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PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Gabriel Costa de Andrade**  
***Sociedad Panamericana de Retina y Vitreo (SPRV)***

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>The Brazilian retinal community and the PSRV and PAAO</i></b>
<p>Purpose: To promote integration among retinal specialists from all over Brazil, from then on to establish strategies that allow greater integration between them and with societies; Connect the sub-specialists of retina and vitreous of the Latin American to interact themselves by simple enquiry.</p> <p>Methods: Sending by email a simple quiz with 21 questions about the actions of the SPRV/PAAO Latin American retinal specialist regarding the daily clinical and surgical practice. A Google form platform was used to perform the query and sent to each participant using a list of the last SPRV (Pan-American Retinal and Vitreous Society) meeting emails.</p> <p>Results: We got 105 responses (5% of the total sender emails). Seventy percent were male with age prevalence between 41-50 years (45%). Brazil was the country with more responses (50); followed by Colombia (20) and Mexico (10). Eighty four percent of the interviewed perform retina clinical and surgical, followed by just clinic (10%), just surgical (2%), imaging (3%) and uveitis (2%).</p> <p>Thirty one percent finished their training in a period of 6 to 10 years ago. Fifty three percent perform their practice only in private clinic; followed the Hospital and Clinic (42%). Forty seven percent performed fellowship in their own country and 51% are member of their own national retinal society; just 13% of the interviewed are member of the PAAO.</p> <p>Fifty five percent of the responses did not have the knowledge about the actions of the PAAO, as offering international scholarship for retina and vitreous. An amount of 73% know about the PAAO/SPRV meetings. Only 20% of the interviewed follow SPRV Facebook and 31% the SBRV forum.</p> <p>Eighty four percent prefer to communicate to SPRV members by emailing and 69% have chosen the ASRS as the most important retina society of the world.</p> <p>Eighty six percent of the retinal specialists interviewed did not know about the PAAO leadership course and 60% did not access frequently the PAAO website.</p> <p>Conclusions: There is a definite needing action to increase the proximity of the retinal specialists in Latin America. Developing further actions to improve the SPRV/PAAO is required to provide more interaction and linkage between the specialists.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Judlande Registre Cinalien**  
*Haitian Society of Ophthalmology*

***Title of Project:***

***Promoting Ophthalmology as a Career for Medical students and supporting Ophthalmologists Following residency in Haiti.***

The problem: there are only sixty-five (65) Ophthalmologists in Haiti covering seven of Haiti ten departments. Of these sixty-five ophthalmologists, eighty-seven (87 %) practice in port au prince, the capital. Although there are four (4) Medical schools in Haiti, there is only one ophthalmology residency program. The potential to create a second ophthalmology residency program exists; however, this will require both logistical and financial support, due to the cost of equipment.

Methods: 1-Seek funding through Lions Club /Rotary Club; Lions Club and The Rotary are on the ground and they are already very implicated with the Ophthalmologists.

2-Create a database of places where people can go for observerships training, this database will be updated weekly ( work with a computer scientist)

3-Gather information about medical student education from PAAO, AAO and ICO websites.

4- Help young Ophthalmologists to have clinic in the country side after the residency program : we will try to have a bank loan system put in place with HSO and others partners for the purchase of equipment for the country side.

Conclusion: state the results we are hoping for: to double the number of residents in 3 years, increase the number of ophthalmologists by 30% in 5 years and increase the access to healthcare in the population.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

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**Dr. Guilherme Colombo Barbosa**  
*Sociedad Panamericana de Cornea (PanCornea)*

***Title of Project:***

***Translating the American Academy of Ophthalmology Preferred Practice Patterns into Portuguese***

Brazil has over fourteen thousands ophthalmologists. Many other ophthalmologists care for patients in other Portuguese speaking countries, including: Portugal and former Portuguese colonies. Not all of these Physicians are fluent in English.

Because of this, translating the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Preferred Practice Patterns (AAOPPP), may help Ophthalmologists and Ophthalmology Residents in Portuguese speaking countries to care for their patients.

A steering committee will be formed, consisting of a few Brazilian Ophthalmologists, who will translate Preferred Practice Patterns, starting with Cornea and Diabetic Retinopathy.

