- Pediatrics & Strabismus
- Retina
- Uveitis
- Cataract

The ICO's Foundation Assessment tool is also available online free of charge for standard examination candidates whose national society is a member of the ICO or for a small fee for others.



ICO Examinations has a reciprocity program in place with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) has replaced their written examinations with the ICO Examinations. Candidates are now able to pass the Standard ICO Examinations (Visual Science; Optics, Refraction and Instruments; and Clinical Ophthalmology) at any of the ICO Examination Centres and then apply for the Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (MRCSEd). The candidates may then sit for the ICO Advanced Examination, and if successful take the Structured Vivas Examination with the RCSEd in either Edinburgh, Chennai, or Cairo in 2020.

[Learn more about the ICO Examinations, and how these may benefit your local examination system.](#)



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL *of* OPHTHALMOLOGY



WORLD OPHTHALMOLOGY CONGRESS®

VIRTUAL 26 – 29 JUNE

2020 World Ophthalmology Congress Virtual®

Major efforts have been dedicated throughout 2019 to prepare an outstanding scientific program of the World Ophthalmology Congress 2020 which was planned for Cape Town, South Africa in collaboration with the Ophthalmological Society of South Africa (OSSA) and Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO). Unfortunately, due to the novel coronavirus global pandemic, the congress had to be cancelled. However, at the time of publishing this report, the preparations are well underway with strong commitment to offer the congress as a virtual event. During these extraordinary times, the ICO remains committed to bringing WOC2020 Virtual® 26-29 June 2020 to the global community. It promises to be an exciting educational opportunity to learn from world experts in all subspecialties of ophthalmology. This unique first of a kind global 37th World Ophthalmology Congress will be an unforgettable personalized educational experience. The ICO remains dedicated to bringing the latest in ophthalmology to our colleagues toward better eye health worldwide.

[Learn more by visiting the WOC2020 Virtual® website.](#)



2022 World Ophthalmology Congress®

The 38th World Ophthalmology Congress will be held in Melbourne Australia from 25–28 February 2022. Please save the date! Co-hosting societies are The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists together with the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.



ICO Guidelines

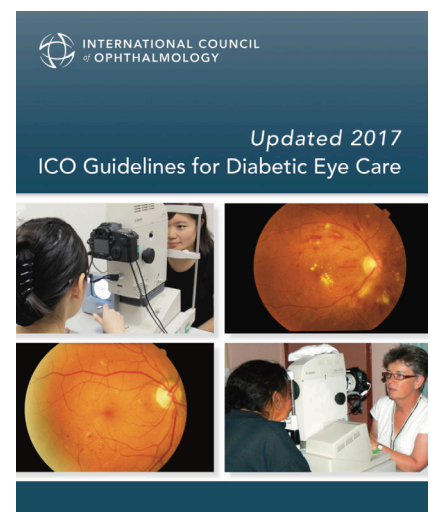
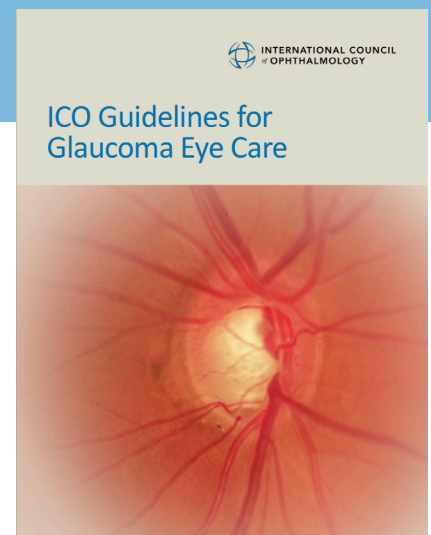
ICO Guidelines for Glaucoma Eye Care

Endorsed by the World Glaucoma Association, these guidelines were created by the ICO to offer health professionals a valuable and adaptable resource for diagnosing and treating glaucoma in high or low resource settings. Translated versions are now available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

ICO Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care

Designed to help ophthalmologists screen, detect, assess, and manage cases of diabetic retinopathy, the guidelines also encourage ophthalmologists to work with primary care providers and other specialists. They are meant to be adaptable and consider low, intermediate, and high-resource settings. The latest edition is available in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. These important resources are offered to the ICO community free of charge.

[Download the ICO Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care.](#)



Advancing Eye Health

New Data on the Number of Ophthalmologists Worldwide

The ICO surveyed national societies of ophthalmology and representatives from the Ministry of Health around the world to gather the total number and density of ophthalmologists at the national and global level, including growth trends. The data from 194 countries shows that there are more than 230,000 ophthalmologists in the world.

A significant shortfall of ophthalmologists in many countries was noted, particularly as an ageing global population is currently growing faster than the profession. Although the estimated global ophthalmologist workforce appears to be growing, the appropriate distribution of the eye care workforce and the development of comprehensive eye care delivery systems are needed to ensure that eye care needs are universally met.

