

Myopia Management: Putting It Into Practice

12th of February 2022

Our speakers



Ariolfo Vazquez, OD, is an optometrist from the Universidad de la Salle Bogota Colombia, based in Cuenca Ecuador, South America, IMI Ambassador for Latin America Region, Fellow of the International Association of Contact lens Educators (FIACLE); Fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society (FSLs); co-founder of the LATAM Myopia Management Group. Specialist in contactology, special lenses, and myopia management, he is the Head of the Department of Contactology and Optometry at Oftalmolaser Eye Clinic, Cuenca-Ecuador, and Manager and owner of Centro Visual, Optocentro, Cuenca-Ecuador.



Carmen Abesamis-Dichoso, OD, Philippines Dr. Carmen Abesamis-Dichoso received her Doctor of Optometry from the Central Colleges of the Philippines in 1989, was on the Dean's List, and a Board Topnotcher. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from the Central Colleges of the Philippines and was a recipient of the IACLE Educator Fellowship Program at the School of Optometry at University of Waterloo in Canada. Dr. Abesamis-Dichoso has given local and international lectures in Myopia Management. She has run her own private practice since 1998.



Kate Gifford, BAppSc(Optom)Hons, PhD, graduated from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in 2003 with First Class Honours and a University Medal and was awarded her PhD in contact lens optics in myopia from QUT in 2018. Dr. Gifford is a clinician-scientist and peer educator based in Brisbane, Australia, and a co-founder of Myopiaprofile.com. She works in clinical practice and holds a visiting research fellow position at QUT and is the Committee Chair and lead author on the International Myopia Institute's Clinical Management Guidelines.



Philip Cheng, BOptom, is a clinical optometrist and director of The Myopia Clinic in Melbourne, Australia. Internationally recognised as a leading practitioner in myopia management, he has presented for Optometry Australia, the University of Melbourne, UNSW, the Global Myopia Symposium and the Asia-Pacific Myopia Management Symposium. He also regularly writes for industry publications to educate the public and eye care practitioners on myopia management. He has been involved as a key opinion leader for Essilor, Hoya and the Brien Holden Vision Institute. Philip is an experienced orthokeratology practitioner and a Fellow of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control.



Justin Kwan, OD, is a 2009 graduate of UC Berkeley School of Optometry and went on to do a contact lens and dry eye residency at Southern California College of Optometry. He taught and saw patients there for eight years before moving to Chicago in 2018, joining a private practice. In April 2020, he transitioned to CooperVision full time in the role of senior manager, myopia management. In his 12 year career, he has over 60 accepted abstracts and has given over 100 hours of continuing education. Dr. Kwan is the current president of the Chicago North Side Optometric Society, immediate past chair of the Fellows Doing Research SIG of the Academy, and a member of the Intrepid Eye Society

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Nicola Logan, MCOptom, MEd, PhD, is a Professor of Optometry and Director of Research for the Optometry and Vision Science Research Group, School of Optometry, Aston University, Birmingham, UK. Nicola is also an educator in Optometry at both undergraduate and postgraduate level in the field of paediatric optometry and myopia. Nicola's research interests are the epidemiology of refractive error, the development and aetiology of myopia and myopia control. Her current research projects span these areas of interest and include clinical trials in myopia control and risk factors for progression of myopia in children with supporting peer-reviewed publications in all these areas. Nicola leads an active myopia clinic at Aston University alongside her myopia research clinics and labs and she collaborates with other researchers working in the field of myopia as part of the Myopia Consortium UK and internationally as a taskforce chair and ambassador for The International Myopia Institute.



