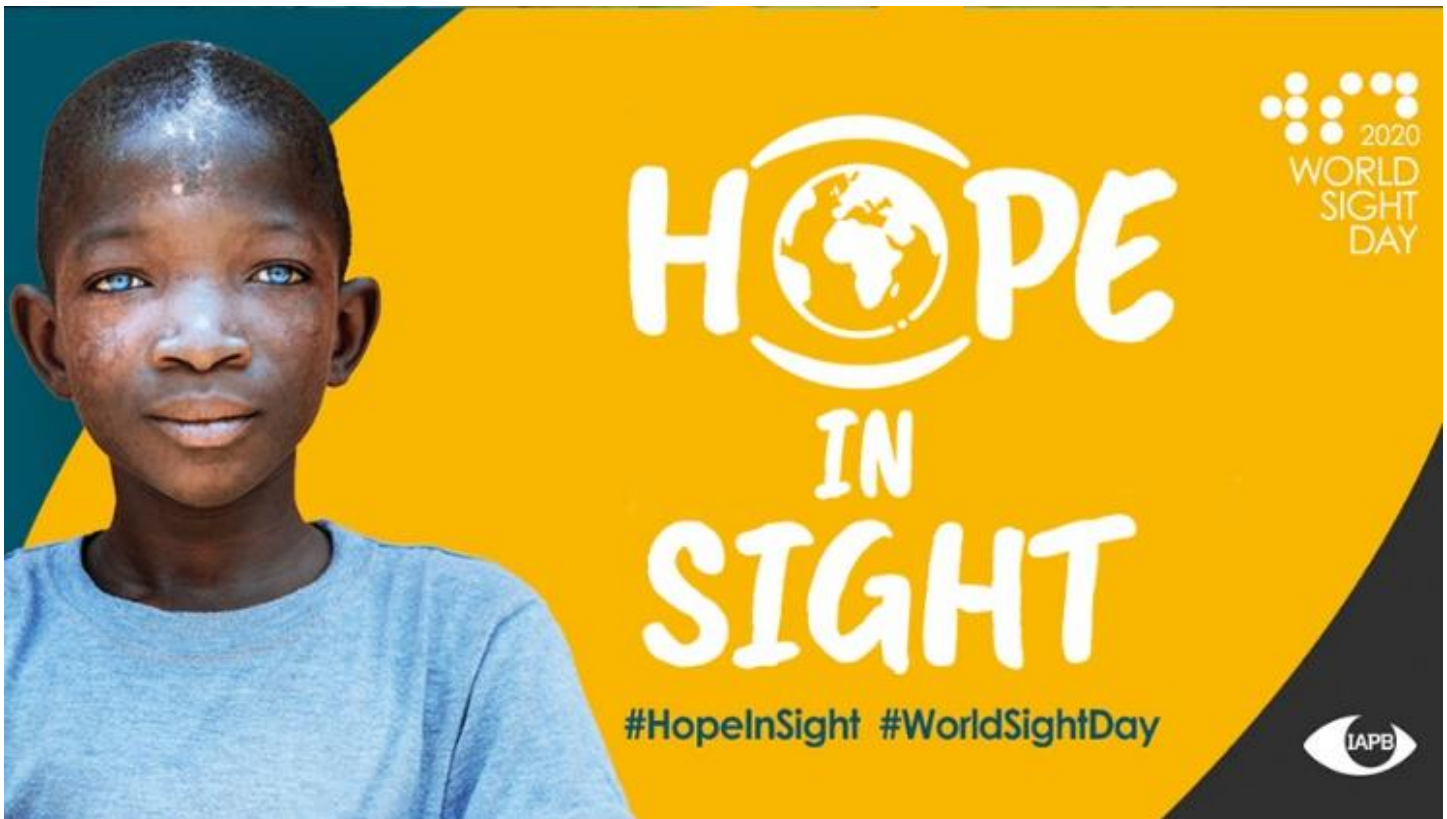


IAPB Africa Newsletter



1. World Sight Day 2020



World Sight Day – the **most important advocacy** and **communications** day in the eye health calendar. This year's call to action was "Hope in Sight" and 2020 appears to have been the biggest World Sight Day ever, certainly in terms of media coverage. In Africa the day was well celebrated with multiple press events across the continent. Activities organised by the eye health sector engaged with Government Ministries, health facilities and training institutions to raise awareness around eye health. Media coverage included local television and radio reporting on World Sight Day events as well as talk shows and promotional spots on the causes of visual impairment and blindness. Look out for the upcoming WSD2020 Activities Report to see how the **world marked World Sight Day in 2020!**

1.1 HM The Queen & HRH The Countess of Wessex mark World Sight Day



Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Countess of Wessex mark World Sight Day with a video chat with eye health professionals.