These will be translated by the end of the year. Translations will be submitted through the AAO Membership and Alliances office of the AAO. Others will follow. These will be available through both the PAAO and the AAO websites for consultations.

Easy to read translated versions of Preferred Practice Patterns will be available to ophthalmologists and Residency Programs in Portuguese Speaking Countries. Over 200 million Portuguese speaking patients will benefit from access to information and thus improve eye care in Portuguese speaking countries.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Evandro Ribeiro Diniz**  
*Conselho Brasileiro de Oftalmologia*

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<i>The "CBO Foundation" stems from the Liderazgo Course Completion Work of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) class 2016-17, under the guidance of doctors Gustavo Victor and Pedro Carricondo</i>
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The participation of the author in Curso de Liderazgo was through selection among the other participants of the CBO Leadership Course, class 2015-16. During the "coaching" on this course (CBO), the TEvEP methodology was adopted for the development of various projects, the method of choice also for the elaboration of the "CBO Foundation" project.

The TEvEP (based on the principles of Time, Event, Environment, People) is a genuinely Brazilian method of time management and projects that allows to establish a protocol for communication between people and facilitates the organization of information and resource mobilization, stimulating innovation.

Introduction: The CBO, founded in 1941, is the most representative entity of Brazilian ophthalmology. It has played an important role in promoting the population's ocular health through its actions in defense of the technical-scientific and ethical improvement of ophthalmologists and also in defense of their professional prerogatives. Brazil, a country with continental dimensions and population heterogeneity, suffers from unequal socioeconomic inequality. Much of the population lacks medical care. The CBO, representing the Brazilian Ophthalmology within government agencies, has been working intensely to change this scenario. However, in Brazil and in several other countries, there is already an established fact that the full development of the population will not be sustained only by actions under the State protection. Thus, the active participation of the so-called third sector is observed.

The changes in the political-social scenario in Brazil, especially in the last ten years, reinforce the need for the CBO to become stronger and more present with society.

The creation of the CBO Foundation and the contemplation of its primary objectives of implementing social projects aimed at promoting ocular health in needy regions, directly and indirectly engaging its nearly seventeen thousand members in voluntary actions, as well as providing financial and logistical support for the exchange of young ophthalmologists in scientific and technical improvement programs in other countries (scholarships), are a viable and low risk path for the CBO to fulfill its mission.

Development / Methodology:

Fundamentals - As the settings of the "CBO Foundation" project, there are the seven fundamentals (F's) of TEvEP: utility, inheritance, expectation, innovation and logistics, all of which may eventually be classified in relevance and complexity.

F1 - Utility: to serve as an assistential arm in the promotion of ocular health and to enable programs of academic-scientific exchange for young Brazilian ophthalmologists abroad; stimulate the social engagement of CBO affiliates, mobilizing society as a whole and drawing attention to the importance of medical-ophthalmological assistance to the population; strengthen the CBO brand and further increase its

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

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representativeness as a maximum body within Ophthalmology nationally and internationally.

F2 - Inheritance: respect the ethical and moral precepts of a non-profit institution; prioritizing eye health and the safety of the population assisted in its actions; establish policy of relationship with institutions related to teaching and research in Ophthalmology in Brazil and abroad; financial resources for the execution of its actions.

F3 - Expectations:

CBO - to contribute to social development, as founder of the foundation; foster the presence of the Ophthalmologist in areas that do not have permanent assistance; expand its actions in the technical-scientific improvement of the young ophthalmologists trained under its tutelage; to expand the network of political-organizational relationships in Brazil and abroad.

Doctors affiliated with the CBO - participate in volunteer programs, contribute to organized social actions and monitor the destination of their donations; as newly formed, to glimpse new opportunities for professional improvement.

Society - increase the opportunity for access to eye health care; to recognize in the ophthalmologist his/her important role in the prevention and treatment of ocular diseases; contribute volunteer work and / or donations to the actions it deems relevant.

F4 - Innovation - elaborate project contests / festivals within the purpose of the Foundation's proposals for action, stimulating the integration and creativity of the people involved in national ophthalmology in the various spheres, amplifying social engagement.