Sara McCullough, BOptom (Hons), PhD, is a lecturer in Optometry and Vision Science at Ulster University. Her research interests include myopia and other refractive errors in childhood and she is a co-investigator on the Northern Ireland Childhood Errors of Refraction (NICER) study, the largest prospective study of eyes and vision in childhood in the UK and Ireland. The study aims to predict the refractive error outcome for a child depending on their family history, visual activity and ocular biometry to help inform clinicians of those individuals most at risk of developing significant refractive error, particularly myopia. Sara is also study coordinator for the first observational trial of the Hoya Miyosmart myopia management spectacles lenses in European children. She is a Research Advisor for The College of Optometrists, UK and an examiner and assessor for the College's Scheme for Registration.



Thomas Aller, OD, graduated from UC Berkeley School of Optometry and for 30 years he has been researching clinical methods for the control of myopia progression. After receiving the world's earliest patent for a method of myopia control, he began collaborating with Brien Holden and the Vision CRC on their myopia program and shares several patents with them.

Dr. Aller is a fellow of the British Contact Lens Association and an associate member of the International Society of Contact Lens Specialists. He is the 2018 recipient of the Award of Excellence from the Global Specialty Lens Symposium and the 2019 recipient of the Garland Clay Award from the American Academy of Optometry. Dr. Aller is a Visiting Scholar at UC Berkeley, a scientific and clinical advisor to Treehouse Eyes and consults with multiple companies developing devices and treatments for myopia.



Wen Juan Chui, BOptom (Hons), MOptom, inspired by the work of her father and with a keen interest in the sciences, Wen Juan chose the profession of Optometry and completed her undergraduate and postgraduate training at the University of New South Wales, Australia. After 5 years of practicing in Australia, she returned to the family practice in 2008 and is now seeing the third generation of patients. Practising full scope primary eye care and coming across many older myopic adults, have spurred her to have a special interest in managing myopia in young persons, knowing well that risks need to be mitigated for her patients' future eye health and vision. She has been a member of the Singapore Optometric Association since 2008 and is the current Vice-President.

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WCO President Peter Hendicott, DipAppSc(Optom), MAppSc, PhD, graduated from the optometry program at the (then) Queensland Institute of Technology in 1974, he then practiced optometry in Brisbane until early 1986, when he took up an academic position in the developing optometry program at the Hong Kong Polytechnic where he took on the role of Senior Lecturer and Clinic Director.

Prof. Hendicott left Hong Kong in 1993 and after a short period in private practice in Brisbane, he joined the University of Auckland as Clinic Director in the Department of Optometry and Vision Science. He later became the inaugural Head of Department in the Department of Optometry at the Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland, returning to Brisbane in 2004. Prof. Hendicott subsequently joined the School of Optometry at the Queensland University of Technology in 2007, and took on the role of Head of School in 2008, until he retired in February 2018.



Elizabeth Lumb BSc(Hons) MCOptom FBCLA (England) Elizabeth graduated from the University of Manchester and is a qualified optometrist with over 20 years' experience working in a variety of roles, including clinical practice, researcher at Eurolens Research, training and a range of professional services roles. She is currently Global Professional Affairs Director for Myopia Management at CooperVision and is a Fellow of the British Contact Lens Association.



WCO President-Elect Dr. Sandra S. Block, O.D., M. Ed., MPH, FAAO, FCOVD is a Professor Emeritus at Illinois College of Optometry, Global Clinical Advisor and consultant to the Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes program, and co-chair of the National Center for Children's Vision and Eye Health. Dr. Block received her O.D. degree (1981) and Pediatric Residency (1982) at the Illinois College of Optometry where she is a faculty member. She completed her Master of Education at National Louis University and her Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois, School of Public Health. She is a Diplomate in Public Health and Environmental Vision at the American Academy of Optometry and a Distinguished Fellow of the National Academy of Practice. She sits on the Prevent Blindness Board of Trustees and recently joined the VISION 2020 Board of Directors.

She has been a consultant to the Special Olympics Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes program since 1995 and has been instrumental in developing the vision program globally. Her interests lie in primary care for children and persons with disabilities, as well as diagnosis and treatment of visually related learning problems as well as public health issues facing the equity and quality of eye care delivery.