

2021 Annual Meeting went hybrid

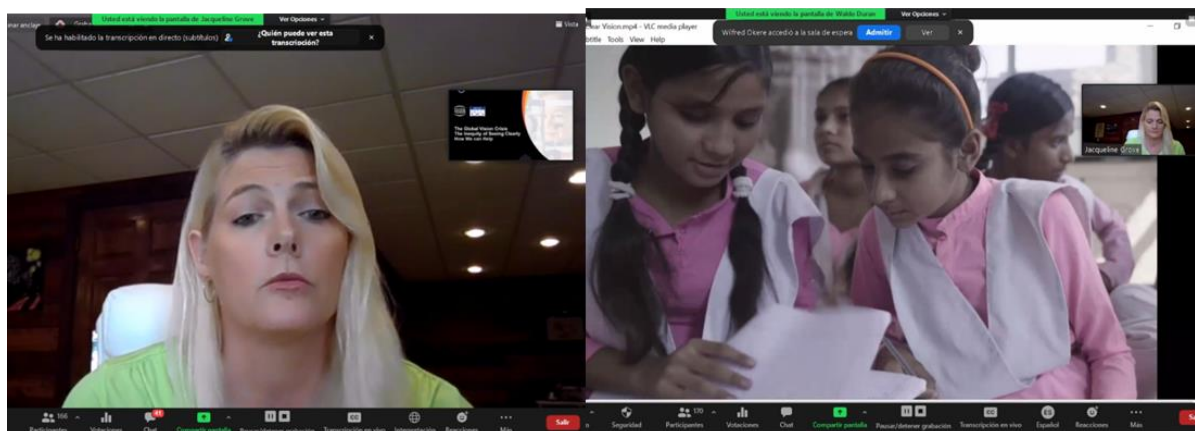
This year our annual meeting was a hybrid event with some attendees enjoying the premises of the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago and the rest joining online. The meeting was successful with over 467 registered participants representing 25 different countries across Latin American and the Caribbean, North America, Africa and Asia. We were delighted to welcome participants from our new chapters in Bolivia and Nigeria. We are very glad to report that each session had an average of at least 95 attendees.

This year as our new President, Dr Cizek, explains in its President Insights, we wanted to highlight the resilience and capacity to embrace change that our members and the organization have demonstrated in the last year. While our core mission remains the same, we have identified different ways to deliver this collaborating more actively with our chapters.

Our visionary sponsor, National Vision Inc., was represented by Jacqueline Grove, Vice President of talent development, culture, philanthropy, diversity, equity and inclusion, who highlighted the global vision crisis and how our organizations and efforts could help address the inequity of poor eye health. Jacqueline reminded us that poor vision deters learning, productivity and income generation and because it affects people facing poverty more, there is a clear mandate to fight poverty by providing vision care. National Vision's charitable foundation, 2020 Quest, has improved over 1 million people's lives contributing over 7 million US\$ to different philanthropic programs in the US and internationally. Additionally, they are working to increase representation at US schools of optometry and associations in recognition of the diversity, equity and inclusion agenda. Several opportunities for collaboration with SVOSH and VOSH chapters were outlined and we will follow them up to ensure our partnership continues to grow.

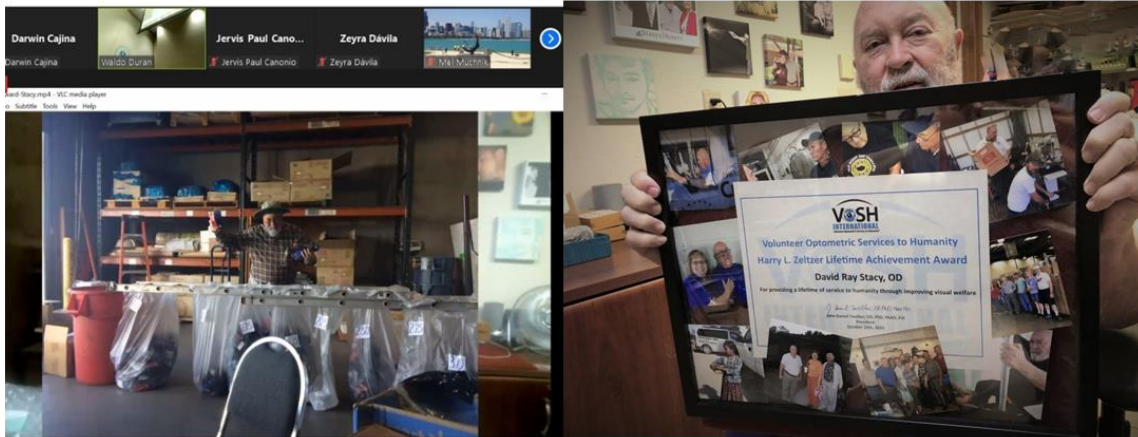


President Dan Twelker report



Jacqueline Grove, National Vision Inc. Visionary Sponsor

As it is traditionally, this year we honored two special optometrists with our awards. The Harry Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr David Stacy, current chair of our Technology Transfer Program (TTP) and former president of VOSH-AZ. Dr Stacy is a dedicated member of VOSH/International who has involved his whole family in supporting the work of this important committee that has benefited several international chapters and organisations with donations of valuable optical equipment for education and clinical purposes. His commitment to this work know no limits and we are very thankful for it.