F5 - Logistics - partnerships with logistics companies, transport and events to carry out social actions; creation of a van / bus to serve as the mobile headquarters of the CBO Foundation; collection of resources and dissemination of actions through social networks.

Due to the complexity of the processes that make up the "CBO Foundation" project, and due to the need to constantly revise them after its founding, identifying gaps, risks and opportunities, these processes can be divided into seven macroflows (image , relationships, skills, products and services, infrastructure, financial / administrative and technology). Each covers relevant actions and events of meaning to seek the excellence of the institution as a whole.

(RUT) - the events necessary for the execution of this project, consolidating the creation of the CBO Foundation, can be distributed in a linear time rule, allowing better evaluation of the inheritance of each stage by all involved and the creation of "check points", minimizing preventable problems.

RUT

Time 1 - T1 (2 months) - presentation of the "CBO Foundation" Project to the Board and CDG for appreciation and suggestions.

T2 (2 months) - incorporation of new proposals to the project and approval of the creation of the foundation by the CBO Board.

T3 (6 months) - action of the legal department of the CBO for the constitution of the foundation.

T4 (8 months) - Organizational Macroflow actions.

T5 (3 months) - establishment of headquarters and creating the infrastructure necessary conditions for the operational functioning of the foundation.

T6 (3 months) - consolidation of at least two actions inaugurated by the CBO Foundation, one in the area of care

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and the other in the area of scholarships.

T7 - Official start of the actions and inauguration of the headquarters of the CBO Foundation.

Conclusion: The scope that can reach a foundation like this is clearly demonstrated in this project. The institutional returns envisaged for the Brazilian Ophthalmology Council with the creation of the CBO Foundation will allow a robust strengthening of the CBO image.

The CBO Foundation can fill a gap in the boundaries between public service, private companies, health promoters, the pharmaceutical industry, ophthalmologist physicians, the needy population and government agencies and allow the CBO to establish a striking and unquestionable presence as a protagonist of vanguard in this era of profound changes in all areas of society.

This project, even if limited to a purely academic study, is the undisputed proof of the importance of initiatives such as this that enable CBO practitioners to develop planning skills and strategic vision for leaders. In this way, we can turn ideas into projects to share our gaze with people of diverse backgrounds, ages and beliefs, like you, who just read these few pages that, perhaps, somehow inspire us to realize more and more ideas that touch us.

**CBO FOUNDATION: Preserving Sight, Seeing the Future!**

PROJECT ABSTRACT

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**Dr. Manuel Alejandro Garza Leon**  
*Sociedad Mexicana de Oftalmología*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>National research group on visual sciences</i></b>
<p>Purpose: Generate epidemiological information about the most important ophthalmological diseases in the country.</p> <p>Methods: Organize a national network of Ophthalmologist across all the country and planning and organizing epidemiological studies at the national level.</p> <p>Results: Until now we are 100 ophthalmologists of 26 of the 32 states in Mexico, we have carried out three studies: prevalence of dry eye symptomatology in mexican patients, causes of blindness in Mexico and prevalence of corneal astigmatism in patients undergoing cataract surgery.</p> <p>Conclusions: The development of epidemiological information by a research network can improve public politics.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dra. Marcela Gonorazky**  
***Consejo Latinoamericana de Estrabismo (CLADE)***

<b>Title of Project:</b>	<b><i>2017 National Amblyopia Campaign, "Dr. Lydia Gurovich"</i></b>
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Introduction: Amblyopia can cause visual impairment and in many cases could be prevented.

Objective: To determine the prevalence of amblyopia in children aged 4 to 14 years who were examined during the 2017 National Amblyopia Campaign, "Dr. Lydia Gurovich".

Material and methods: prospective, observational, multicenter study (185 Argentine sites). The campaign was conducted on 7/4/17 to evaluate: age, sex, red reflex, presence and type of strabismus, visual acuity (VA), cycloplegia, refraction and fundus of eyes. Amblyopia was considered to have one or both AV eyes equal to or less than 5/10 (with or without correction, if not). "Hyperopia" (greater than + 3.5D), "myopia" (greater than -3D), "astigmatism" (greater than 1.5D) and anisometropia (interocular difference greater than 1.5D) were defined. Results: 4,738 children were evaluated. Average age was 8.15 +/- 3.77 years; 2,460 (52%) were women and 2278 (48%) were men. Pathological red reflex was found in 2%. Strabismus in 8% (43% ET, 31% XT, 2% DV and others 24%). 719 of the examined children wore glasses (15%). 16 % of the 4,738 cases had AV equal to, or lower than 5/10 and 7,8 % had 3/10 or less .

