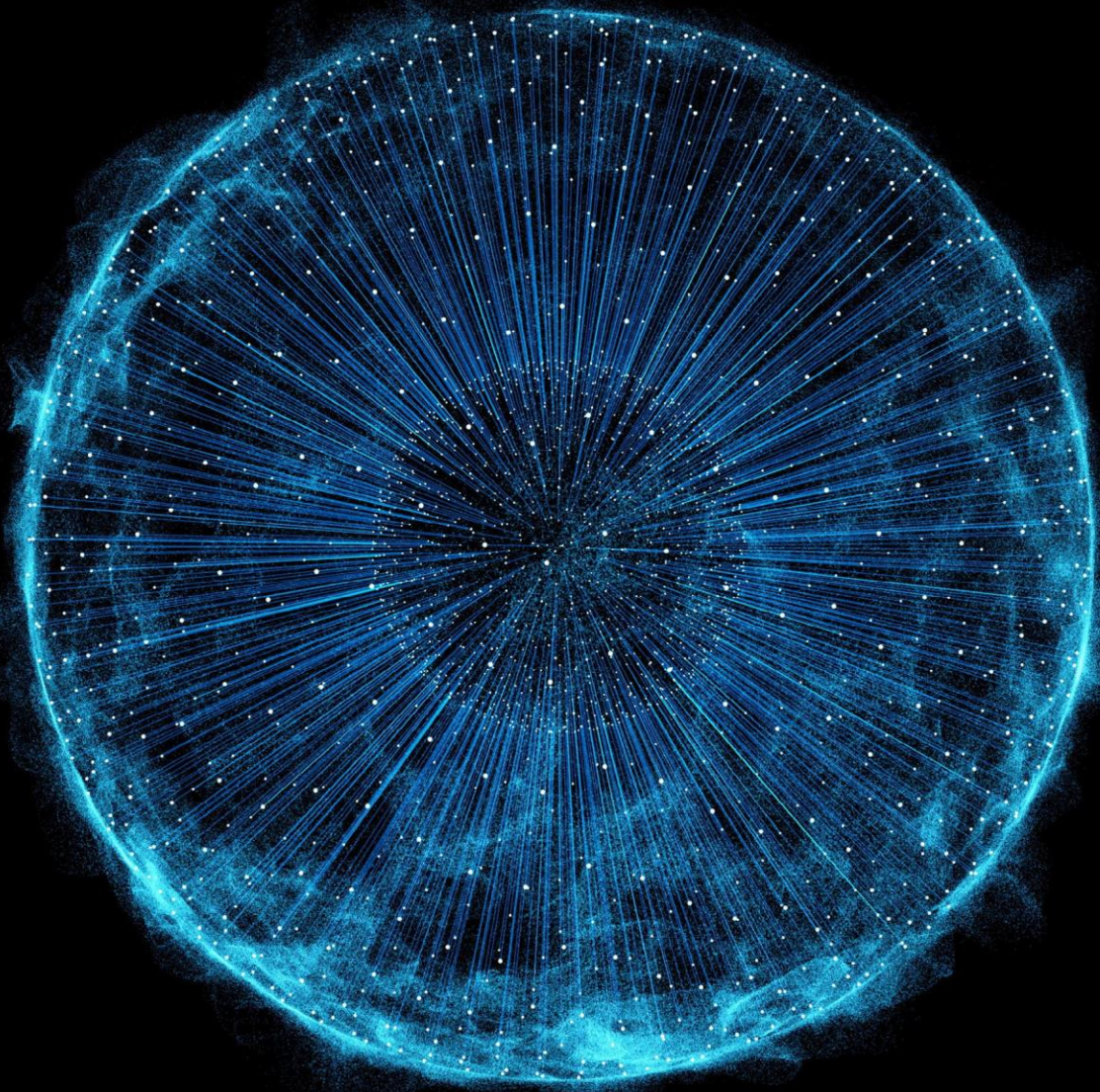




INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
of **OPHTHALMOLOGY**

2022
Annual Report



95 Years Serving the Global Ophthalmology Community

Dear Colleagues, Supporters, and Friends,

Thanks to your extraordinary support and incredible dedication to our mission, the ICO is proud to celebrate 95 years of service to the global ophthalmology community. The ICO's work over generations has supported ophthalmologists at all stages of their career and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Throughout our history, the ICO has marked many notable “firsts” for the field of ophthalmology. These include the world's first ophthalmology meeting, now known as the World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC); the first global examinations which have been taken by more than 56,800 ophthalmologists to date; the largest global fellowship program with over 1,245 awarded Fellows; the first all-virtual global ophthalmology congress, WOC2020 Virtual®; the only ophthalmology association to engage in Official Relations with the World Health Organization (WHO); and the recognition of extraordinary colleagues through renowned ICO Awards and Medals, to name just a few.

