

President's Insights April 2021

This month we celebrated [World Health Day](#). Annually on April 7th, the World Health Organization highlights the importance of global health, and in 2021 the emphasis is on building a fairer, healthier world for everyone. Certainly, the pandemic is hitting certain groups harder than others including those of advanced age, those living or working in crowded conditions, those working on the frontline providing essential services and people who must go to work to provide for themselves and their families even though it would be safer to stay at home.

World Health Day reminds us of the importance of building a fairer, healthier world for everyone by promoting gender, social, and health equality. This, of course, applies to visual and ophthalmic health. As we know all too well, the inability to see clearly simple due to a lack of spectacles can prevent a person from working or studying, thereby pushing them into poverty, malnutrition, and/or poor health. This will limit their possibilities to reach their potential. A relatively simple cataract surgery can open up a world of possibilities for a blind or visually impaired person.

It is important for all of us, and especially those of us who have been blessed with good health and full employment working at a fair wage in safe conditions, to build a fairer, healthier world for everyone. VOSH/International endeavors to do this every day.

I am grateful to all VOSH volunteers for your work toward visual and health equality. Traditionally, VOSH has done this through small and medium-sized clinics, and in the last decade or so we have shifted toward supporting and educating optometry schools around the world, including inviting optometry students, faculty, and local optometrists to our clinics. By working together with our international optometric colleagues we can help build vision and ophthalmic care capacity 24-7, 375 days a week in the countries we support. Thank you so much for all of your efforts!

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