Conclusions: In the first national amblyopia campaign in Argentina, 4,738 children were evaluated, of which 758 (16%, prevalence of amblyopia) presented AV of 5/10 or less. From this first experience, it is expected in the future to be able to move forward, continuing with this campaign and reaching a greater number of patients.

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Introducción: la ambliopía puede causar discapacidad visual, y en muchos casos se podría prevenir.

Objetivo: determinar la prevalencia de ambliopía en niños de entre 4 a 14 años que se examinaron durante la Campaña Nacional de Ambliopía 2017, " Dra. Lydia Gurovich".

Material y métodos: estudio prospectivo, observacional, multicéntrico (185 sedes de Argentina). La campaña se realizó el 7/4/17 para evaluar: edad, sexo, reflejo rojo, presencia y tipo de estrabismo, agudeza visual (AV), cicloplegia, refracción y fondo de ojos. Se consideró ambliope a quien tuviera en uno o ambos ojos AV igual o menor a 5/10 (con o sin corrección, si no la tuviera). Se definió "hipermetropía" (mayor a +3,5D), "miopía" (mayor a -3D), "astigmatismo" (mayor a 1,5D) y anisometropía (diferencia interocular mayor a 1,5D).

Resultados: fueron evaluados 4.738 niños. Edad promedio: 8,15 +/-3,77 años; 2460 (52%) mujeres y 2278 (48%) varones. Reflejo rojo patológico: 2 %. Estrabismo en 8% (43% ET, 31% XT, 2% DV y otros un 24%). Usaban anteojos 719 (15%). AV igual o menor a 5/10 en 16 % y de 3/10 o menos en 7,8 % de los casos.

Conclusiones: en la primer campaña nacional de ambliopía en Argentina, 4.738 niños fueron evaluados, de los

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cuales 758 (16%, prevalencia de ambliopia) presentaron AV de 5/10 o menos. A partir de ésta primera experiencia, se espera en un futuro poder avanzar, continuando con ésta campaña y llegando a un mayor número de pacientes.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Miguel González Andrades**  
*Sociedad Española de Oftalmología*

***Title of Project:***

***Evaluation of the training disparities among the different national residency programs in Ophthalmology***

**Purpose:** There are enormous disparities among the different residency programs in Ophthalmology that exist among countries. These differences not only limit the training of young ophthalmologist but also their future careers and their international mobility. The first step to fight against training disparities in Ophthalmology is to evaluate and compare the different national residency programs in order to inform and raise any necessary concern to the different national and supranational organizations.

**Methods:** A survey where different data from the residency programs can be collected has been created using the “Google Form” platform.

**Results:** The number of questions proposed in the survey is 33. Questions about the position of the responder, the characteristics of the residency position and the training program are asked. An expert on survey methodology has revised the content of the survey. The final result can be seen in this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVTigIlyY6SYEW1-8sxL6DRd2e\\_tuEHAU7ZaidZFMKDMn86A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfVTigIlyY6SYEW1-8sxL6DRd2e_tuEHAU7ZaidZFMKDMn86A/viewform?usp=sf_link)

**Conclusion:** The survey is going to be sent to at least 3 young ophthalmologists of each country in Europe, South America and North America, after validating the survey with 10 young ophthalmologists. The obtained data will be analyzed and compared in order to define the differences among residency programs. This analysis will be presented to national and supranational organizations in their respective meetings thanks to the participation of young ophthalmologists who will fill the survey and communicate their willingness to be involved in the project. The results of the project together with a proposal of a global balanced training program will be submitted to a high-impact factor journal to spread this information and raise any necessary concern in order to globally improve the training in Ophthalmology.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

