

## NEWS RELEASE FROM WCO

### International Optometrist of the Year

#### **Kovin Naidoo Named International Optometrist of the Year**

March 14, 2007, Elkins Park, PA, USA... The World Council of Optometry (WCO) will present Prof. Kovin Naidoo with the International Optometrist of the Year Award at its General Delegates Meeting in Mexico City in April 2007. This annual award recognizes an optometrist who has shown outstanding commitment and contribution to both the the profession of optometry and community at large.

Prof Kovin Naidoo is credited with placing and promoting public health issues on optometry's global agenda. A former Fulbright Scholar, he was recently named an Ashoka Fellow for his social entrepreneurial efforts in addressing the needs of those less privileged. He was named African Optometrist of the Year in 2002.

Prof. Naidoo holds numerous volunteer positions. He is President-Elect of the African Council of Optometry and serves on WCO's Governing Board and Public Health and Development Committee. He also sits on the Global Board of Optometry Giving Sight and volunteers with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

"Prof. Naidoo has shown unwavering commitment to advancing public health in developing nations." said WCO President Victor Connors. " His unique accomplishments are a reflection of his inspirational devotion to world optometry and the people we serve."

Prof. Naidoo is a graduate of the University of Durban-Westville in South Africa where he obtained his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Optometry degrees. He earned a Masters in

Public Health from Temple University and Doctate of Optometry from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in May 1995. He is currently Associate Professor of Optometry at the University of KwaZulu Natal in South Africa.

#### **About WCO**

WCO is an international organization dedicated to the enhancement and development of eye and vision care worldwide. Representing over 50 countries and 250 000 optometrists, WCO serves as a forum for member organizations to respond to public health needs and opportunities around the world. The WCO is a member of the International Agency of the Prevention of Blindness and maintains official relations with the World Health Organization.