Looking back on the last year, convening the 38th World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC2022 Virtual®) is among our proudest achievements. We also marked 27 years of ICO Examinations and 22 years of the ICO Fellowship Programme. These successes and more are due to the unwavering commitment of our ICO Member Society leaders and their members, our dedicated partners, staff, donors, and supporters. The ICO's legacy and achievements represent a collective drive for excellence and a mission to preserve and restore vision through innovation. We will continue to support and connect ophthalmologists and their teams with stakeholders and partners from around the globe to *Build a World Alliance for Sight* centered on achieving eye health for everyone.

On behalf of the ICO's Board of Trustees and staff, we thank you for being part of the ICO's exciting journey and we look forward to marking new milestones together in the years ahead.



Neeru Gupta, MD, PhD, MBA, FRCSC, DABO
ICO President



Ivo Kocur, MD, MA, MSc, MBA
ICO Chief Executive Officer

ICO Highlights

We continued to serve ophthalmologists at every stage of their career in 2022, supporting their growth and development through enhanced educational and professional programming that empowers the delivery of high-quality eye care and optimizes global efforts to preserve and restore vision for everyone.

- Served more than **180 national, regional, and subspecialty Member Societies** from countries around the world.
- Welcomed four new ICO Member Societies in 2022: the **Guatemalan Association of Ophthalmology**, the **Indian Paediatric Glaucoma Society**, the **Italian Society of Ophthalmological Sciences**, and the **Pan Albanian Association of Ophthalmology**.
- Hosted the **38th World Ophthalmology Congress, WOC2022 Virtual®** that brought over 6,000 participants from 135 countries and more than 1,000 international presenters together for a world-class four-day scientific program.
- More than **56,800 ophthalmologists from 84 countries have taken the ICO Examinations** to meet the requirements to practice in their countries.
- More than **1,245 young ophthalmologists have been awarded an ICO Fellowship** at a renowned eye-care institution to gain valuable subspecialty knowledge and improve their practical skills.
- Expanded the **resources on the ICO Portal** to include access to ICO Member Society academic journals and cutting-edge educational sessions on a range of topics.
- The ICO remains in **Official Relation status** with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Vision & Mission

Our ICO Vision

A world in which no one has avoidable vision loss, resulting from the shared commitment of ophthalmology societies, individual ophthalmologists, and those who work with them.

Our ICO Mission

The International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) works with the world's ophthalmology societies and other stakeholders to enhance ophthalmic education and improve access to the highest quality eye care to preserve and restore vision for the people of the world.



Hosted by



Chinese Ophthalmological Society

In collaboration with



THE PLACE WHERE THE FUTURE OF SIGHT IS SHAPED

Since 1857, the World Ophthalmology Congress of the International Council of Ophthalmology has been a global meeting place to share the latest knowledge and expertise in preventing and managing eye diseases.

This past year, the **38th World Ophthalmology Congress (WOC2022® Virtual)** brought together participants from 135 countries and over 1,000 experts for a world-class four-day event designed to enhance global eye care for everyone and shape the future of sight. The second fully virtual conference, which ran from September 9th to 12th, once again removed barriers to access for participants, providing an extraordinary opportunity for experts, colleagues, learners, and educators to connect, collaborate, and share knowledge to strengthen access to high-quality eye care.

Organized by the ICO, hosted by the Chinese Ophthalmological Society and held in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology, WOC2022® Virtual showcased a cutting-edge scientific program with presentations and symposia featuring the latest research from top experts across 21 subspecialties. In addition, the event provided a variety of interactive networking opportunities, live streaming sessions, industry symposia, and virtual exhibition halls for attendees to meet with the ICO's committed industry partners.

A number of special sessions were also offered, including those dedicated to public eye health and to translating the latest knowledge and scientific advancements from the field into affordable, accessible eye-care services for those in need. Several sessions were also devoted to the latest UN and WHO resolutions on eye care and discussed the key role the global ophthalmology community will play in implementing these recommendations in the years to come. Further, as WOC2022® Virtual connected the global ophthalmology community, the event also created an invaluable opportunity for all of us to consider the next steps in our joint efforts to realize universal eye care and improve eye health in our communities and around the world.