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**Dr. Erick Hernandez-Bogantes**  
*Asociacion Oftalmológica de Costa Rica*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Promotion of Abstract Submissions for Residents And Trainees of Central America And The Caribbean to ARVO</i></b>
<p>Purpose: To provide guidance and revision thru the process of preparing scientific abstracts for submission to ARVO and further publication into a scientific journal.</p> <p>Results: A total of 9 abstracts were candidates in the project. Three abstracts of two subspecialties (2 retina, 1 cornea) form 2 countries (Costa Rica and Dominican Republic) were selected by the mentors for possible submission. All three abstracts were accepted in ARVO 2017 and manuscripts are being prepared for future publication.</p> <p>Conclusions: With adequate guidance and mentorship, scientific ideas and projects from Central America and the Caribbean can contribute to the worldwide scientific community.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Guiseppe Miotto**  
*Sociedad Ecuatoriana de Oftalmología*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Estudio Multicentrico Trauma Ocular</i></b>
<p>Objetivo: Conocer las principales causas factores riesgo, grupo etario y desarrollar estrategias para prevenir las secuelas producidas por Trauma Ocular en los distintos países latinoamericanos.</p> <p>Método: El estudio se desarrolló en base a un formulario disponible para retinólogos, en distintos países: En el mismo se debía diligenciar; lugar, edad, tipo de trauma y el uso o no de protección en el momento del Trauma.</p> <p>Resultados: Al momento tenemos 418 Trauma Oculares en la base de datos.</p> <p>Edad promedio: 28 años, Genero hombre 76%, mujer 24 %.</p> <p>País: Colombia 82%, Ecuador 15%, Argentina 3%</p> <p>Tipo de trauma: Contuso 63%, Penetrante 21%, Perforante 10%, Cuerpo extraño intraocular 6%</p> <p>Usó protección: No 97 % si 3%</p> <p>Conclusiones: El Registro de Trauma Ocular puede ser una herramienta válida para conocer nuestra realidad, así como establecer estrategias que nos ayuden en prevención del mismo.</p> <p><b>TRAUMA OCULAR MULTICENTRY STUDY</b></p> <p>Objective: To know the main causes of risk, age group and develop strategies to prevent the sequelae caused by Ocular Trauma in the different Latin American countries.</p> <p>Method: The study was developed based on a form available to retinologists, in different countries: In the same it was due diligence; place, age, type of trauma and the use or not of protection at the time of Trauma.</p> <p>Results: At the moment we have 418 Ocular trauma in the data base.</p> <p>Average age: 28 years old, Male gender 76%, female 24%.</p> <p>Country: Colombia 82%, Ecuador 15%, Argentina 3%</p> <p>Type of trauma: Contused 63%, Penetrating 21%, Perforating 10%, Foreign body intraocular 6%</p> <p>Used protection: No 97% yes 3%</p> <p>Conclusions: The Registry of Ocular Trauma can be a valid tool to know our reality, as well as to establish strategies that help us to prevent it.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

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**Dr. Luis Oliveira**  
*Sociedade Portuguesa de Oftalmologia*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Reorganization of a Corneal Transplant Programme in the North of Portugal</i></b>
<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> Established in 1958, the corneal transplantation programme of Centro Hospitalar do Porto (CHP) is one of the oldest in Europe, and covering a population of about 2 million inhabitants. The aim of this project is to reorganize all the programme and to create an electronic platform that coordinate all steps, from harvesting to surgery, and thus improving the efficacy and quality of the programme.</p> <p><b>METHODS:</b> Together with a software developing company, we create an electronic platform that coordinate all steps of the process, with on-time information: registration of the donors, harvesting details, corneal study on eye bank, and the management of the patients waiting list.</p> <p><b>RESULTS:</b> The use of this electronic platform is allowing: better management of the donors and harvesting, minimizing waste of tissue, on-time information about the quantity and quality of the corneal tissue available on the eye bank, quicker organization of the surgeries and better management of the waiting list.</p> <p><b>CONCLUSIONS:</b> This project significantly increase the efficacy of the CHP corneal transplantation programme, with great benefits for the population.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dra. Anabella Paronetto**  
***Consejo Argentino de Oftalmología***