[View this new data published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology.](#)



Global Statement on Diabetes and Eye Health

The ICO, International Diabetes Federation, World Council of Optometry, and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness have released a joint Global Statement on Diabetes and Eye Health calling for urgent action from governments, medical associations, service providers, and patient organizations to:

- Integrate eye health within routine diabetes care by primary health care providers
- Improve collaboration across the diabetes and eye health sectors
- Foster and support patient-centered care approaches for diabetic eye health.

Support integrative care for diabetes and bring eye health to the frontline of diabetes care by circulating the statement to practitioners, policy leaders, and lawmakers in your region.

[Download the Global Statement on Diabetes and Eye Health.](#)

ICO Position Papers Promote Eye Health Around the World

In order to achieve Universal Eye Health, the ICO advocates that there must be a change in the mindset from purely clinical, institutional-based training for ophthalmologists to a team approach embracing all cadres. Eye health stakeholders must commit to training eye health teams so that all cadres receive adequate attention, training, and deployment within the health systems of their countries. Meeting this objective will help to make comprehensive eye care more accessible and affordable around the world.

[Download the ICO Position Paper on Training Eye Care Teams to Meet Public Needs.](#)

Other Position Papers and Global Statements from the ICO include:

- [Donation, Processing, Allocation, Advocacy, and Legislation Supporting Human Corneal Tissue for Ocular Transplant, with Cornea Society and Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations](#)
- [Call for Action to Eliminate Eye Surgical Errors](#)
- [Global Ban of Consumer Fireworks](#)
- [Accreditation for Eye Care Training Programs](#)
- [Continuing Professional Development \(CPD\)](#)

ICO Residency and Subspecialty Curricula

All ICO curricula are designed to be adapted and modified to meet local and regional needs. In addition to the ICO Residency Curriculum, ICO Subspecialty Curricula include aspects of modern curriculum design complementing the ICO Residency Curriculum.

The following subspecialty training curricula are available on the ICO website:

- Cornea, External Diseases, and Refractive Surgery
- Glaucoma
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Ophthalmic and Facial Plastic Surgery
- Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus

Curricula currently in development include an expanded ICO Ophthalmic Educators Curriculum and Subspecialty Training Curricula for Ophthalmic Oncology and Pathology, Vitreoretinal Surgery, and Low Vision.

[Access all ICO Curricula.](#)

Eyexcel 2019

The ICO was pleased to co-sponsor, in partnership with the Seva Foundation, our 11th Eyexcel Course that was held at the Lions Aravind Institute of Community Ophthalmology (LAICO), in Madurai, India. This year, the ICO also co-sponsored Eyexcel courses in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Peru.

Eyexcel facilitates the creation or enhancement of ophthalmic training programs—ultimately increasing the availability of eye care. It is primarily focused on allied ophthalmic personnel training needs and on producing specific teaching and assessment methods, program evaluation, and sustainability.



Many of the resources covered at Eyexcel are available in the [ICO's online Center for Ophthalmic Educators](#) under "What to Teach" for Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.

To receive notification about future Eyexcel courses, please sign up for the ICO Ophthalmic Educators Letter by visiting www.icoph.org/signup.

Basic and Clinical Science Course

Through an annual collaboration, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the ICO donate sets of the Basic and Clinical Science Course (BCSC) to residency training programs in low-resource areas around the globe. The BCSC, a comprehensive learning resource in ophthalmology, is made available to residents and trainees. Through this collaboration, 125 sets were distributed in 2019.

ICO Educator Courses

Online ICO educator courses are offered for free or at low cost, with an emphasis on the needs of educators in low-resource countries. In 2019, the ICO offered the following courses:

- Transforming Lectures into Effective Teaching Interventions
- Learning and Teaching Critical Thinking

In addition, the ICO also develops online clinical courses in partnership with ICO Member societies. In 2019, the following courses were offered:

- Comprehensive Course on Open-Angle Glaucoma
- Neuro-Ophthalmology Essentials

[Learn more about ICO Educator Courses.](#)

ICO Ophthalmic Educator Sessions at Supranational Congresses

In 2019, the ICO co-sponsored numerous high-quality ophthalmic educator and ICO Examinations/ICO Fellowships sessions at supranational congresses. These included:

- Five ICO-APAO ophthalmic educator sessions during the 2019 Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology (APAO) meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Two ICO-PAAO ophthalmic educator sessions and one ICO Examination / ICO Fellowships session during the 2019 Pan American Academy of Ophthalmology (PAAO) meeting in Cancún, Mexico.
- Three ICO-SOE ophthalmic educator sessions at the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) 2019 meeting in Nice, France.
- Two ICO ophthalmic educator sessions and one workshop at the Middle East Africa Council of Ophthalmology (MEACO) meeting in Jordan.

In addition, the Conference for Ophthalmic Educators was co-sponsored with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and took place during the AAO 2019 annual meeting in San Francisco. This session offered expert instruction, interactive workshops, and group discussion for educators of ophthalmology residents, fellows, practicing ophthalmologists, medical students, and allied ophthalmic personnel to learn about the latest tools and practice techniques of modern education.

ICO-CBM Phaco Surgeon Training Curriculum

The ICO and CBM collaborated on the development of the ICO-CBM Phaco Training Curriculum: Preparing MSICS Surgeons for Phaco Surgery. This phaco training curriculum is being deployed at CBM's regional training centers.



