

PARTICIPANT LIST

Dra. Adriana Andrea Solano SOPLA (Sociedad Panamericana de Oftalmología Pediátrica)	2
Prof. Dr. Andre Borba Silva Sr. SOPANOP (Sociedad Panamericana de Oculoplastia)	3
Dr. Angel Barroso Caraballo * Sociedad Venezolana de Oftalmología	4
Dr. Arturo E Grau Sociedad Chilena de Oftalmología	5
Dra. Berioska Manzaneda Murguía * Sociedad Peruana de Oftalmología	6
Dra. Fernanda Belga Ottoni Porto * Conselho Brasileiro de Oftalmologia	7
Dra. Frine L. Salazar Hernandez Sociedad Dominicana de Oftalmología	9
Dr. Juan Carlos Gil Muñoz Sociedad Colombiana de Oftalmología	10
Dr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Hernández * Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica	11
Dr. Marco Sales-Sanz Sociedad Española de Oftalmología	12
Dra. Maria Fernanda Abalem Sociedad Panamericana de Retina y Vitreo (SPRV)	13
Dr. Mario Esteban Alpízar Roldan * Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica	14
Dra. Miriam Elizabeth Flores Sociedad Salvadoreña de Oftalmología	15
Dr. Rajrishi A. Sharma Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI)	16
Dra. Rita Maria Rio Pedro Flores Sociedade Portuguesa de Oftalmología	17
Dr. Servando M Santana Sociedad Dominicana de Oftalmología	19
Dra. Stephanie Voorduin Ramos Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología	21
Dr. Tomás Jaescke Consejo Argentino de Oftalmologia	22

* asked to present project at the final session

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Adriana Andrea Solano
SOPLA (Sociedad Panamericana de Oftalmología Pediátrica)

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>SCREENING AND PREVENTION OF AMBLYOPIA IN VULNERABLE POPULATION</i>
<p>Purpose: To develop different strategies for permanent amblyopia screening in vulnerable population, with education of the primary care personal and teachers in screening of the children based on the “Guía de Práctica Clínica para la detección temprana, prevención y tratamiento de ambliopía”.</p> <p>Methods: Accompanied by the Colombian association of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus (ACOPE) and the Ophthalmology Colombian Society (SCO), we schedule 2 pilot visits, to Yopal, Casanare and Quibdó, Chocó, for screening of amblyopia and refractive errors. We gave talks about the screening methods for detecting amblyopia and early detections of other pathologies to nurses, general doctors.</p> <p>Results: We did two screening campaigns in two different cities where there are no pediatric ophthalmologists addressed to vulnerable children.</p> <p>Yopal, Casanare: We evaluated 102 children of rural population, measuring visual acuity, red reflex detection and cycloplegic and Plusoptix \square refraction when they failed. We also did a funduscopy evaluation in the dilated pupil children. The children were recruited by radio advertising and were examined in the public city Hospital. Most of the children had an ocular pathology, refractive errors or strabismus. We gave three talks to the hospital community (almost 20 people), about screening of the child and amblyopia. We contact an optometrist to be a leader in this region trying to continue the educational program.</p> <p>Quibdó, Chocó: We evaluated 139 children during two days, the first day the children were recruited by advertising and the second day they went from primary school (first and second grade). We measure visual acuity, red reflex detection and cycloplegic and Plusoptix \square refraction when they failed 20/30. We did screening in children between 3 and 7 years old, with a mean age of 6.4 +/- 1.8 years. We found 13% of children with uncorrected refractive errors and we prescribed them glasses. We could not give the educational talks because our visit were two days before presidential election.</p> <p>Conclusions: Screening and prevention of amblyopia should be based not only in periodic campaigns because, although it helps, it is not lasting. Education of the primary care personal, is a very important issue we have to take care of. We found an important number of children with uncorrected refractive errors as a major risk factor for developing amblyopia. It is necessary to create programs for early detection of refractive errors and other risk factors to prevent and treat amblyopia. We propose as a first step, the use the guide for patients based on the “Guía de Práctica Clínica para la detección temprana, prevención y tratamiento de ambliopía” as an instrument of education. We should replicate these pilot programs in different regions and train possible leaders who perpetuate the education and screening programs.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Prof. Dr. Andre Borba Silva Sr.
SOPANOP (Sociedad Panamericana de Oculoplastia)