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Annual Clinical Survey</i></b>
<p>Purpose: The Argentine Council of Ophthalmology launched a new Annual Clinical Survey this year to assess potential professional practice gaps and educational needs.</p> <p>Methods: The 2017 survey was performed via electronic follow up surveys to the CAO members.</p> <p>Results: 81 physicians responded to this survey, which included 52 questions, this represents more than 10 % of the members.</p> <p>97.33 % Were Argentine residents, while 2.67% were from outside Argentina, so our main analysis is going to be based on Argentine responders.</p> <p>The first topics were about demographic features in an attempt to characterize the Argentine ophthalmologists population. We received answer from most of the Argentine provinces but one. 52.5% were men and 47.5% were women. In the education analysis 86.6% were specialists and 13.3 % were either residents or concurrents.</p> <p>The rest of this survey was developed to measure key clinical opinions and practice patterns on some of the most compelling and controversial issues facing the CAO members. This was a survey focused on multiple topics in 7 different specialty areas including, cataract surgery, presbyopia correcting and toric iols, laser refractive surgery, postoperative inflammation and its treatment, ocular surface and cornea, glaucoma and retina. The most significant topics are:</p> <p><b>Cataract surgery</b></p> <p>We found that 43 % of the responders don't perform cataract surgery themselves, among the reasons why, we found that the most frequent is lack of practice during residency (26% ).</p> <p><b>Laser Assisted cataract surgery</b></p> <p>When asked to list all the barriers they have adopting laser-assisted cataract surgery in their practices, financial barriers were the most common followed by a lack of data showing benefits over conventional cataract surgery.</p> <p><b>Inflammation and generic pharmaceuticals.</b></p> <p>While more than half of the respondents are prescribing brand name only pharmaceuticals, they think that about half of the time these are being substituted anyway by the pharmacy.</p> <p>About two thirds of respondents believe there is a significant difference between brand name and generic drugs on patient outcomes and safety.</p> <p><b>Laser vision correction</b></p> <p>When asked about Laser vision correction, only 33% of respondents are active laser surgeons.</p>	

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Ocular Surface and cornea

Approximately 34 % of responders find that more than half of their patients are in treatment with artificial tears. Surprisingly they believe that 90 % of these patients only use them according to symptoms.

Only 11% of responders perform some form of keratoplasty, and 50 % of them still perform only penetrating keratoplasty.

Glaucoma and Retina

CAO members choose PGA as their debut treatment for a patient with CAAG.

Although 90% of responders have a profound knowledge on the impact of Anti VEGF therapies, only 37 % perform their own intravitreal injections.

Conclusion: While many surveys provide important data for our profession, most are not used to drive specific educational efforts aimed at improving the practice of medicine and assessing key clinical opinions. This is the objective behind this annual survey. We hope next year the number of participants will rise, and more subjects will be evaluated.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Luis Alberto Santiago Cabán**  
***Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Oftalmología***

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Improving Visual Rehabilitation in Patients with Corneal Blindness in Puerto Rico: Amending Puerto Rico's Anatomical Donations Act</i></b>
<p>Background: Puerto Rico has a high incidence of corneal blindness and common causes of corneal-related visual impairment in the Island include Fuchs corneal dystrophy, keratoconus, pseudophakic bullous keratopathy, infectious keratitis and ocular trauma. Although the demand of corneal tissue for transplantation is high, the offer is inadequate based on waiting lists exceeding 150 patients and waiting times of more than 6 months. Puerto Rico has only one institution that provides tissues for most corneal transplants, the Lions Eye Bank of Puerto Rico which is locally regulated by the Anatomical Dispositions Act of Puerto Rico (Act No. 296). According to the Bank's directors, the reason why they cannot meet the demand for tissue is their low recovery rate.</p> <p>Purpose: To amend the Anatomical Disposition Act of Puerto Rico (Act no. 296) in order to increase corneal tissue recovery and decrease waiting time for corneal transplantation.</p> <p>Methods: The goal of the project will be achieved in three steps. First, a meeting with the Lions Eye Bank of Puerto Rico's board and medical director will be held. The goal of such meeting is to identify how the Anatomical Disposition Act of Puerto Rico prevents higher corneal tissue recovery rates. Brainstorming of the possible changes of the Act will be performed during the meeting. In addition, a meeting with the Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Oftalmología's Legislative and Legal Committees will be conducted; during such meeting help will be requested in completing the amendment to the Anatomical Disposition Act of Puerto Rico. The draft will be presented to the President of the House of Representatives, Hon. Carlos Mendez. Representative Mendez has been an ally to the Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Oftalmología efforts to prevent expansion of Optometry's scope of practice in the Island for years, and has a great interest in the visual health of Puerto Ricans. Finally, the Amendment to the Anatomical Disposition Act of Puerto Rico will be presented to the House of Representative for evaluation and approval. The project will then be sent to the Senate and Executive branch for their consideration.</p> <p>Results: Conversations with the Lions Eye Bank of Puerto Rico revealed that although the Act provides the foundation for proper referral of possible donors from all the hospitals around the Island, the Bank only receives referrals from the Institute of Forensic Sciences of Puerto Rico. By amending the Act we hope to make referrals of potential donors from hospitals directly to the Eye Bank mandatory. We are currently developing the draft that will be presented to the President of the Chamber of Representatives.</p> <p>Conclusion: Our goal is to achieve higher number of corneal tissue recoveries in Puerto Rico. An amendment to the Anatomical Dispositions Act of Puerto Rico will provide the grounds for greater referrals of potential donors to the Lions Eye Bank, the only distributor of corneal tissue operating in the Island. By this means, we will positively impact the lives of visually impaired patients waiting for corneal transplantation.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