The ICO would like to thank all presenters, delegates, sponsors, volunteers, and staff for their outstanding contributions and support in ensuring that WOC2022® Virtual was a resounding success.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **6,017** registered participants
- **135** countries represented by delegates
- **64** ICO Member Society symposia
- **4** fully-virtual Congress days
- **5** live simultaneous session channels
- **21** subspecialty sessions
- **6** months of access to WOC platform and content following the event



WORLD-CLASS SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The four-day scientific program for WOC2022® Virtual provided an average of 10 hours of live and engaging content per day.

- **1,012** speakers, chairs, and presenters
- **195** innovative virtual sessions, both live and on-demand
- **94** invited sessions
- **27** live ICO Member Society sessions
- **37** on-demand ICO Member Society sessions
- **15** live free paper sessions
- **22** on-demand free paper sessions
- **642** e-poster presentations
- **295** e-posters
- **43** videos
- **19** case presentations
- **6** industry satellite symposia sessions



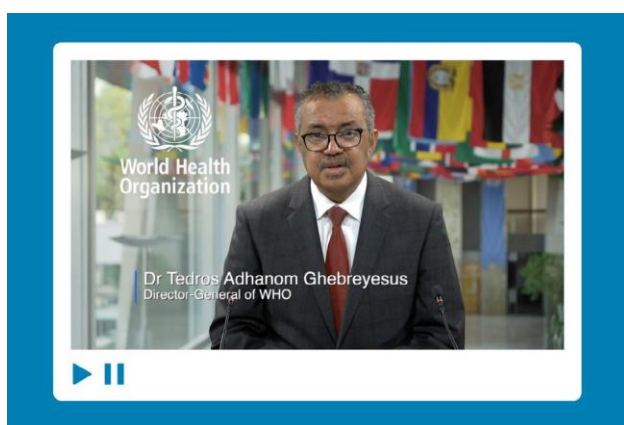
21 VIRTUAL SUBSPECIALTY SESSION

1. Cataract and Lens Surgery
2. Contact Lens and Refraction
3. Cornea, External Eye Diseases, and Eye Banking
4. Glaucoma
5. International Eye Care and Eye Care Delivery
6. Interdisciplinary
7. Medical Retina
8. Neuro-ophthalmology
9. Ocular Imaging
10. Ophthalmic Education/ Young Ophthalmologists
11. Ophthalmic Epidemiology
12. Ophthalmic Trauma
13. Ophthalmic Oncology
14. Ophthalmic Pathology and Microbiology
15. Orbital, Oculoplastic, and Lacrimal Diseases
16. Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
17. Refractive Surgery
18. Surgical Retina
19. Uveitis
20. Vision Rehabilitation
21. Vision Sciences

THE GLOBAL EYE CARE AGENDA

The ICO holds the prestigious status of being in official relations with the WHO. The 38th World Ophthalmology Congress featured [opening remarks](#) from **WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, who highlighted the importance of securing comprehensive, high-quality eye care as a prerequisite to achieving universal health coverage and referenced the ongoing importance of the WHO's collaboration with the ICO to implement the global eye care agenda.

To learn more about WOC2022® Virtual, visit icowoc.org



“The WHO and the ICO have long worked together to address unmet needs for eye care. Our top priority in the coming decade is the implementation of integrated people-centred eye care. This kind of partnership is vital for fulfilling our vision for universal health coverage and the other health targets in the Sustainable Development Goals.”
— Dr. Tedros

INTEGRATING EYE CARE INTO SYSTEMS

WHO experts hosted a live session at WOC2022® Virtual. The session discussed the WHO's work to date to integrate eye care into global health systems, including how they are building on the landmark recommendations from the [World Report on Vision](#), the [groundbreaking UN resolution](#) to achieve global access to integrated people-centred eye care, and the [ambitious targets](#) to increase international coverage of cataract surgery and refractive errors by 2030.