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Creation of a Web plataform for an International Observership in Oculoplastics</i>
<p>Introduction/Background: Sopanop is the Pan-American Oculoplastic Society, which has been increasing in number of new oculoplastic surgeons members in the last years. There is also a high search from members to visit another oculoplastic service in another countries and know their best practices. At the same time, there is a lack of information about the possible institutions that provide this kind of educational opportunity.\</p> <p>Purpose: To make the SOPANOP webpage a better tool for guiding candidates who are interested of applying for a short observership abroad.</p> <p>During the elected observership, candidates will be able to visit the elected service, seeing patients, watching surgeries and participating of the local lectures and meetings, inspiring new scientific projects.</p> <p>Methods: It was created a web platform in the SOPANOP website with a list of possible Services of Oculoplastics in Latin America, US and Europe. The new webpage provides all the information about the oculoplastics service, coordinator contacts, team activities and about the desired Observership program. The Sopanop member elects the service to be visited and verifies the requested documents checklist accessing the new page. The candidate can visit the service for a three months period.</p> <p>Results: The Project identified 4 possible observerships services in Europe: 2 in Italy and 2 in Spain, 2 places in US and 3 places in Mexico and 2 in Brazil. The data will be active online in october/2018.</p> <p>Conclusions: The project provides an additional benefit to SOPANOP membership and strongly value an observership international program for oculoplastics by educating visiting colleagues in South America, United States and Europe.</p> <p>This kind of educational program provides an unique opportunity to solidify international relationships between nations as well as to interact with international standards and advanced medical knowledge by learning with regional differences.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Angel Barroso Caraballo *
Sociedad Venezolana de Oftalmología