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**Dr. Ivan Maynard Tavares**  
*Pan-American Glaucoma Society*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Teaching, learning and evaluating processes at the Federal University of Sao Paulo Ophthalmology Residency Program</i></b>
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**Introduction:** The traditional teaching and learning process is not the best one to be applied to millennials, however it is the most used at the Ophthalmology Residency Program of the Federal University of Sao Paulo, what can become an important barrier to Resident's education.

**Purposes:** To understand and apply new teaching and learning methodologies to the Ophthalmology Residency Program. 'Flipped classroom' strategies, particularly the team-based learning (TBL) one, will be understood, presented to the faculty and applied to the Residency Program. Moreover, new evaluation strategies, as the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) 'Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program' (OKAP), as well as the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) 'Ophthalmology Surgical Competency Assessment Rubric' (OSCAR) and 'Ophthalmic Clinical Evaluation Exercise' (OCEX) tools will be gradually introduced.

**Results:** In 2017 four of our Residents (two second-year and two third-year) took the OKAP International for the very first time. I took two 'teaching the teachers' courses, aiming a better understanding of these new tools: the ICO 'Residency Program Directors Course' and the Federal University of Sao Paulo 'Teaching Strategies Course'. Furthermore I participated in a four-hour session on 'Teaching Millennials' during the Brazilian Council of Ophthalmology Meeting in September 2017.

**Conclusion:** Finding the most suitable strategies for teaching and evaluating Ophthalmology in Residency Programs to millennials is challenging, and demands faculty captivation and training.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Anderson Gustavo Teixeira Pinto**  
***Sociedad Panamericana de Retina y Vitreo (SPRV)***

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>Link the retinal specialists to improve the Latin American Retina.</i></b>
<p>Purpose: Connect the sub-specialists of retina and vitreous of the Latin American to interact themselves by simple enquiry.</p> <p>Methods: Sending by email a simple quiz with 21 questions about the actions of the SPRV/PAAO Latin American retinal specialist regarding the daily clinical and surgical practice. A Google form platform was used to perform the query and sent to each participant using a list of the last SPRV (Pan-American Retinal and Vitreous Society) meeting emails.</p> <p>Results: We got 105 responses (6% of the total sender emails). Seventy percent were male with age prevalence between 41-50 years (45%). Brazil was the country with more responses (50); followed by Colombia (20) and Mexico (10). Eighty four percent of the interviewed perform retina clinical and surgical together, followed by just clinic (10%), just surgical (2%), imaging (3%) and uveitis (2%).</p> <p>Thirty one percent finished their training in a period of 6 to 10 years ago. Fifty three percent perform their practice only in private clinic; followed the Hospital and Clinic (42%). Forty seven percent performed fellowship in their own country and 51% are member of their own national retinal society; just 13% of the interviewed are member of the PAAO.</p> <p>Fifty five percent of the responses did not have the knowledge about the actions of the PAAO, as offering international scholarship for retina and vitreous. An amount of 73% did know about the PAAO/SPRV meetings. Only 20% of the interviewed follow SPRV Facebook and 31% the SBRV forum.</p> <p>Eighty four percent prefer to communicate to SPRV members by emailing and 69% have chosen the ASRS as the most important retina society of the world.</p> <p>Eighty six percent of the retinal specialists interviewed did not know about the PAAO leadership course and 60% did not access frequently the PAAO website.</p> <p>Conclusions: There is a definite needing action to increase the proximity of the retinal specialists in Latin America. Developing further actions to improve the SPRV/PAAO is required to provide more interaction and linkage between the specialists.</p>	