“I commend the ICO's ongoing efforts to raise global standards for eye care and eye health for everyone, and to advocate for and enhance international efforts to address growing eye health needs. The important collective work that is ongoing throughout the global ophthalmology community is ever-present and I congratulate you on working together to make eye-health services more equitable.”
— Ambassador Webson

COLLABORATING TO ENHANCE EYE HEALTH

The ICO's longtime friend, **UN Ambassador Walton Aubrey Webson**, leader of the **United Nations Friends of Vision**, also provided remarks at WOC2022® Virtual. Ambassador Webson highlighted the important role the ICO has played in making eye care an integral part of the global health agenda and called for ongoing collaboration among the ophthalmology and health communities to address growing needs for eye health services.



2022 ICO Awards & Medals

The ICO is proud to recognise leaders from the international ophthalmology community with [ICO Awards & Medals](#). The following colleagues were nominated by their peers and selected by the ICO to receive these well-deserved honours in 2022.

Learn more about ICO Awards & Medals [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org

The ICO Gonin Medal Professor Stanley Chang



This honour is awarded every four years to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the field of retina. Prof. Chang received his award at a special ceremony held at the University of

Lausanne in Switzerland, wherein he delivered an esteemed lecture entitled "The Evolution of Retinal Detachment Surgery after Jules Gonin", in honor of the late Jules Gonin. He was also recognized at the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 World Ophthalmology Congress.

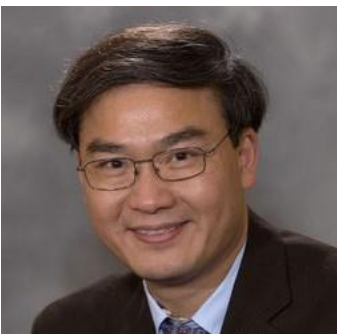
The ICO International Duke Elder Medal Professor David Spalton



This honor is awarded every four years to an individual recognized for outstanding global leadership whose work has advanced the field of ophthalmology and contributed to the development of

international relations and friendship between ophthalmologists. Prof. Spalton received his award at the 2022 World Ophthalmology Congress, wherein he delivered a lecture in honor of the late Sir William Stewart Duke Elder.

The ICO G.O.H. Naumann Award for Global Leadership in Eye Care Professor Dennis C. Lam



This honor, given in recognition of Prof. G.O.H. Naumann's global contributions, is awarded every four years to an ophthalmologist who has shown outstanding leadership and made a

significant contribution to global eye care. Prof. Lam delivered an inspiring lecture at the ICO General Assembly in September and received his award at the Opening Ceremony of the 2022 World Ophthalmology Congress.

The ICO Ophthalmic Pathology Award Professor Tero Kivelä



Supported by the Gottfried and Lieselotte Naumann Foundation, this prestigious award is presented every four years to an esteemed ophthalmologist for their outstanding research and overall contributions to the

field of ophthalmic pathology. Prof. Kivelä received his award at the 2022 World Ophthalmology Congress, wherein he delivered the Naumann lecture, in honor of the late G.O.H. Naumann, a former ICO President.

The Future of Vision Care

The **ICO's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan** outlines an ambitious vision for the future founded on a triple aim of priorities that not only responds to pressing eye care needs around the world, but also addresses projected global eye disease trends.

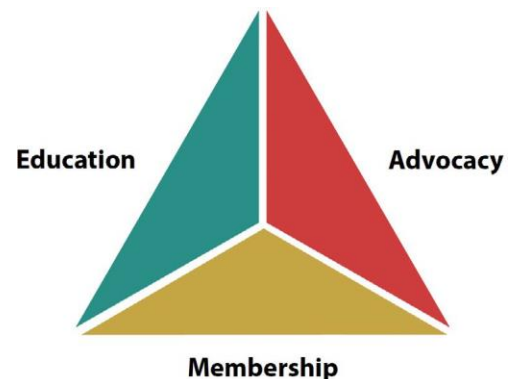
Since the launch of this plan two years ago, the world has experienced unprecedented changes: the global population has continued to grow and greater demands for eye care were placed on the international ophthalmology community, due especially to the impacts of the pandemic. At the same time, enhanced treatment strategies emerged for both common and rare blinding eye diseases, innovations to improve patient care were developed, and technological advances continued to usher in new opportunities to diagnose, monitor, and reach those most in need of eye care services.

As we move into the last two years of our strategic plan, the ICP remains future-focused and committed to strengthening our partnerships with the global health-care community, supporting ophthalmologists and their teams as we Build a World Alliance for Sight centered on achieving eye health for everyone.