[Download the ICO-CBM Phaco Surgeon Training Curriculum.](#)

ICO Ophthalmic Educators Curriculum

The ICO developed the Ophthalmic Educators Curriculum as a guideline of “must know” and “should know” teaching principles, methodologies, and program-specific management elements.

Currently, it is being expanded to link to resources and tools for each topic area to provide ophthalmic educators with a clear path to enhancing their competencies in ophthalmic education practices.



ICO-CBM Phaco Surgeon Training Curriculum

Preparing MSICS Surgeons for Phaco Surgery

ICO - OSCARs

The ICO Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric (ICO-OSCAR) is a standardized, internationally-valid tool to teach and assess an ophthalmologist's competence in performing surgery. ICO-OSCARs are available for Extracapsular Cataract Extraction, Lateral Tarsal Strip Surgery, Pediatric Cataract Surgery, Phacoemulsification, Ptosis, Small Incision Cataract Surgery (SICS), Strabismus, Trabeculectomy, and Vitrectomy.

Currently in development are ICO-OSCARs in Pediatric Glaucoma Surgery, Intravitreal Injection, Pterygium, Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty, Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty, Dacryocystorhinostomy, Penetrating Keratoplasty, Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, Frontalis Sling, and Tube Shunt.

In collaboration with LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, India, the ICO is developing a mobile app for the ICO-OSCAR rubrics.

Selected ICO-OSCAR's are available in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese.

[Download ICO-OSCAR Resources.](#)

ICO 360° Assessment

The ICO 360° Assessment is a multi-source feedback tool to assess and provide feedback to ophthalmology residents regarding their competence in "soft skills" such as interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and system-based practice. This assessment was developed specifically for ophthalmology residents and was internationally validated. In 2019, the ICO 360° Assessment was translated into Spanish and Portuguese.

[Learn more about ICO 360° Assessment.](#)

CBM-ICO Phaco Curriculum Development

The monthly ICO Ophthalmic Educators Letter highlights new resources, courses, upcoming events for teachers, and other relevant news. Sent to more than over 7,000 educators as part of our efforts to support and improve ophthalmic education around the world, suggestions of resources to feature can be sent to educators@icoph.org.

[Sign up to receive the ICO Ophthalmic Educator Letter.](#)



Teaching the Teachers

As part of our strategic plan, the ICO is working to address the current and anticipated shortfall of ophthalmologists, particularly in low-resource settings, by stimulating and supporting the training of eye care teams led by ophthalmologists. These educational programs focus on assisting ophthalmic educators become better teachers utilizing more effective, affordable, and broader reaching educational offerings.

2019 Course Locations

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Yaoundé, Cameroon - in collaboration with The Magrabi ICO Cameroon Eye Institute

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Jinan, China

Yangon, Myanmar

Residency Program Directors Courses (RPD)

ICO Residency Program Directors (RPD) Courses are offered in collaboration with ICO Member societies and are typically two-day interactive workshops covering topics such as applying adult learning principles, teaching and assessing surgical skills, and developing curricula. The ICO began offering these courses in 2004, and since then, more than 2,400 program directors and faculty have participated in 55 ICO RPD Courses.



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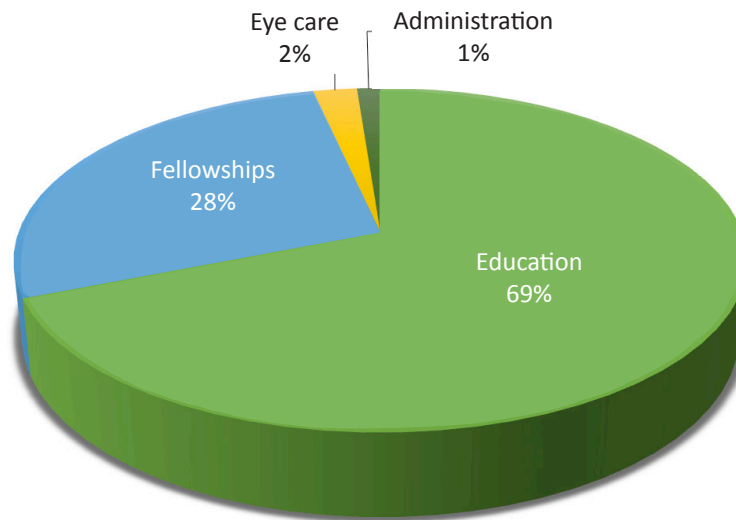
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ICO Foundation

With generous contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals, the ICOFoundation supports ICO educational programs such as the Teaching the Teachers Initiative and ICO Fellowships. Donations to the ICOFoundation also aid ICO activities in eye care, advocacy, and leadership. Donations directly sustain programs working to improve eye health on a global scale. The ICO is able to maximize resources and keep administrative costs low because of our expansive network of volunteers.

[Make a donation to support the ICO Foundation](#) or to learn about leaving a Legacy Gift please contact us at info@icoph.org.



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