To mark World Sight Day on October 8th Her Majesty The Queen and Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex held a call with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) and three eye health professionals from around the world.

The Queen and The Countess spoke with [Natrajan Vengadesan](#) from [Aravind Eye Care System](#) in India, [Jennifer Merryweather](#), who works with the Indigenous Australia Program at [The Fred Hollows Foundation](#), Australia, Dr [Jalikatu Mustapha](#) who works with UK-based NGO [Sightsavers](#) and is one of only four

Ophthalmologists in Sierra Leone and Peter Holland the Chief Executive of IAPB. Read the full article [here](#).

1.2 UN Event discusses accelerating vision for everyone

Political Leaders, UN Ambassadors, Head of UNICEF and Civil Society groups join HRH The Countess of Wessex for a United Nations event to discuss accelerating Vision for Everyone.

In recognition of [World Sight Day](#), Royalty, political leaders, United Nations (UN) Ambassadors and the Executive Director of UNICEF joined with leading civil society organisations globally to hold a virtual United Nations event to discuss the issue of eye health and its importance to achieving the UN [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and a recovery from Covid-19.

The event was hosted by the [UN Friends of Vision](#) (FoV), a group of UN Member States which is co-chaired by Ambassador Webson of Antigua and Barbuda, Ambassador Rabab Fatima of Bangladesh and Ambassador Byrne Nason of Ireland to the United Nations, New York, a newly elected member of the UN Security Council. Read the full article and view the video of the event [here](#).



1.3 Updated Vision Atlas shows 1.1 billion people have vision loss

To mark [World Sight Day 2020](#) the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) has updated its [Vision Atlas](#) with new estimates on the magnitude, projections and causes of vision loss from [The Vision Loss Expert Group](#) (VLEG).

The IAPB Vision Atlas is a wealth of information relevant to policy makers, health planners, eye health professionals, NGOs, patient groups and advocates. Given that so much of avoidable sight loss is a consequence of inequity and lack of access for the most disadvantaged members of our global community, the IAPB Vision Atlas is an important resource for those responsible for achieving universal health coverage and the [implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals](#). The 2020 update provides a rich mix of data, narrative and interactive presentation tools that make it easy to understand and present complex data sets to a broad audience. Learn more about the update and key messages of the Vision Atlas [here](#).



The Vision Atlas has been supported by the Allergan (an AbbVie company), Bayer, Seva Foundation and Sightsavers.

1.4 IAPB Eye Health Heroes 2020 Announced!



This World Sight Day week IAPB proudly announces the [Eye Health Heroes for 2020!](#)

Our Eye Health Heroes work with passion, purpose and determination to improve peoples' lives all over the world. They are the change-makers, innovators and emerging leaders from across all areas and backgrounds in eye health.

They inspire all of us to achieve a world free of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. Whether they are managers, community workers, health professionals or government officials their efforts and stories deserve to be shared.

[Check out the inspiring stories](#) of eye care professionals from across the eye health sector. They really give us [#HopeInSight](#).

Community Eye Health Journal

Search 'CEHJ' on Google Play or App Store



Don't miss out!
Download our free, data-friendly smartphone app and enjoy easy access to the *Community Eye Health Journal* wherever you go. Change text size and background colour for easy reading, or save your favourite articles in a secure Library, so you can stay informed even when you're not connected.
Welcome to the future.



SCAN ME



International Centre for Eye Health
LONDON SCHOOL of HYGIENE & TROPICAL MEDICINE

1.5 Winners of the #HopelnSight Photo Competition

The winners of our 6th World Sight Day photo competition held with support of Bayer, with the theme HopelnSight, have been announced. This year we received our highest ever entries 1971 (1373 Amateur + 598 Professional). We also had a COVID-19 category to recognise the impact the pandemic had on the sector for which we received 459 entries.

The winners of the competition were chosen from Editor's Picks, based on social metrics and image quality and composition.



The winning picture in the professional category is [Hope](#) by Michael Schoenfeld.

The winning picture in the amateur category is [Spreading Smiles](#) — by Fauzia Aziz



Thank you to all our 985 participants; we value each and every entry and all of you help us spread the message of #HopelnSight.

IAPB thanks [Bayer](#) for their support in delivering this photo competition.

2. IAPB NEWS

2.1 Clearly to merge into IAPB

On 4 January 2021, we are delighted to announce that **Clearly**, the charity founded in 2016 by James Chen to raise the profile of vision among world leaders, **will merge into the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)**.

