Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology
2015-2016 Curso de Liderazgo

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Project Abstract

**Pedro Miguel Santos Afonso MD**

*Sociedade Portuguesa de Oftalmologia*

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<th>Title of Project:</th>
<th>Accreditation of Events of Continuing Medical Education in Ophthalmology in Portugal</th>
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**Purpose:** In Portugal we are giving the first steps in the accreditation of Ophthalmology events. With Professor Angela Carneiro, who is currently involved in the European Society of Ophthalmology Leadership Programme – EuLDP, we decided to do a joint project whose aim was to create facilitator procedures for those who wanted to have accreditation of educational events by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) department of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). This was a joint project of the Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology, where Professor Angela Carneiro is member of the Board, and of the College of Ophthalmology of the Portuguese Medical Association, of which the author of this project is a member of the Directive Council.

The EACCME aims to encourage high standards in the development, delivery and harmonization of continuing medical education, through international acceptance of CME credit system for the accreditation of events. CME credits are a mean of confirmation involvement of doctors in approved learning activities. UEMS accredits around 1400 events per year.

**Methodology:** 1) We had accompanied promoters of educational events, trying to understand their difficulties and tried to find the most appropriate solutions in order to achieve the EACCME/UEMS accreditation of the event. 2) We created a manual with guidelines on the methodology of the accreditation process by EACCME, that will be online soon. 3) In the next congress of the Portuguese Society of Ophthalmology (December 2016) we will perform a Symposium, already approved, under the theme Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education activities.

**Results:** Since 2015 it was possible to make the accreditation of four events: May 2015 – V Congress SIBAG (Sociedad Ibero-Americana de Glaucoma), 'Cirurgia em Glaucoma'; October 2015 – 'Non-Invasive Imagiology of the Posterior Segment' Reunião Anual do Grupo Português de Retina e Vitreo; February 2016 – Course EUPO Neuro-Ophthalmology Emergences; May 2016 – Course Corneal Topography and Tomography: how to interpret exams?, Reunião Anual dos Grupos Portugueses de Cirurgia Implanto-refractiva, Superfície Ocular, Córnea e Contactologia;

**Conclusions:** The UEMS has a current membership of 34 countries, representing 39 specialties, corresponding to about 1.4 million doctors working in Europe. It aims to promote the highest quality in medical care for European citizens, in medical education, and the free movement of medical specialists throughout Europe. Accreditation is a tool that will promote: 1) Emphasis on the needs of learners and the achievement of meaningful educational outcomes; 2) High quality education by the Providers of events; 3) Increased transparency in regards to funding and organisation of those events. These are all improvement factors for Portuguese Ophthalmology.
José Alejandro Claros Bustamante MD

ALACCSA-R

| Title of Project: | An online peer-to-peer collaboration for Latin American eye surgeons: The ALACCSAApp |

Introduction: The Latin American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ALACCSA-R) has grown continuously and successfully for the last 25 years, reaching every Latin American country in an effort to raise the level of scientific and surgical skills among all eye care providers. Through meetings with vast programs, book editing and interactive publications, ALACCSA-R has grown to be the go-to source for continuous medical education among the Spanish-speaking residents and MDs. Our current project aims to further increase the collaboration between our members, by providing a framework for online sharing of experience, thoughts, knowledge and networking.

Purpose: To develop a collaborative network of peers, for discussion of challenging cases and horizontal transmission of knowledge in a secure and private environment.

Methods: The development of the portal within ALACCSA.com would be designed and operated in collaboration with a software developing company which is acting currently as a consultant for the project. The incorporation of social networking would facilitate the contact between the members of the forum. An IPPA compliant database would make sure no confidential information could be leaked from the portal’s environment. A follow-up algorithm would stimulate the participants to provide feedback of their results after the input of their peers, therefore closing a loop that is not being entirely addressed on current approaches (e.g.: Facebook closed groups or WhatsApp groups). A second phase of the project may facilitate the incorporation of sites throughout Latin America for performing multi-center clinical research, further enhancing our region to contribute to global scientific advancement.

