



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL *of* OPHTHALMOLOGY

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THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF OPHTHALMOLOGY MAKES HISTORY WITH A VIRTUAL CONGRESS BRINGING TOGETHER OVER 7000 OPHTHALMOLOGISTS FROM 150 COUNTRIES WOC2020 VIRTUAL[®], 26–29 JUNE

Geneva, Switzerland, 29 June 2020 – The World Ophthalmology Congress[®] organized by the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) has made history with an all virtual global meeting of over 7,000 ophthalmologists from 150 countries. First held in 1857, it is the longest continuous international medical meeting.

The ICO, representing almost 230,000 ophthalmologists worldwide, shared the latest advances, innovations, and best practices in eye care at WOC2020 Virtual[®]. Filled with many live sessions, this groundbreaking virtual scientific meeting included more than 2,000 talks from internationally acclaimed speakers.

“Shifting from a physical to a virtual gathering was essential to keep everyone safe during the pandemic. The ICO says thank you to our 182 member societies and our international faculty for our rich scientific program and commitment to better eye care everywhere. The virtual Congress has been a huge success and we are thrilled to have been able to bring colleagues from around the world together to share knowledge and collaborate despite the obstacles. WOC2020 Virtual has brought us together as never before and will be remembered as a major milestone in our history,” said ICO Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Ivo Kocur.

Numerous sessions during the conference focused on the COVID-19 pandemic that presents significant risks for ophthalmologists. The International Council of Ophthalmology will continue to share important information and resources relevant to the world’s ophthalmologists via the [ICO Global COVID-19 Resource Center](#).

WOC2020 Virtual[®] is being celebrated as the most accessible ophthalmology conference ever offered, having provided ophthalmologists from around the world with opportunities to learn and collaborate

without the obstacles of travel-related expenses and visa approval processes. This incredible undertaking created an important virtual space for ophthalmologists to safely meet and learn despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Revenues from the World Ophthalmology Congress® support International Council of Ophthalmology programs dedicated to ophthalmic education, eye care delivery, and leadership and society development in low-resource settings.

About the International Council of Ophthalmology:

The International Council of Ophthalmology represents and serves 182 national, regional, and subspecialty [Member societies](#) from around the globe and is in official relations with the World Health Organization. It works to enhance ophthalmic education and improve access to the highest quality eye care in order to preserve and restore vision for the people of the world. For more information, see www.icoph.org.

Additional information about WOC2020 Virtual® can be found at www.icowoc.org.

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