PROJECT ABSTRACT

**Dr. Juan José Vanegas Acevedo**  
*Sociedad Colombiana de Oftalmología*

<b><i>Title of Project:</i></b>	<b><i>A virtual education program for Colombian ophthalmologists</i></b>
<p><b>Purpose / Objective:</b> To Implement a Virtual Education Platform for Colombian Society of Ophthalmology (SOCIEDAD COLOMBIANA DE OFTALMOLOGIA) members.</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> Setting of an E-learning platform with three different segments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Selected lectures and conferences from World renowned Ophthalmologists. These conferences are chosen from material of past meetings such as National Congress of Ophthalmology, subspecialty meetings, and all those supported by the SOCIEDAD COLOMBIANA DE OFTALMOLOGIA (S.C.O.). Another source for material is the academic lectures from regional meetings organized by S.C.O.</li> <li>2. A second segment including asynchronous courses of specific subjects in different areas of ophthalmology. . The first two courses will be held at the S.C.O. website (www.socoftal.com) next year, starting January 2018. <b>Subjects:</b> Optical Coherence Tomography and Visual Fields.</li> <li>3. A third segment/phase to be developing over the next two years. Will include synchronous education as webinars and specific courses. We hope to start this stage late 2018.</li> </ol> <p><b>Results:</b> The first 6 videos from different ophthalmology areas were uploaded in a demo website and can be seen @ (<a href="http://demo.bmotik.com/1/videos/">http://demo.bmotik.com/1/videos/</a>). The material was chosen from lectures given at the past Congreso Nacional de Oftalmología held at Cartagena last year. A second set of videos from the BASCOM PALMER MEETING at Bogota, Colombia (15/09/2017) and CONGRESO BIENAL DE GLAUCOMA at Bogota, Colombia (21/09/2017) will be uploaded to the same website and it will be on a try version linked to www.socoftal.com (6 videos from each meeting reaching a total of 18 videos). This link will be fully available for all the members starting January 2018.</p> <p>Regarding the second segment of the Virtual platform, the OCT and visual field courses will be provided by the HOSPITAL ITALIANO DE BUENOS AIRES (H.I.B.), Argentina. These first two courses were come to terms about with Dr. Eduardo Mayorga, Honorary Chief of Ophthalmology Department at H.I.B. (PAAO member and E-learning director), and we agreed a significant discount on courses's full price for S.C.O. members, and to help and support us with technical advice the setting of our platform.</p> <p>The third phase comprehends WEBINARS, and live lectures to be broadcasted at the Colombian Society website. Given its superior complexity (live video, no edition, specifics dates and times), we consider sensate to fully develop the first two segments and then start with the synchronous education. It is expected to set the first webinar after the National Ophthalmology meeting of next year, around September 2018.</p> <p>Funding of this project is provided directly by the S.C.O., and supports the update and change of the actual website host to a powerful one, a requisite for the developing of the platform. The service of internet hosting and uploading material is provided by BMOTIK, a Colombian software firm based in Bogota with experience in</p>	

**PROJECT ABSTRACT**

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WEB developing, internet of things and documentary management. An Educational Committee is responsible for the sustainability of the platform. Such committee is composed of: a Board member of the S.C.O. and two external advisors from the ophthalmologist community.

Conclusions: Education is the one of the main interests and purposes of the S.C.O., and, being conscious of that, is its goal to give to all its members better ways to connect with scientific updated knowledge. New technologies allow sharing information on a faster way and permit that colleagues improve access to update information available at a click at his/her home. Setting virtual tools of ease use and constructing friendly web environments are critical on actual learning.