Results: The framework for the portal, as well as the first steps toward the development of the site are being discussed with the consultant company. After the resources necessary for the initial implementation are gathered, a beta test should be available within the next few months.

Conclusion: This project will be able to promote collaboration and discussion between peers within the largest society of cataract and refractive surgeons in Latin America. Our hope is to facilitate the generation of both scientific knowledge as well as improving the results of the individual practice of every ALACCSA member.
## Project Abstract

**Title of Project:** Diabetic Retinopathy Education in Jamaica

**INTRODUCTION:** The world health organization has noted an increase in the global prevalence of diabetes mellitus from 4.7% in 1980 to 8.5% in 2014. A westernized diet, sedentary lifestyles with its resulting obesity have led to an increase in the prevalence of diabetes in the Caribbean. In Jamaica, the prevalence is 15.7% in women and 9.5% in men. There is a disconnect between the knowledge and practices of the population. A recent study showed that as much as 50% of diabetics were unaware that they needed an annual eye examination.

**AIM:** The University of the West Indies, in collaboration with the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI) and the Leadership Development Program (LDP) seek to increase awareness in Diabetic patients in Jamaica that blindness secondary to diabetic retinopathy may be preventable with regular eye examinations.

**PATIENTS AND METHODS:** Patients will be selected from a population of patients listed in the National Health Fund database. These patients are known diabetics managed on oral medication, or insulin. Telephone numbers will be gleaned from the NHF database and a short message service (SMS) also known as a text message will be sent to these patients. The messages will have a maximum of 640 characters. These messages will be sent on a weekly basis for a period of one year. SMS will emphasize the fact that blindness from diabetes is preventable, and yearly ophthalmological evaluations are necessary. The text messages will also emphasize the importance of good glycemic and blood pressure control, dietary and lifestyle modification.

**CONCLUSION:** We hope that this initiative will help to increase the awareness of diabetic retinopathy and the need to get the eyes checked regularly. The ultimate goal being decreasing the number of blind and visually impaired persons in Jamaica.

**REFERENCES**

3. Knowledge, Beliefs and Practices of Patients with Diabetic Retinopathy at the University Hospital of the West Indies, Jamaica. Foster, T., Mowatt, L., Mullings, J. J. Community Health 2016; 41(3):584-92
Gerardo F. Graue Moreno, MD  
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<th>Title of Project:</th>
<th>Overcoming blindness through adapted sports</th>
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Objective: To develop a collaboration program between the Mexican federation of blind athletes (MFBA) and the Mexican ophthalmology society (SMO).

Methods: The program includes sharing information and diffusion in social media and web pages of activities and relevant material from both SMO and MFBA members, designing an instructional course regarding the international Paralympic committee (IPC) classification in collaboration with the Low Vision department at Hospital de la Luz during the National Ophthalmology meeting to be held in Monterrey 2018 and development of certified ophthalmic diagnostic centers with preferential prices for athletes in Mexico City among others.

Results: So far, we have contacted Mr. Miguel Angel Huerta, president of MFBA and Mexican actress Crystal from Foundation Crystal explaining the project and gaining their support.

We trained an ophthalmologist and an optometrist in IPC classification and we have examined 23 athletes that are going to participate in Rio 2016 Paralympic games adequately, re-classifying them and avoiding in-site rejection and governmental unnecessary expenses.

Conclusions: Adapted sport can be a great tool to help new blind accept their new condition and for their rehabilitation, ophthalmologist that deal with this kind of patients, specially low vision specialists, must be familiar with IPC classification and the existence of MFBA.
Title of Project: Desarrollo de una red de oftalmólogos en Bolivia, con capacitación continua, para atención primaria y detección precoz del Glaucoma en áreas alejadas de la consulta oftalmológica

Propósito: La Oftalmología en Bolivia es centralizada con el 70% de los oftalmólogos, distribuidos en 2 ciudades (Santa Cruz y La Paz), Dejando zonas y poblaciones con poco acceso a la atención especializada. El diagnostico de Glaucoma es tardío, con alta incidencia de ceguera.