Title of Project:	<i>Venezuelan Society of Ophthalmology (SVO) e-Learning Project for Continuing Medical Education</i>
<p>Purpose: To plan, develop, implement and make sustainable an online ophthalmic educational platform as the central axis of a virtual Learning Management System (LMS) aimed at facilitating the distance education experience as well as implement, promote and generalize the use of these tools and technology to improve and update the ophthalmic knowledge of Venezuelan ophthalmologists, fellows and residents.</p> <p>Methods: The e-Learning project was planned together with the development of the new and updated SVO website. For the first phase of the project, we decided to start using the zoom.us® software (https://zoom.us/), that allows, in an easy-to-use way, to access a complete and reliable tool for webinars and live lectures with a platform in the cloud for live video, audio conferencing and chat. This platform allows a live interactive audience participation of 100 attendees for unlimited time and can be expanded to 500 attendees according to the demand. It also allows the participation of one or more moderators, facilitators or panelists. In order to maintain the continuity and sustainability of the project, a SVO e-Learning Committee composed of two members of the Board of the SVO and an advisor of the Scientific Committee was formed.</p> <p>Results: After conducting connectivity tests and familiarizing ourselves with the use and functionalities of the software, the webinars started only with selected residence programs locations in order to gain experience and progressively improve our skills in planning and performing internet-based medical education. The Committee has been planning a schedule of online educational activities that include webinars and live lectures initially broadcast in specific regional locations and then nationwide. In 2018 and part of 2019 the e-learning sessions will be carried out with local panelists and the participation of international panelists is expected from the second semester of 2019. The active participation of the different subspecialty groups of the Venezuelan Society of Ophthalmology has been considered. The material in video and audio stored in the cloud will be reviewed and selected by the Committee to be downloaded into the streaming channel and social networks of the SVO in order to optimize and amplify the spread of information among our members.</p> <p>Conclusions: The inclusion of technology in the learning process occupies an increasingly prominent place in the academic world. The e-Learning tools provides easy access to new knowledge only with the use of an electronic device from anywhere. Despite the offer in ophthalmology of excellent e-Learning platforms sponsored by international scientific groups or associations, the development of a virtual learning system adapted to our reality and particular needs is a priority in continuous medical education plans of the SVO. Taking advantage of our participation in the PAAO Curso de Liderazgo and together with the building of our new and improved web page, we are running our own online education project joining the previous experiences in this field of other Pan-American ophthalmological societies.</p> <p><i>* asked to present project at the final session</i></p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Arturo E Grau
Sociedad Chilena de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Social innovation and visual disability teaching classes for residents of the Chilean Society of Ophthalmology: "Role of the Ophthalmologist in an inclusive social model of visual disability: Interdiscipline and social innovation."</i>
<p>Purpose: Include in the training of residents of ophthalmology concepts on disability such as epidemiology, the bioethical basis of the dignity and rights of people with disabilities, the role of the ophthalmologist in the social model of disability, as well as how to integrate these concepts through interdisciplinary work and social innovation.</p> <p>Methods: It will be carried out during the Bioethics module of the "Ophthalmologists Training and Development Course" of the Chilean Society of Ophthalmology. This 5 hour sub - module consists of lectures, conversation workshops, case studies and collaborative dialogue methodology (World coffee). The residents will be able to interact with experts from different disciplines where they can analyze the characteristics of the visual disability (VD) as a public health problem, the role of the Ophthalmologist in an inclusive social model where there is a space for interdisciplinary participation, the bioethical basis of this model and the social innovation as a mechanism for participation and action initiatives to achieve concrete solutions to reduce the gap between those who live with and without disabilities, through new forms of collaboration, creation and spreading of ideas.</p> <p>Results: These issues are very important in the training of residents of Ophthalmology, where usually the knowledge delivered is in the clinical field of the specialty and there are few instances of reflection and learning in an area as sensitive and important as visual disability (VD). It is relevant that the Ophthalmologists in formation find a space where they can find social solutions of the VD from the social innovation and the interdisciplinary work.</p> <p>Conclusions: We managed to motivate the residents of Ophthalmology to include in their knowledge aspects of the VD outside of the clinic work. There is a great need to search for solutions of different social aspects of VD from an inclusive social model of disability. The ultimate goal of any professional in this field should be to help to achieve a society free of barriers, through the right of all citizens to see in all its forms. Applied bioethics, epidemiology and social innovation are aspects that these professionals must know in their training. This type of participatory teaching activities are a first step to instruct the professionals of the future in an integral way.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Berioska Manzaneda Murguía *
Sociedad Peruana de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Implementation of the Virtual Education Program for Peruvian Ophthalmology Residents</i>
<p>Purpose: Continuing education is one of the main objectives of the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology and this must be accessible to Ophthalmology Residents who develop their studies in the interior of the country.</p> <p>The Peruvian Ophthalmology Society has developed a virtual education platform, which contains resources that contribute to the training of ophthalmologists.</p> <p>Methods: Implementation of a virtual education platform, which is executed in two stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Selected conferences: The conferences were selected from the meetings of subspecialties that were developed in the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology.2. Asynchronous Virtual Courses: The beginning of the course is projected for the first semester of 2019, it will be developed as part of the Basic Course and Update in Ophthalmology that the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology organizes every year. <p>Subsequently, other asynchronous virtual courses are projected, which will include topics such as cataract surgery, visual field, ophthalmology images.</p> <p>Results: The platform of the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology contains 41 recorded videos of the scientific sessions developed in the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology, 10 videos of the cornea group, 11 videos of the retina group, 3 videos of the group of pediatric ophthalmology and strabismus, 2 videos from the ocular oncology group, 3 videos from the glaucoma group, 12 videos from the oculoplastic group, which are available at: http://sociedadperuanadeoftalmologia.pe/videos-de-los-grupos-cientificos/.</p> <p>The implementation of asynchronous virtual courses will be progressively developed and the first course is planned to be part of the Basic Course and Update in Ophthalmology.</p> <p>The financing of this project is provided directly by the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology, the selection of educational material that will be included in the courses is in charge of the Secretary of Scientific Activities and Research and the advice of the Board of Directors of the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology.</p> <p>Conclusions: Education is a priority for the Peruvian Society of Ophthalmology and its objective is to provide all its members with better ways to connect with updated scientific knowledge.</p> <p>The advancement of technology allows information to be shared in a quicker and easier way, which allows the information to reach the ophthalmologists who are located in different parts of the country.</p> <p>The incorporation of virtual tools in education will allow access to information about basic Ophthalmology courses not only to Ophthalmologists in training, but also for Ophthalmologists who wish to update their knowledge.</p> <p><i>* asked to present project at the final session</i></p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Fernanda Belga Ottoni Porto *
Conselho Brasileiro de Oftalmologia