David Stacy, OD, Harry L. Zeltzer Lifetime Achievement Award

The 2021 Humanitarian of the Year award was presented to MSc Severo Sanchez Melgarejo of Peru. Dr Sanchez is the founder and director of the Instituto Superior Eurohispano in this country where VOSH has a chapter. Since he graduated, he has made humanitarian service a key aspect of his life and of the education of his students. His commitment to bring quality eye health services to the communities in need in Peru has taken Dr Sanchez to recondite places often travelling for days using several means of transport. He is the first Latin American receiving this award and a deserving one.



Our heartfelt congratulations to both awardees this year. They are the embodiment of what VOSH/International stands for.

The governance section of the meeting concluded with thanking all volunteers Board and Committee members, confirming Board members: Drs Mark Rakoczy, Robert Molter, Emilee Nehring, Craig Bowen and Tracey Peterson and the inauguration of three new Board members: Drs Ann Edmonds, Jeffrey Weaver and Kirsten D'Aversa Johnson and of our new President Dr Michael Cizek, for the period 2021-2023.



Confirmation of past and inauguration of new Board members




Past President Dan Twelker, OD and President Michael Cizek, OD

During the lunchtime, our exhibitor Plenoptika held a webinar on their successful autorefractor QuickSee, highlighting recent studies on its impact and application.


The educational program of the meeting was held in the afternoon in two parallel tracks. The COPE accredited sessions offered four hours of top-quality education. The course offered by the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry led by Dr Janet Summers and supported by Drs Russell Coates, Jeanette Wong, Lourdes Fortepiani and Anthony Mac focused on *"The jigsaw puzzle of eye care outreach: past, present and future."*

A promotional graphic for a webinar. It features a purple background with several circular portraits of the speakers: Janet Summers, OD; Lourdes Fortepiani, MD; Russell Coates, OD; Anthony Mac, OD; and Jeanette Wong, OD. The text on the graphic reads: "The jigsaw puzzle of eye care outreach: past, present and future", "COPE No 74243-PB", "Team of the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry, USA", "Saturday October 16th", "1:30 pm - 2:30 pm US CST", and "Join us at our Annual Meeting www.vosh.org/vosh-annual-meeting/".

This was followed by Dr Mallory McLaughlin of the Illinois College of Optometry who lectured about “Update on portable glaucoma technology” and concluded with Dr Bruce Moore, professor emeritus of the New England College of Optometry holding the audience captive with his course on Pediatric Refraction and the Correction of Refractive Error.



Update on portable glaucoma technology
COPE No 74341-GL
 Mallory McLaughlin, OD, FAAO
 Assistant Professor
 Illinois College of Optometry
 USA
 Saturday October 16th
 2:40 pm –3:40 pm US CST



Pediatric refraction and the correction of refractive error
COPE No 74202-FV
 Bruce Moore, OD, FAAO
 Professor Emeritus
 New England College of Optometry,
 USA
 Saturday October 16th
 3:50 pm –5:50 pm US CST

In the parallel track we offered two sessions in Spanish. Dr Monica Marquez, faculty adviser of our SVOSH chapter at Fundación AreaAndina of Colombia presented on their experience of Visualization processes that generate impact on social interventions focusing on their program “Visual Health for all”.



Virtualization processes that generate impact on social interventions: "Visual Health for All" program
 Session in Spanish
Dr Mónica Márquez Galvis
 Associate Professor
 Fundación Universitaria del Área Andina, Colombia
 Saturday October 16th
 1:30 pm –2:30 pm US CST





Innovación tecnológica y académica en América Latina
TOCO: Topógrafo Corneal Portátil, una vía para ampliar la atención optométrica a regiones marginales.
Dr Rufino Díaz Uribe
 Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
Fotorefracción: características y aplicaciones.
Dr Omar García L.
 Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias de la Salud Santo Tomas, México
Innovación tecnológica asequible y su impacto en la salud visual de comunidades vulnerables.
MSP L.O. Daniel Paniagua Herrera
 Asociación Mexicana de Diabetes, México

Sábado 16 de Octubre
2:40-3:40 pm (hora México)
vía Zoom
Inscríbese en
www.vosh.org/vosh-annual-meeting/

Educación en línea
Dr Emiliano Terán
 Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, México

Innovación y protección intelectual en América Latina
Dr. Hernando J. Hernández
 Universidad El Bosque, Colombia

Licenciatura en virtual en optometría, pros y contras.
L.O. Beatriz Gomez
 Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna, México





This session was followed by a rapid-fire session on “Technological and academic innovation in Latin America” offering insights from the experiences of Dr Omar Garcia -Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias de la Salud Santo Tomas, Mexico, Dr Emiliano Teran of the Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Mexico, Lic. Beatriz Gómez, Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna, MSP Daniel Paniagua Herrera, Mexican Diabetes Association, Dr Rufino Diaz Uribe, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Dr. Hernando Hernández, Universidad El Bosque, Colombia.

The parallel track concluded with a session in French for the SVOSH chapters at the schools of optometry at the Université de Montréal, Canada and at the Université d'état d'Haïti where the Canadian students shared insights on optometry in Quebec and their program. This was a first step to facilitate networking between our French speaking student chapters and we look forward to supporting more interaction and collaboration between them.

The program was ambitious and we are glad it met your expectations. It could not have been possible without the support of our volunteer lecturers, volunteers working behind the scenes, our translators and our participating chapters many of which had to stay up all night to follow the program. We are thankful for your evaluations and we promise to include your suggestions in our future events.

A special thanks to Dr Tracy Matchinski, SVOSH-ICO members and the Illinois College of Optometry for hosting and supporting us.

The videos of the sessions will be available soon.

We look forward to seeing you in 2022.



President Michael Ciszek, OD giving his speech

Maria Arce-Moreira
Executive Director