Durante años se han desarrollado campañas de atención a estas zonas, pero es un problema la falta de personal capacitado residente en esas poblaciones, para un adecuado control, por eso los tratamientos quedan incompletos y las complicaciones son devastadoras.

El objetivo es reunir a un grupo de oftalmólogos de estas zonas alejadas, para capacitárslos en diagnóstico y tratamiento del glaucoma. Se compartirán los conocimientos del Curso de liderazgo para optimizar el desarrollo de programas propios de detección y seguimiento de Glaucoma.

Método: Se reunieron en la ciudad de Santa Cruz, 27 oftalmólogos de barrios o ciudades alejadas. Se dictaron 3 módulos.

Módulo 1: Conceptos, clínica, factores de riesgo, examen físico, estudios complementarios
Módulo 2: Tratamiento clínico, laser y quirúrgico. Complicaciones y emergencias
Módulo 3: Liderazgo, comunicación con medios de prensa, formación de equipos de trabajo, planificación de una campaña.

Resultados: Durante los meses de abril, mayo y junio se realizaron 9 campañas de atención gratuita, para la detección y tratamiento precoz del Glaucoma, atendiendo 1522 personas. Se detectaron 34% de pacientes con factores de riesgo, y se confirma el diagnóstico en 18%, con un 15% de sospechosos que mantendrán controles.

El programa incluye apoyo para medicamentos y controles.

Conclusiones: El apoyo y participación de los médicos y poblaciones supera las expectativas, son más de 300 personas controladas. La repetición semestral de estas actividades, permitirá reducir drásticamente la incidencia de ceguera por glaucoma en Bolivia, además de generar interés en oftalmólogos de otras zonas, en ser parte de las siguientes fases del proyecto.

*** TRANSLATION ***

Title: Development of a network of ophthalmologists in Bolivia, permanently trained for primary care and early detection of Glaucoma in areas distant from ophthalmological consultation.

Purpose: Ophthalmology in Bolivia is centralized with 70% of the ophthalmologists distributed in two cities: Santa Cruz and La Paz, which leaves areas and populations with limited access to specialized care. The Glaucoma diagnosing is late and blindness incidence high.
For years, there have been health campaigns in those areas, but lack of trained personnel who reside in those populations, keeps being a problem in order to have appropriate control. This is why treatments are left incomplete and the complications are devastating.

The purpose is to gather a group of ophthalmologists from these remote areas to be trained in diagnosing and treatment of glaucoma. The knowledge from the Leadership course will be shared in order to optimize the development of their own programs of detection and follow-up for Glaucoma.

Method: 27 ophthalmologists from remote neighborhoods or cities gathered in the city of Santa Cruz. 3 modules were rendered.

Module 1: Concepts, clinic, risk factors, physical examination, complementary studies.
Module 2: Clinical, laser and surgical treatment. Complications and emergencies.
Module 3: Leadership, communication with the press, teamwork training, campaign planning.

Results: Through the months of April, May and June, there were 9 free care campaigns for the early detection and treatment of Glaucoma. 1522 people were assisted. 34 % of the patients with risk factors were detected and the diagnosis was confirmed on 18%, with 15% of suspicious cases who will continue controls.

The program includes support for medications and controls.