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Digital Learning</i>
<p>Purpose: Brazil is a country of continental dimensions with widespread regional and social inequalities. There are enormous disparities among the different residency programs in Ophthalmology and professional qualification all over the country.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Offer quality content for the basic training of ophthalmologists in subspecialties that are required in the CBO national test and which are not available in all CBO-accredited courses.2. Integrate the digital learning to the local existing educational program as the core of the residency curriculum.3. Evaluate residents immediately after each completed cycle of classes, with statistical comparison among all residents and accredited courses. Use the minimum mark of 70% at the Digital learning Platform tests as a prerequisite for access to the national CBO test for qualifying ophthalmologists.4. Improve skills for the National CBO Examination applied to residents who are qualifying as ophthalmologists, independently to where those students are registered. <p>Target Audience: 1.476 students of the 97 CBO-accredited residency course in 24 national states.</p> <p>Methods: Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select the Learning Management System CANVASTM for the proposed digital educational project.- List the essential subspecialties for the program. The criteria of statistical analysis of the grades by subspecialty in the National CBO Evaluation in the previous 10 years have been used for this purpose. Specialties with the lowest marks in the national CBO competition have been selected with priority to integrate the program. Following these criteria, the essential subspecialties are: low-vision, uveitis, orbit, strabismus, neuro-ophthalmology, oncology, ophthalmic genetics.- Definition of the course scope: each module will comprise theoretical lessons of 10-15 minutes totaling 4 hours per week and 3-week-course.- Select the most renowned professors for each subject by the CBO Teaching Committee.- Elaborate the instructions for the professors (theoretical class, case presentation and questions).- Define the course visual identity for web layouts and deliverables (logo, powerpoint and case presentations, tests, certificates). <p>Implantation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Register in the system all the CBO-accredited courses residents.- Record and edit the presentations and tests.- Upload the archives to the platform.- Announce to the residents and courses that the platform is available. <p>Results: 1. Elevate the standards of professional qualification in the country.</p>	

PARTICIPANT LIST

2. Evaluate accredited ophthalmology residency courses using the ranking of courses residents.
3. Improve the approval rate at the National CBO Examination for Ophthalmologists.
4. Improve both the quality of ophthalmologists in the countryside as well as the ophthalmologic care in underserved areas.

Conclusions: This project provides learning opportunities and the highest quality of digital learning systems, enabling residents to improve their knowledge, skills and professional performance even if they are installed in an isolated region. We hope to foster efforts to increase knowledge across the residency community, to complement of already employed learning techniques and the application of new digital techniques or skills for the improvement of education and training.

