

CALL FOR PAPERS

World Congress on Optometric Globalization – Session II (WCOG2)

Understanding Public Health and Globalization – Strategic Directions for Optometry

April 2008
London, United Kingdom

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NB Abstract deadline extend to 29 July 2007

General Conference Information

The WCOG2 will chart a strategic direction for the profession and address the human resource, economic, interdisciplinary, and educational dimensions that link globalization and public health. The program will feature introductory presentations that will define the strategic dimensions of each issue. The introductory comments will be followed by targeted presentations designed to develop understanding of the issues. A panel discussion with audience participation will close each session.

WCO Policies Regarding the Conference

- The deadline for submitting an abstract is May 15, 2007.
- Each presentation will run 10 – 20 minutes.
- Authors presenting their works at the conference must be registered.
- Authors proposing more than one abstract must submit each abstract separately.

Methods of Submitting Abstracts

You may submit your abstract by e-mail or fax – we greatly prefer e-mail.

1. E-mail

Abstracts and curriculum vitae may be submitted by e-mail as Microsoft Word attachments to wco@pco.edu. Please do NOT use special symbols in your text. Please include all of the required information described in the following section.

2. Fax

Abstracts may be submitted by fax to the WCO Secretariat at +1-215-780-1325. Please include all of the required information described in the following section.

Abstract Requirements

1. Presentation Format and Topic Area

The presentation should be delivered as a lecture of 10-20 minutes with accompanying PowerPoint slides. Identify the session in which you believe your presentation to be most relevant.

- **Session I -- Understanding the Relationship between Public Health, Development and Globalization**

The growing impact of globalization on public

Deadline for abstract receipt: May 15, 2007

health requires a clear understanding of these concepts, how they intersect, and what challenges they pose for optometry. These issues will be benchmarked by reference to global, regional and national initiatives such as the UN Millennium Project, WHO *VISION 2020* initiative, and the *Health for All* policy framework for the WHO European Region.

- **Session II – Global Competition and the Economic Realities of Improved Health Status**

Increasing global competition in trade of goods and services is imposing new pressures on governments, health professions, industry and service delivery systems to increase cost-effectiveness. Health care reform initiatives pose new challenges and opportunities for optometry. The Crown Report in the UK, new managed care strategies in Europe and North America, and reform imperatives in developing countries, present opportunities for optometry and ophthalmic industries to position themselves as an integral part of new cost-effective delivery models. The concept of cost-effectiveness, in itself, poses ethical, economic and status challenges to optometrists, particularly in developing countries where health system reforms tend to pauperize health care providers and impose stringent working conditions that make quality of service difficult.

- **Session III – Transforming the Optometric Work Force: Scope of Practice Challenges**

Improving cost-effective vision and eye care in a competitive global economy will require a continued transformation of the profession. Increasing the number, education, distribution and accessibility of optometrists needs to be linked to strategic local, national, regional needs. Increased emphasis on an interdisciplinary team approach to service delivery,

which optimizes each profession's knowledge and skills, will be essential.

- **Session IV – Education and Accreditation: Strategies for Public Health Impact in an Era of Globalization**

Responsiveness to the economic, academic and cultural challenges of globalization and the increasing cross-border movement of professionals must be balanced with the need for improved educational models and quality assurance systems. Language barriers, cultural differences, varying academic levels and unequal legal barriers to mobility will have to be addressed. Building on the WCO's *Competency-Based Model for the Scope of Practice in Optometry* will be a crucial strategy to transform the nature and scope of optometric education, as well as the certification, accreditation and standards of care approaches to assuring public health accountability. Case studies of successful new initiatives, especially in integrating public health and globalization concepts, will be presented.

- **Session V – The Impact of VISION 2020: The Right to Sight in Responding to the Challenges of Globalization and Public Health**

As the *VISION 2020: The Right to Sight* initiative approaches its 10th anniversary, it is important to reflect on the role and impact that this historical effort is having in transforming how the profession of optometry, governmental and nongovernmental organizations, and the health services community are responding to the challenge of eliminating avoidable blindness. Current initiatives are assessed and future directions will be charted. It is desirable that optometry takes an active role in the design of research and assistance plans, as well as in the assessment of healthcare programs.

3. Title

Provide a title for your presentation.

4. Presenter(s)

Provide each author's name, highest professional degree, highest academic degree and any academic or company affiliations. The presenting author's name must be listed first. No more than 10 authors will be published for any given abstract.

You must include a detailed biographical sketch or curriculum vitae that highlights your credentials and experience.

5. Topic Summary

Provide an abstract of 300 words or less that summarizes the content of your proposed presentation. Please avoid the use of abbreviations or acronyms, literature citations, and figures or tables. All submissions must be in English.

6. Additional Policies for the Scientific Program

- The submitting author is required to assure that the abstract complies with each of the following standards, insofar as they are applicable:
- Research involving human subjects was conducted in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Declaration of Helsinki and in adherence of applicable national and local human subjects requirements.
- Research involving animal subjects was conducted in accordance with international standards for animal treatment and care, as published, for example, by the Society of Neuroscience and ARVO.
- All coauthors have read the final, submitted version of the abstract and consented explicitly to including their names in the list of authors. The submitting author is responsible for assuring that all coauthors have had the opportunity to do so.
- Conflicts of interest, or lack of, must be at the bottom of your abstract.

7. Abstract Evaluation Criteria

If the abstract is a concept or policy presentation:

- The material meets the content criteria of the presentation session in question.
- The material is of sufficient interest to a significant portion of attendees.
- The material and analysis are novel.
- The conclusions are justified by the material presentation.

If the abstract is a report from a research study:

- The report is of sufficient interest to a significant portion of attendees.
- The abstract does not duplicate substantial material from another abstract or other publication.
- The scientific and/or clinical significance is clearly stated in the abstract.
- The methods appear to be adequate to test the stated hypothesis.
- The results of the study are described in sufficient detail.
- The abstract contains sufficient evidence of a significant, result.
- The conclusions in the abstract appear to be justified by the results presented.

If the abstract is a case report or case series:

- The report is not solely a review of information already in the literature.
- The report highlights timely, useful or essential information.
- If the abstract describes an evaluation or trial of a commercial product, instrument, or idea, it must include scientific sound evidence. In all cases, the submitting author must indicate that appropriate ethical and regulatory standards were met. Any conflicts of interest must be disclosed with the abstract submission, and must also be disclosed in the presentation at the meeting.