Conclusions: The support and participation of the doctors and populations exceeded the expectations. More than 300 people were controlled. Semester repetition of these activities will allow drastically reducing the blindness incidence due to Glaucoma in Bolivia and will also generate interest in ophthalmologist from other areas in order to become part of the project’s following phases.
**Title of Project:** Telemedicine with Nonmydriatic Camera for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

**Purpose:** To evaluate the impact of a telemedicine imaging strategy on diabetic retinopathy screening rates in a primary care clinic in São Paulo state (Brazil)

**Methods:** Telemedicine with nonmydriatic cameras was performed to detect diabetic retinopathy in diabetic patients aged ≥18 years. In this retrospective cohort study from February 2016 to July 2016, two trained readers graded the images for diabetic retinopathy using a standard protocol. Both eyes were included for analysis and the low quality images for grading were excluded. Digital screening or opthalmology referral were offered to the study patients.

**Results:** We included 278 eyes from 139 patients (78.1% of Caucasian patients and 21.9% of non-Caucasian patients). Diabetic retinopathy was observed in 65.2% and normal eye images were observed in 26.9%. Eye disease other than diabetic retinopathy was observed in 7.9%.

**Conclusion:** Telemedicine with nonmydriatic cameras may significantly improve screening rates over the conventional methods in the primary care centers
Title of Project: Creation of a Service of low vision in the National Institute of Child Health (Lima)

Introduction: The vision is very important for the child development because it provides 90% of environmental information. The National Institute of Child Health in Lima is the national reference center for the management of complex visual pathologies in the peruvian pediatric population. A service of low vision would be very important for visual stimulation to optimize the use of the vision for a better quality of life in children with visual impairment.

Purpose: Create a Service of Low Vision in the National Institute of Child Health (Lima)

Methods:
1. Search Statistical information on the pediatric population with Low Vision at the National Institute of Child Health.
2. Creation of the multidisciplinary Team
3. Training of the Team.
4. Implementation of Children's Low Vision Service at the National Institute of Child Health Lima
5. Start of comprehensive care to Low Vision’s patients.

Results:
1. The incidence of visual impairment is 10.63 per thousand patients with a rate of blind/low vision 1 to 3 in the National Institute of Child Health.
2. The Multidisciplinary Team to work with children with Low Vision at the National Institute of Child Health has been formed and integrated by 2 ophthalmologists, 2 graduates in physical medicine and rehabilitation and 1 psychologist.
3. The training of the Multidisciplinary Team is ongoing. There is a program to make an stage in a low vision service and to have capacitation in service with the support of people specialized in Low Vision.
4. There is the Director of the National Institute of Child Health’s offer to support the creation of a Low Vision Service and the tools needed are within the requirements programmed in 2017 in the governmental Program to to combat Blindness Budget for Results) and non governmental support will be managed.
5. The start of activities with patients will be in 2017 one day per week at a room conditioned for this purpose.

Conclusion: The Multidisciplinary Team is in process of training and the State support was programmed to start the work of a Low Vision Service in the National Institute of Child Health in 2017. The participation of non governmental support is being managed.
Melina Correia Morales, MD  
Pan-American Ocular Oncology Society

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<th>Title of Project:</th>
<th>An online portal as a tool to gather doctors, patients and information concerning Ocular Oncology at the Americas</th>
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Purpose: Eye cancer is a rare disease with little information published online about it in Spanish and Portuguese. There is lack of a platform to integrate ocular oncology care providers in the Americas. The purpose of this project is to create an online portal to identify and connect physicians involved in ocular oncology care in the Americas. Secondary, but not less important, is to promote awareness on eye cancer for patients and general ophthalmologists, to impact the reality of late diagnosis in Latin America.

Methods: Creating an online portal (www.paoos.org) in order to index all North, Central and South American doctors involved in ocular oncology patient care (ophthalmologists, pathologists, oncologists, radiotherapists, pediatricians). An online form allows to create a doctor profile using a secure database that can be searched by patients. The portal will bring information in 4 languages (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese) to be very inclusive. Educational tools, including an online atlas, videos and online campaigns, will help improve early diagnosis and patient care, especially in remote areas.