Download our 2021-2024 ICO Strategic Plan [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org

THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

Through integrated education, engaged membership, and enhanced global advocacy, this strategic plan framework will guide and underpin the ICO's mission until 2024:



1. Integrated education: promote continuous learning and skill-sharing, and provide standardized knowledge evaluation for ophthalmologists around the world.

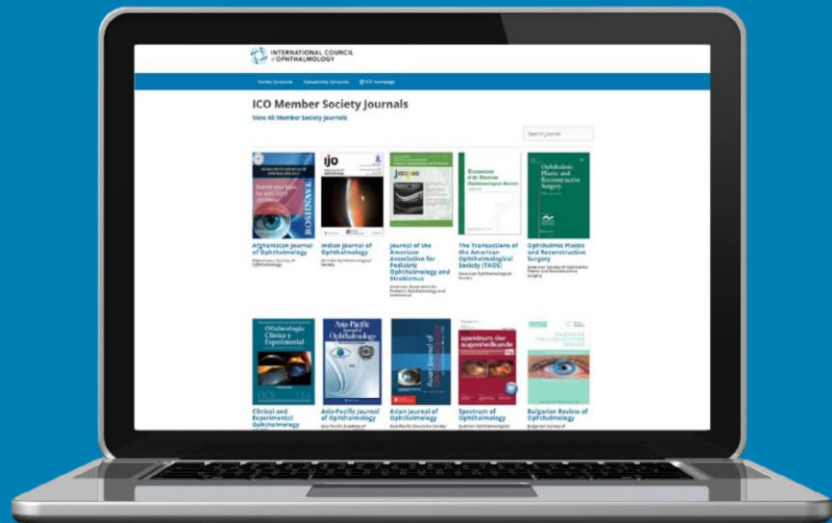
2. Engaged membership: expand the global ophthalmology community through improving opportunities to network and access to professional development.

3. Advocacy: encourage the formation of health systems and an environment that enhances eye health.

Further, the ICO remains committed to continuing to target our work across the broader ophthalmological space to enhance knowledge-sharing and build capacity for high-quality, accessible eye care, with focused initiatives and cutting-edge tools designed to transform these efforts into sustainable, lasting change.

Keeping Ophthalmologists Connected

The ICO continued to champion and invest in digital innovation and updates to keep the global ophthalmology community connected in 2022.



ICO Member Society journals are available via the ICO Portal to enhance global reach.

ICO WEBSITE

Our recently redesigned website provides a streamlined user experience with enhanced navigation and search function that allows visitors to quickly find the educational and clinical resources they need to build their scientific knowledge, improve their practical skills, and develop a competitive professional edge in the field of ophthalmology. Everyone, from ophthalmology students and professionals engaged in ophthalmological teaching, to general ophthalmologists and subspecialists, can access the curricula, learning and teaching materials, and clinical guidelines they need on our website 24/7.

ICO PORTAL

The ICO also continued to showcase academic journals from ICO Member Societies, making them available via the ICO Portal. This allows the latest global breakthroughs in ophthalmology and vision sciences research to be accessed either for free, or through society membership or institutional permissions. The ICO continues to optimize the search function too, making it easier for users to tailor their journal search by country, society name, or subspecialty topic to view current research and academic literature.

Sign up for free to access the ICO Portal [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org

Enhancing Ophthalmic Education

ICO EXAMINATIONS

As the only global provider of ophthalmology examinations, the ICO continued to provide ophthalmologists from around the world with a structured pathway to evaluate their knowledge and meet the necessary requirements to practice in their home countries.

Since their establishment 27 years ago, more than 56,800 candidates have written the [ICO Examinations](#) at 127 testing centers around the world. Plus, 272 candidates from 33 countries passed the ICO Advanced Examination and received the prestigious Fellow of the International Council of Ophthalmology (FICO) designation. 2022 also marked the first time that candidates were able to register online for ICO Examinations via our new streamlined and easy-to-use digital system that provides a seamless user experience from start to finish. In addition to registration, the system allows candidates 24/7 access to their exam history so they can view their results and download certificates in real-time, improving efficiency and reducing the need for burdensome paper-based processes.

The ICO is grateful to all ICO Examinations coordinators for their ongoing support and to all candidates who sat the examinations in 2022 for their continued dedication to raising the standard of ophthalmology around the world.

Learn more about the ICO Examinations [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org



The new online registration system for ICO Examinations streamlines the process.

Empowering the Next Generation

Last year, the ICO continued to support young ophthalmologists in gaining the subspecialty knowledge and technical skills they need to succeed in their careers.

