Optometry Outreach and Community Engagement at An-Najah National University

The Optometry Department at An-Najah National University, under the leadership of Dr. Ithar Beshtawi, continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to community service and eye health education through two major annual initiatives.



As part of the department's outreach efforts, several volunteer field visits were conducted in the West Bank, offering free eye examinations to preschool children aged 3–5. These visits, integrated into the clinical training of optometry students, included screenings for visual acuity, strabismus, refractive errors, retinal health, color vision, and depth perception. Each child received a medical report, with referrals made to the university's Primary Eye Care Clinic or local eye care centers when needed.

In addition, the department held its annual Eye Health Awareness Exhibition in celebration of World Optometry Day. The exhibition targeted university students and the broader community, aiming to raise awareness about common eye conditions and promote preventive eye care practices. Led by optometry students, the event featured educational stations covering topics such as dry eye, glaucoma, keratoconus, color blindness, corneal donation, allergic conjunctivitis, visual fields, refractive surgeries, and the safe use of lenses and eyewear.

These initiatives not only serve the public but also provide valuable opportunities for students to apply their academic knowledge, strengthen clinical skills, and engage in meaningful community involvement.

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Optometry students and faculty
Awareness raising fair