Results: The online portal (www.paoos.org) has been created using the latest wordpress technology allowing access from both desktop and mobile browsers. The portal is hosted in a secure server that supports hundreds of thousand of visits every day. Updates can be posted using html access and do not require expensive maintenance. It contains information about the Pan-American Ocular Oncology Society and how to become a member. Twenty-seven videos on ocular oncology topics for patient and doctors were already uploaded in Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkbves-_DScJevGJNer48vw/videos). Videos are in Portuguese, but subtitles in English, French and Spanish can be added. More videos and a free online picture atlas are being prepared.

Conclusion: This online portal will provide awareness for general ophthalmologists and patients in remote areas about eye cancer, hopefully having an impact on the number of late diagnosed cases especially in Latin America. This will be also an important tool for the Pan-American Ocular Oncology Society to identify specialists and promote expertise sharing.
António Francisco Pimenta Motta, MD  
Conselho Brasileiro de Oftalmologia

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<th><strong>Title of Project:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Better communication among the Brazilian Council of Ophthalmology (CBO), regional leaders and general public in Brazil using social medias</strong></th>
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Background: Most organizations must have an effective way to keep in touch with their members and society. The Internet is an unquestionable tool of communication individually or into virtual communities. It makes possible to widespread information in a very high speed around the entire globe.

Introduction: Nowadays social media are an obligatory tool in communication. The CBO is the biggest ophthalmologic association in Brazil and must have capillarity and a quick way to share information with their affiliates and all society. Brazil is a continental country where working together as a team is one of the biggest challenges for the CBO board. Time is a key feature for the impact of information and for mobilization of ophthalmologists as a class. Besides, a prompt answer for other professional classes or even government initiatives is essential for the main purpose of the CBO, that is be the guardian of ocular health in Brazil.

Purpose: To create communication channels among CBO board and its affiliates, in order to exchange information and achieve the maximum influence on ophthalmologists and society.

Methods: It will be created communication channels in the most used social media in Brazil, to allow fast communication among CBO directory and local representatives.

The most popular media in Brazil will be used to deliver general information to general society and one to be a tool of fast communication among CBO, state and regional presidents for institutional information and strategy.

Conclusion: It was created a direct communication channel with all 1170 residents of ophthalmology in Brazil in the WhatsApp® and it will be launched in September at the annual National Congress.

Next step: New channels are being implemented with the regional leaders and state presidents for the next semester.
Title of Project: To Implement a decentralized education program for Colombian ophthalmologists

Purpose / Objective: To Implement a decentralized education program for Colombian ophthalmologists

Methods: The needs to update topics in Ophthalmology were identified in the 8 different sectionals that conform the Colombian Society of Ophthalmology (SCO). The academic activities were organized in different cities in which members of the board of the SCO, regional experts and opinion leaders participated. Sessions were conducted in areas of Cornea, Cataract, Oculoplastics, Ultrasound, Glaucoma and Retina. As a complement, and in order to keep information available, a video channel was created and was available through the website of the SCO. In this way all members of SCO, regardless of their location at any time, could review the conferences.

Results: 3 meetings were held: In Monteria 11 conferences and 4 speakers, Valledupar 17 conferences and 7 speakers, Pasto 6 conferences and 5 speakers with a total of 34 conferences. To these events 46 Ophthalmologists attended, the overall number of speakers was 16 and the sessions were: 7 cornea, 3 retina, 15 Cataract, 1 Oculoplastics, 1 ultrasound and 7 glaucoma conferences. The ophthalmology channel was created on November 17, 2015, and it has 404 subscribers, 15 conferences were uploaded and have a total of 8,023 visits; the more watched video is: 'Catarata Traumática Subluxada' with 1157 views. Total mailing campaigns are 14. Since its launch, the channel has been consulted from Colombia, United Kingdom, Mexico, Peru and USA.