ICO FELLOWSHIPS

The [ICO Fellowship Programme](#) has, to date, provided over 1,245 young ophthalmologists—primarily from settings with limited resources—with coveted opportunities to enhance their subspecialty knowledge and practical skills through training programs at top eye care institutions around the globe.

Following their rigorous placements, fellows return to their home countries equipped and ready to contribute to enhancing eye care delivery. Last year, candidates were able to search and apply for ICO Fellowships through a new digital system that streamlined the application process and reduced the burden of paperwork.

The ICO is grateful to all the institutions and supervisors who hosted ICO Fellows in 2022. We would also like to thank all the generous donors whose contributions continue to make the ICO Fellowship program possible.

Read more about ICO Fellowships [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org



INFORMATION FOR ALL FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS

Applicants from low-resource countries whose societies are ICO Members, along with applicants who pass one or more ICO Examinations, receive special consideration. Female ophthalmologists are particularly encouraged to apply.

- **ICO Three-Month Fellowships**
- **ICO-World Glaucoma Association Fellowships**
- **ICO-AbbVie Advanced Research One-Year Fellowship**
- **ICO-National Eye Institute One-Year Fellowships in Ocular Genetics**

View the ICO Fellowship Program application guide [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org

Integrating Education for Students and Teachers

The ICO's [Educational Programmes](#) are designed to support ophthalmologists at every stage of their careers, ensuring they are best equipped to deliver high-quality eye care in clinical settings around the world. Both students and educators benefit from a wide range of resources that facilitate best-practice learning, including curricula, teaching guides, and clinical guidelines. We also work to address both current and anticipated shortfalls of ophthalmologists—particularly in low-resource countries—by supporting specialized training and skills development of eye-care teams led by ophthalmologists.

ICO Curricula

All ICO Curricula are designed to be adapted and modified to meet local and regional needs. The following curricula are available in multiple languages:

- [ICO Residency Curriculum](#)
- [ICO Ophthalmic Educators Curriculum](#)
- [Cornea, External Diseases, and Refractive Surgery](#)
- [Glaucoma](#)
- [Neuro-Ophthalmology](#)
- [Ophthalmic and Facial Plastic Surgery](#)
- [Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus](#)

ICO-CBM Training

To reduce the prevalence of avoidable vision impairment due to cataracts, the ICO collaborated with the CBM (Christian Blind Mission) on the development of a phaco surgery training curriculum for MSICS (Manual Small Incision Cataract Surgery) surgeons. Learn more [here](#).



ICO-SCAR

The ICO Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric (ICO-OSCAR) is a standardized, internationally valid tool evaluators can use to assess residents' competence in performing specific surgical procedures. This behavioral and skills-based rubric also gives residents a tool to better gauge their skills and identify areas for improvement.

[ICO-OSCARs](#) are available in multiple languages and for various surgical procedures.

Representing Ophthalmologists on the World Stage

GLOBAL ADVOCACY EFFORTS

As the leading ophthalmology organization in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO), the ICO is proud to continue to advocate for our valued members and the world's ophthalmologists on the international stage.

In addition to reinforcing the WHO's long-standing commitment to integrate eye care into universal health care and address the myriad impacts of vision loss on social and economic development around the world, the ICO continued to promote the key role ophthalmologists will play in enhancing access to eye care services for everyone.

Learn more about our advocacy efforts [here](#) or visit our website at icoph.org

LANDMARK WHO EYE CARE GUIDE



Photo caption: (from right to left) ICO President, Prof. Neeru Gupta with WHO Unit Head of Sensory Functions, Disability and Rehabilitation, Dr. Alarcos Cieza and ICO CEO, Dr. Ivo Kocur in Geneva.

During the 75th World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva, the ICO participated in a special event to launch the WHO's landmark [Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for Action](#).

Developed with the ICO's support, the ***Guide for Action*** marks a milestone in the history of eye care and is designed to support countries in integrating people-centered eye-care services into their national health programs.

Building on the WHO's [World Report on Vision](#) and the global commitments made last year to adopt [two ambitious eye targets by 2030](#), these tools provide a blueprint for enhancing access to appropriate, affordable, and high-quality eye care for everyone.

The ICO is proud to continue our work with the WHO and we thank our ICO Member Societies and the eye health community for their tremendous and ongoing efforts to promote global eye care in 2022 and beyond.

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