** asked to present project at the final session*

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Frine L. Salazar Hernandez
Sociedad Dominicana de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Young Ophthalmologist Dominican Republic</i>
<p>Purpose: Motivate new generations of ophthalmologists to be part of the Dominican Society of Ophthalmology, in order to develop activities of common interest in the social, academic and organizational aspects, keeping the ethical and moral values of our senior partners.</p> <p>Methods: At the Annual Meeting of the Society (2018) the project was published in the journal of the meeting, where we invited active members under 40 years of age and / or in their first 8 years of professional practice to join, filling out a form with their personal information and interests within the group. We created an account in Gmail (sdo.jod@gmail.com) to maintain the communication and soon we will identify who will make up the team to manage the accounts in the social networks.</p> <p>Results: We have attracted 30 members and the main topics of interest are: Finance for Ophthalmologists 101; Creation and permanent updating of management protocols for the main ophthalmological diseases in the Dominican Republic in PDF format available to all active members; Creation of Informed Consents for the Society available to all our partners; Development of wetlabs to integrate residents of different ophthalmology residencies and young ophthalmologists supervised by Senior Ophthalmologists.</p> <p>Conclusions: The Society have to stay up to date, with constant changes according to the demands of time and we have the human resources with the vision, will and capacity to achieve it.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Juan Carlos Gil Muñoz
Sociedad Colombiana de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Working on Visualization, positioning and impact: Journal of the Colombian Society of Ophthalmology</i>
<p>Purpose: To improve the impact of the Colombian journal of ophthalmology, achieving international visualization and a recognized position as a scientific journal.</p> <p>Methods: Through a qualitative approach a careful plan was performed. Different issues were considered. As a primary goal, an expert was summoned, and then the approach was focused on: 1) an improvement in scientific quality, involving clinical and methodological experts in the editorial process, supported by the Colombian Society of Ophthalmology and by the editorial committee itself; 2) to enhance a national and achieve an international visibility postulating the journal to databases and data indices; 3) to guide and promote strategies for the journal recognition and appreciation generation a collaborative work and support networks, thus increasing the publication rate and scientific quality.</p> <p>Results: This is an still ongoing project. An expert advisor was included in the society, and a new editorial board was elected; a second editor (as an associated editor) was designated for supporting editor in chief; with the collaborative work, an improving in quality and structure of submitted papers was noted. Due to the new management, the journal is now indexed in LILACS, “Biblioteca Virtual en Salud BVS” and “Indice Internacional Actualidad Iberoamericana” which are recognized international databases where Spanish journal are included.</p> <p>As an important strategy, not just for divulgation but for its upgrade, a web site was developed, an OJS system was incorporated in the portal for on line submissions and, in addition to a printed version, the journal now owns it online version.</p> <p>Conclusions: The Journal of the Colombian Society of Ophthalmology has gained national and international visibility, and the main goal is to keep a constant improving due to its renew methodology. The indexation in different data indices and visualization in databases are attainable facts, and the team work, qualified scientific contributions and ophthalmology community support will enable new achievements.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Juan Carlos Gutiérrez Hernández *
Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Implementing Continuous Medical Education for ophthalmologist as a requirement in Costa Rican Medical Board</i>
<p>Purpose: Make CME accreditation in ophthalmology a requisite to be able to practice ophthalmology in Costa Rica</p> <p>Methods: Presenting the full project to the Colegio de médicos y cirujanos de Costa Rica through the Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica and making modifications to the internal laws that require for CME only to the general physician.</p> <p>Results: This long term project is meant to be accomplished in a multi stages effort, initially there were several meetings, one with the board of directors of the Colegio de médicos de Costa Rica, afterwards, with the academic department, then legal department, project was shown in all instances and modifications were suggested, there are statutes changes of the Colegio de Médicos de Costa Rica internal laws pending, about the obligatory of CME for specialties, mainly in ophthalmology that are being studied by the legal department and right now approval is pending.</p> <p>Next step will be to present the complete project with the points awarded by every academic task, including attending to meetings, presenting conferences or posters, being professor of residency, publishing papers or books, etc... through the Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica, therefore it can be accepted and included in the Colegio de Médicos de Costa Rica as the official grading scale, and the lapse of time given to complete the needed score.</p> <p>Conclusions: Even through changing internal laws is a difficult and long process, it can be done and CME for ophthalmology will eventually become a obligatory process so it can standardize and improve the ophthalmologist qualification in Costa Rica.</p> <p><i>* asked to present project at the final session</i></p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Marco Sales-Sanz
Sociedad Española de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>PILOT MODEL FOR CERTIFICATION IN OCULOPLASTIC SURGERY IN SPAIN</i>
<p>Purpose: To establish a model for certification in oculoplastic surgery for the Spanish Society of Ophthalmology (SEO) and the Spanish Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (SECPOO).</p> <p>Methods: A comprehensive search and analysis of certification systems from other scientific societies, both in the field of ophthalmology and facial plastic surgery, was performed.</p> <p>Results: A pilot model of certification has been created based on 3 main points. Candidates are ophthalmologist trained in Spain through the MIR system o ophthalmologist with a title homologated by the Spanish Government. The three points to be demonstrated to obtain the certification are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.- Experience in oculoplastic surgery. It will be evaluated with the presentation of the surgical records of a minimum number of different surgeries, including all fields of oculoplastic surgery (eyelids, lachrymal, orbit and socket surgery).2.- Education or training information. The candidate may report any degrees, certifications, fellowship and other training information in oculoplastics.3.- Oral exam. During the interview phase, the candidate will have to discuss at least 5 cases chosen by the tribunal from the portfolio presented. <p>Conclusions: A pilot initial model for certification in oculoplastic surgery has been developed for the Spanish Society of Ophthalmology (SEO) and the Spanish Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (SECPOO).</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Maria Fernanda Abalem
Sociedad Panamericana de Retina y Vitreo (SPRV)

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Development of a telemedicine program for inherited retinal degenerations.</i>
<p>Introduction/Background: In Latin America, similar to the United States, patients are affected by retinal dystrophies. There is limited expertise in this field and as research in genetics and translation research have evolved and therapies for retinal dystrophies have become a reality, there is a need to provide an accurate diagnosis and better prognostic counseling, as well as to perform comprehensive phenotyping with functional and structural testing.</p> <p>Purpose: This project aims to implement a telemedicine program for inherited retinal degenerations in the United States and in Latin America, allowing patients to have the standard of care across the Americas.</p> <p>Methods: Given that telemedicine is a new tool and that standards of practice are still ill defined, we researched basic and global medical, regulatory, technology and financial requirements, as well as telemedicine methods that are suitable for the care of patients with inherited retinal degenerations. This research was performed using medical literature (Pubmed) and multidisciplinary consults (attorneys, engineers and business specialists).</p> <p>Results: We found that asynchronous store-and-forward method and synchronous video conference are suitable for the retinal dystrophy specialist and genetic counselor consultations, respectively. As data must be compliant with patients' privacy and confidentiality, a HIIPA compliant software was developed. Furthermore, the software was designed to be friendly and self-intuitive. In many countries and U.S states, although health insurances are required to cover appointments through telemedicine with same the rate as for in-person appointments, billing remains obscure. Further details are still under evaluation.</p> <p>Conclusions: Telemedicine is a new, promising and doable medical tool. Although, key standards of care are unanimous among countries, specific medical needs, specific regulatory requirements and billing methods must be tailored for each source-institute.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Mario Esteban Alpizar Roldan *
Asociación Oftalmológica de Costa Rica