Conclusions: Decentralized continuing education activities in ophthalmology have had a very positive reception by the Colombian ophthalmic community. This has helped to build a sense of belonging among members of the Colombian Society of Ophthalmology. The incorporation of this technology is an excellent way for ensures that medical education in ophthalmology continues.
María Victoria Pueyo Royo, MD
Sociedad Española de Oftalmología

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<th>Title of Project:</th>
<th>Development of new visual screening protocol for preverbal infants by means of a novel digital tool</th>
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Purpose: To develop a digital tool to assess visual function in children 0-3 years of age and to incorporate it to the current pediatric protocols.

Methods: A total of six engineers and four pediatric ophthalmologists have participated in the project, which was structured in 3 steps:

1. Design of the digital tool for a tablet with eye tracker technology.
2. Validation and standardization of the tests.
3. Presentation of the digital tool to the Association of general pediatricians.

Results: The current version of the digital tool already includes several tests to assess visual function in preverbal children. Assessment of fixation stability, saccades, grating visual acuity and contrast sensitivity is available. We continue working on new visual tests. The design and characteristics of every test were defined by the ophthalmologists, based on the available knowledge of visual function in young children. After the development of the test by the team of engineers, functionality was assessed on small samples of children. Following a process of iterative refinement, tests were implemented until obtaining their final design.

The final versions of the tests were then validated and standardized for the different age groups, to determine the normal outcomes for every age.

We are planning to present our tool and our first results to pediatric ophthalmologists and pediatricians during the following months.

Conclusions: Novel digital tools incorporating available technology can help to improve current visual screening protocols in preverbal infants and further visual function assessments.
### Title of Project: Implementation of Treatment Plan ROP Stage IV - V in Peru

Proposal: The proposal is based currently in the surgical treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) grade IV and V which is rarely done in the private sphere, however the demand for surgeries is at the level of the institutions providing services public health where patients access low income. Therefore implement the organizational model of surgical treatment of ROP Stage IV - V in Peru, it will reduce the percentage of low vision and blindness caused by ROP in the country.

Methods: 1) the proposed plan surgical treatment of ROP Stage IV was designed - V to implement in In The National Institute of Children San Borja. 2) He involved the National Children's Institute Leadership Program in the Organization and through the Programme Budget for Results Eye Health Diagnosis and Treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity, applied instruments that allowed the development of an implementation of the treatment plan surgical ROP Stage IV - V in Peru. 3) interagency strategic alliances were established with governmental and non-governmental, and are strengthening ties with international centers to promote the development of the implementation plan surgical treatment, monitoring and rehabilitation of ROP Stage IV - V, in the fields of participation care, teaching, research and management. 4) continuous training, involvement and awareness is made to ophthalmologists professional specialists and the multidisciplinary team to support the development and implementation of tools that will allow development of the implementation plan surgical treatment of ROP Stage IV - V 5 ) Assessment, monitoring and monitoring the implementation of the instrument and survey data. 6) Preliminary report of progress to the Congress of the Pan American Academy of Ophthalmology and the institution.

Results: Implementation of treatment plan was achieved ROP Stage IV - V, with the participation of specialists in ROP ophthalmologists and multidisciplinary team. progressively achieving coordination from referral from different areas of the country for diagnosis and surgical treatment of ROP IV and V. 7 surgeries were performed in derivatives diagnosed patients and ROP IV and V, in the last 6 months, receiving treatment antiangiogenic, laser photocoagulation diode, and vitrectomy. These patients after the procedure done have followed until now.

Conclusions: The implementation of the Plan of ROP Surgical Treatment of Stage IV - V, allowed to decrease the percentage of low vision and blindness caused by ROP in the country. Incorporating a process of developing instruments that will be implemented with the support of experienced professionals ophthalmologists in ROP and the incorporation of the multidisciplinary team, strengthening the development of institutional mission and vision, giving prominence to the fulfillment of its objectives.
Juan Sebastián Rivero, MD  
Consejo Argentino de Oftalmología

**Title of Project:** Improve existing Eyebank for Córdoba, Argentina

**PURPOSE:** To create a non profit Eyebank for cornea tissue processing, donation and distribution, according to world trending cornea transplantation techniques.

**METHODS:** Argentina’s INCUCAI (Unique National and Central National Institute for Ablation and Transplantation) is the entity that promotes, coordinates and regulates all the activities related with transplantation. Depends on the National Government’s Health Ministry and has presence in every province through local coordination for ablation and implantation entities, like ECODAIC in my Province, Córdoba. Today Eyebanking must provide tissue for Lamellar (DALK) and Endothelial Keratoplasties (DSAEK and DMEK). Such service is actually not provided in Córdoba nor in Argentina, since the actual eyebank in Córdoba lacks of eyebank specular microscope and adequate transportation cases that aloud a correct cornea examination and processing. Also 'precut' or 'prestripped' tissues are only imported from foreign countries. The option for endothelial transplantation is that surgeons must prepare their own tissue.

ECODAIC has a state of the art Bone Bank and is also developing Amniotic Membrane tissue distribution. Their capacity is perfect to hold an state of the art eyebank. I interviewed the Coordinator Maria Nieves Paverini MD and Director Horacio Bazan MD and they showed great interest in developing the project.

It is proposed a Foundation to help in the developing the eyebank in terms of the necessary equipment and coordination, so it doesn't depend on a government’s decision.

I gathered MD’s in the same interest, and also different professionals and non professional people but with great values in support and quality of service.

**RESULTS:** We created the board of the Foundation and designed the purpose and objectives:

1) It’s committed to the preservation and restoration of sight.
2) To make the Foundation receive funds for buying the appropriate technology, mainly through donation, companies social responsibility and other ophthalmology entities, societies and the Argentinian Council of Ophthalmology.
3) Develop Córdoba’s new Eyebank in the facilities that ECODAIC actually has.
4) It will have the responsibility of: create consciousness about cornea donation. Care about the quality of medical procedures, human resources and organization of eye banking. Education and stimulation to develop other similar projects. Create links between similar entities from other provinces or countries.
5) Create a protocol for cornea procurement in order to have better tissue availability.

As it’s an ambitious project we are expecting to develop it in phases.
The Foundation is actually in legal bureaucracy with lawyer assessment waiting for its legal approval. ECODAIC is very interested in developing the eyebank.

CONCLUSIONS: We encouraged to go on this ambitious project, step by step, we believe in it and this firsts few steps will show us the way.
Gustavo Miguel Rojas Damiano, MD
Sociedad Dominicana de Oftalmología

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<th>Title of Project:</th>
<th>Detection of Diabetic Retinopathy in Rural Zones in the Dominican Republic</th>
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Purpose: According to the CEPAL that stands for the Economic Commission for Latin America the Dominican Republic have 10.2% of the adult population with Diabetes Mellitus, that covers for more than half a million dominicans. 30% of this patients will develop diabetic retinopathy that could lead to vision loss. We know that early detection and intervention can prevent complications and decrease the number of blind patients. But people from the rural zones don’t have the opportunity to go to the big cities to have an ophthalmologic exam. This population where San Cristobal, Nagua and Constanza.

Methods: A retina specialist with his technician went to 3 rural population of the Dominican Republic to do funduscopy to the diabetic patients. The technician then uses a Excel table to classified the patients with diabetic retinopathy and it’s degree.

Results: 78 patients of the 3 small towns where evaluated. 32 (41%) of the pacientes were male while 46 (61%) of the patients were female. 28 (35%) of the patients had at least diabetic retinopathy. 18 (64%) patients had NPDR while 10 (36%) had PDR.

Conclusion: We know that Implementing and utilizing tele-ophthalmology as a diagnostic tool has shown to improve access to the population, but sometimes when you can have economic difficulties, we can make an arrangement with the residency program to try to send the resident and ophthalmologist to the rural zones to search the Diabetic Patients. 36% of the patients had diabetic retinopathy and it’s very similar to the world percentage.
2015 - 2016 Participants

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