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Continuing Medical Education in Ophthalmology for General Practitioners and Medical Students</i>
<p>Purpose: Generate an online channel (Website, Webinars, Youtube channel) to turn it into a distance medical teaching medium for colleagues, health personnel and medical students.</p> <p>Methods: Stage 1: Create an online channel with videos of ophthalmological educational topics through the Ophthalmology Association of Costa Rica.</p> <p>Stage 2: Register followers of digital platforms for free</p> <p>Stage 3: Grant Re-Certification and accreditation points to participating members through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Costa Rica or a prestigious university institution.</p> <p>Results: A channel was created on Youtube and the website of the Ophthalmology Association of Costa Rica was revamped. Currently there are 26 subscribers in the Association channel on Youtube.</p> <p>Conclusions: Digital and remote tools have become a very powerful and essential resources nowadays, eliminating distances and borders; however, in order to successfully implement the platforms a support team in digital networks is required for best results and our Association has limited resources.</p> <p><i>* asked to present project at the final session</i></p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Miriam Elizabeth Flores
Sociedad Salvadoreña de Oftalmología

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Early detection of diabetes retinopathy in El Salvador</i>
<p>Purpose: Prevent diabetic retinopathy in advanced or proliferative stages and thus reduce cases of low vision or legal blindness in the diabetic population.</p> <p>Methods: awareness of the general population and relatives of diabetic patients. training and conferences for medical personnel of reference, including internists and mainly endocrinologists. communication interviews descriptive study of data analysis of diabetic patients in the outpatient department of the Salvadoran Social Security Institute</p> <p>Results: 1 conference was given to the Salvadoran association of endocrinology. 1 training for general ophthalmologists and other subspecialists. 1 educational talk to the club of diabetics of the hospital of specialties of the ISSS. 1 participation in local television program interview.</p> <p>Within the analysis of a sample of 100 diabetic patients from 0 to 10 years of illness , 77% have never been referred to the ophthalmologist; and from 10 to 20 years of illness, 50% have not had any reference yet.</p> <p>Conclusions: In our population there is still very little information and culture of reference to the specialist and even less to the subspecialist, so we must increase the information programs and medical training, to detect early stages of diabetic retinopathy and avoid further complications .</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Rajrishi A. Sharma
Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI)

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Compilation of a Trainee Ophthalmology Register for the English speaking Caribbean</i>
<p>Purpose: In the Caribbean, there are 3 residents programmes for Ophthalmology Training. The combined number of places are limited to approximately 7 spaces. We have several other doctors working in Ophthalmology and wishing to pursue a career in the specialty. These doctors are often overlooked as there is no official record of them, the years experience they hold and/or their achievements. However, in order to help this group we need an accurate record of the numbers and their experience and training so far.</p> <p>Methods: Questionnaire sent to doctors in the various eye departments. This enquires about number of years of experience, courses attended, research done, exams attempted/completed/working towards, competency level for common procedures, sub-specialty interests. These will be analysed and tabulated into a spreadsheet for the OSWI organisation to access and action.</p> <p>Results: Questionnaires being tabulated at present. Initial findings show that there is a wide spread of experience and competence level. Very few can do cataract surgery (or any intra-ocular surgery). Most are working towards the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Exams in the UK.</p> <p>Conclusions: This data will be valuable in helping to further the training of the trainee doctors in Ophthalmology in the Caribbean. OSWI can help these doctors to further/complete their training via links developed with other international organisations by means of clinical placements, courses, exams, etc. By helping these doctors to train, we can help address the shortfall of both comprehensive and specialist Ophthalmologists in the various islands.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Rita Maria Rio Pedro Flores
Sociedade Portuguesa de Oftalmologia

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>Database of retinal diseases of Portugal - Retina PT</i>
<p>Purpose: Implement and activate a national database of retinal diseases of Portugal (Retina PT), allowing to centralize the clinical records of patients followed or in treatment for retinal diseases; Interconnect Retina PT with other Registration Tools and with other International Retinal Databases: FRB (Fight Retinal Blindness) and ICHOM (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurements).</p> <p>Methods: Ophthalmologists from national hospitals and ophthalmological clinics treating retinal diseases are invited to participate and must obtain the local ethics committee (EC) agreement. Only patients followed or in treatment for retinal diseases, with signed informed consent form, will be included. Data can be collected retrospectively, based on the clinical data available in the patient clinical file.</p> <p>Database has controlled and restricted to user access. Every user has its own user account and password, personal and non-transmissible. Data entered is encrypted to the users except to those entering the data. Only the responsible investigator at each site will have access to patient identifiable data of his/her site only. Other users will not have access to any patient identifiable data. Data will not be analyzed individually but in group, respecting anonymization and confidentiality.</p> <p>It is a registry study and no additional procedures beside the ones under the usual clinical practice will be performed or collected (non-interventional).</p> <p>Results: At this present time we have eight national hospitals and ophthalmological clinics listed, with ethics committee agreement, working with the database. Each center has a responsible investigator:</p> <p>Centro Hospitalar e Universitário de Coimbra – Rufino Silva Centro Hospitalar de S. João – Angela Carneiro Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Central – Rita Flores Instituto de Oftalmologia Gama Pinto – Sandra Barrão Hospital Prof. Dr. Fernando da Fonseca – Filomena Silva Centro Hospitalar de Entre o Douro e Vouga – Liliane Duarte Hospital Vila Franca de Xira – Miguel Amaro Espaço Médico de Coimbra – Rufino Silva and seven other centers still waiting for the EC agreement: Hospital do Espírito Santo de Évora (HESE) - Augusto Candeias Centro Hospitalar Vila Nova de Gaia/Espinho - Lígia Ribeiro ALM-Oftalmologia Médica e Cirúrgica - Victor Agoas Hospital Pedro Hispano – Matosinhos - Carla Teixeira Instituto Português de Microcirurgia Ocular - José Roque Centro Hospitalar do Porto - Miguel Ribeiro Lume</p>	

PARTICIPANT LIST

Centro Hospitalar do Baixo Vouga - Inês Pereira Marques

Retina PT Coordinating Committee is studying the possibility of interconnection with other Registration Tools and with other International Retinal Databases: FRB (Fight Retinal Blindness) and ICHOM (International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurements) and is working in some mutual protocols.

The establishment of these connections reduce the annoyance and delay of duplicate clinical records and potencialize the benefits of this tool.

Conclusions: National Database of retinal diseases of Portugal (Retina PT) is a very important tool for knowledge and for better understanding retinal diseases, namely its prevalence, progression, treatment and treatment response.

It will allow not only the opportunity to audit our results, providing a practical internal benchmarking, but also external and comparative benchmarking with other institutions and other countries.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Servando M Santana
Sociedad Dominicana de Oftalmología

Title of Project:	<i>Telemedicine, effective alternative for the prevention of blindness due to Retinopathy of Prematurity.</i>
<p>Purpose: One of the objectives of the WHO Vision 2020 campaign is the control of childhood blindness, being the Retinopathy of Prematurity one of the leading causes of this list, which may be preventable and treatable with early screening and optimal treatment. In the Dominican Republic, approximately 23 premature babies are born out of every 1,000 births, where less than half of these receive adequate ophthalmological care due to limited health resources and lack of personnel in the public sector of the main maternity hospitals in our city. Telemedicine symbolizes the light at the end of the tunnel for this problem, offering clear advantages such as cost reduction, better medical assistance and more accessible continuing education by sharing this information with specialists and doctors in training from all over the world.</p> <p>Methods: For these reasons is why we are proposing the first telemedicine project for the Retinopathy of Prematurity in the Dominican Republic, which consists of two initial phases: Planning and Execution, both carried out in the 4 largest maternity hospitals in Santo Domingo. In the Planning Phase, the corresponding steps will be taken for the initiation of the project and, in addition, a technical staff will be trained to take subsequent posterior pole photographs. This training will consist of two modules, one theoretical and one practical, in the latter developing the skills for the correct use of the wide field camera with pediatric imaging system, directly supervised by trained personnel.</p> <p>Planning and Management Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project presentation to the Health Committee of the Senate of the Dominican Republic, with the objective of acquiring funds for the sustainable development of the project. - Project presentation to the Office of the First Lady of the Dominican Republic for the collaboration in the acquisition of equipment. - Project presentation to the Dominican Society of Pediatrics. - RETCAM quotation. - Creation of Basic RETCAM Course for non-medical personnel. - Project presentation to the Dominican Telecommunications Institute for computer and network support. <p>Results: The Execution Phase will be carried out on 3 fundamental pillars:</p> <p>The corresponding screening is directed to the 4 main Maternity Hospitals of Santo Domingo that will be listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maternidad Nuestra señora de la Altagracia - Maternidad San Lorenzo de Los Minas - Maternidad Dr. Reynaldo Almánzar - Hospital de la Mujer Dominicana <p>A schedule of consultation will be established in each of these hospitals, and in turn, it will be determined as a mandatory norm the early referral of any newborn under 37 weeks to be followed up with the International ROP</p>	

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Protocols. Once the day is over, the images will be sent to a digital platform and the data for access will be provided to the Retina Department of a tertiary hospital in the city of Santo Domingo. Patients who need a closer follow-up will be cited for future evaluation and treatment.

Conclusions: Currently, we are in the initial phases of the project with a complete structure and logistics. The corresponding communications have been sent to the Senators' Chamber of the Dominican Republic, the Office of the First Lady of the Dominican Republic and the Dominican Society of Pediatrics. The protocols and guidelines of the training course are in the final stage, pending the acquisition of a camera. We understand that this is a high-profile project, and institutions related to health and social welfare must be involved in order to make the project to viable and self-sustainable.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dra. Stephanie Voorduin Ramos
Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología

Title of Project:	<i>Homogenization of the ophthalmology residency programs</i>
<p>Introduction/Background: In Mexico there are great differences in the training of residents in ophthalmology. Some centers do not have all the high specialties which generates differences in the graduates.\</p> <p>Purpose: To generate a series of videos with qualified teachers addressing the main ophthalmological diseases to make them available to ophthalmology residents across the country, we will be starting with the high specialties the high specialties that not all centers have (mainly those located in the provinces of the country).</p> <p>Methods: We will need the support of the industry to finance the cost of the videos. We will also contact teachers who may be interested in recording a conference as well as graphic designers and programmers so that these videos are available on the internet.</p> <p>Results: At this time we have an index of the subjects that will be the first to be recorded which are: basic aspects of neuroophthalmology and neuroophthalmological evaluation, diagnostic approach of the ocular inflammatory diseases and initial treatment of the ocular inflammatory diseases . The literature review is being done as well as the main topics that will be pointed out in these first videos.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Dr. Tomás Jaescke
Consejo Argentino de Oftalmologia

<i>Title of Project:</i>	<i>New eyetracker devices applied to detect dyslexia in children at an early age</i>
<p>Purpose: To add the detection of reading patterns compatible with dyslexia to the programs currently being developed in Argentina for the detection of low vision in school-age children.</p> <p>Methods: The Project was designed to be developed in several phases, where work is being done to evaluate the true usefulness of the reading abnormal patterns in the children who start reading. The plan for the future is to adapt this reading pattern detection test to a program currently under development by the health ministry of Argentina called "to see what you see (A VER QUE VES)", where a group of ophthalmologists visit state schools evaluating the visual acuity of children. This is currently done with a visual acuity testing chart, standardized distance and without any correction. This method only determines which of the children should get an appointment for a complete ophthalmological evaluation and a lens prescription. We know that dyslexia causes a drop of attention and concentration and as a consequence school performance decreases. There are several ways to detect dyslexia although none is 100% effective and infallible, so we believe doing the eyetracking rapid reading test (ERRT) proposed in this project, would be very helpful in referring children to an adequate support and treatment and avoid a loss in school performance. To try effectiveness of this method the study will be done in a classroom to the 10 students with the best grades and to the 10 most dispersed and problematic ones. We believe that this would be a way to help detect children with alterations in reading in a simple and very fast way.</p> <p>Results: To date the government is evaluating the possibility of including this method within the "A ver que ves" program. There are some issues that are being solved in the coming months for the final approval. We have done the study in my private practice in the consultations of all children that were reviewed in the Instituto de la Vision, sending patients with alterations to an evaluation with psychopedagogy.</p> <p>Conclusions: We are very excited about how the Project can change the way in which schoolchildren are evaluated and detect reading alterations as soon as possible.</p>	