In a sign of the growing strength of the sector and progress that has been made on the issue over the last five years, the move is designed to combine the two organisations' advocacy and campaigning expertise and bring renewed pressure on global actors and governments to end the vision crisis.

Peter Holland, Chief Executive of the IAPB, and James Chen say today that the unprecedented move marks the "next exciting phase in the battle to deliver vision for everyone". It combines the long-established efforts of the IAPB and its members to counter avoidable blindness and promote eye health with governments around the world with the successful campaigning work of Clearly to highlight the case for clear vision for all within organisations such as the United Nations and Commonwealth.

Along with his ongoing interests as Founder of [Vision for a Nation](#) and [Adlens](#), James Chen will continue to play an active role in the vision sector following the merger as Global Ambassador for IAPB – making the case for concerted global action at scale.

2.2 Virtual Launches of the World Report on Vision

Following the launch of the World Report on Vision in October 2019, IAPB had committed to work with the World Health Organization (WHO) to coordinate over 50 [World Report on Vision country launches](#). Since the launch of the World Report on Vision, IAPB have convened eight successful launches. These launches have been critical to the implementation process of the report and have enabled key stakeholders to discuss country-specific challenges and agree to key actions moving forward.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the postponement of many of the planned launches, however, [the USA](#) and [Canada](#) launches have gone ahead virtually. These virtual launches have been a resounding success and have been as equally engaging as the pre-COVID launch counterparts.

	<p>IAPB Africa would like to thank the Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité (OPC) for their support in translating this Newsletter into French. Learn more about the work of OPC here.</p>
	<p>Fondation Théa supports the translation of this Newsletter into French</p>

3. WHO NEWS: The WHO Academy



World Health Organization

A new focus on learning for impact and building competencies to make the world a healthier place. This is the thinking behind the World Health Organization's new WHO Academy, a state-of-the-art training institution that aims to bring the lifelong learning revolution to the health sector and reach 10 million

learners around the world by 2023.

As a centre for delivering advanced digital and classroom training to health workers and others around the world, the WHO Academy will be a game changer for lifelong learning in health.

Scheduled to launch its first online courses in May 2021 and headquartered at a futuristic campus in Lyon, France, the Academy will be a globally accessible school for the future, combining the latest technologies in digital and remote learning with advancements in adult learning science to offer innovative, personalised and multilingual training that meets priority needs. Read more about the WHO Academy [here](#).

4. COVID-19 RESOURCES

4.1 Eye Health Resources on COVID-19

The 2019 novel coronavirus ([COVID-19](#)) pandemic is rapidly changing the way the health and development communities are working. With the proximity of eye health professionals to patients during eye examinations and reports that the virus can cause conjunctivitis, COVID-19 has implications for eye health and eye health professionals.

Travel restrictions, reprioritisation of health resources and economic consequences are impacting the work of many of our member and partner organisations.

To assist [IAPB members](#), eye health personnel, health professionals and program personnel, IAPB is collating and sharing information and resources specific to eye health and international development in relation to COVID-19. [Access the resources](#).

4.2 Swiss Red Cross: Saving Sight Amidst the Pandemic - Northern Region Eye Care Project, Ghana

Swiss Red Cross



View this a short video on how the Northern Region Eye Health Project in Ghana, supported by the Swiss Red Cross is offering eye care services within the COVID 19 period. The service was deemed essential because a blind person is considered by the project as the most vulnerable in this period

of the Pandemic. Locate the video [here](#).

4.3 Community Eye Health Journal – New Issue: Responding to COVID-19 in eye health

The COVID-19 pandemic is having a devastating impact on people, communities and economies, including health care and eye care. In this issue, we offer guidance and practical advice on adapting eye services, deciding which patients to see, personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning & disinfection. Learn how to make your own face shield and hand sanitiser, be inspired by case studies from eye health professionals around the world, and update yourself on the latest evidence about the disease and the virus causing it. Access this issue [online](#) or download the CEHJ app from Google Play or the App Store.

5. Upcoming Training Opportunities and Events

5.1 London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine Online Short Course: International Eye Health - 9-12 November 2020

The primary purposes of the workshop will be to familiarise participants with:

- the aims, objectives and strategies of the VISION 2020: the Right to Sight programme and the evolution to Universal Eye Health Coverage and the [WHO World report on vision](#).
- the principles of planning involved in implementing district and national level eye care programmes
- how [Peek Solutions](#) can be used in eye care programmes

This interactive, four day course will look at survey methodologies and strategies for control of the major eye health related diseases. It is intended for ophthalmologists, optometrists, ophthalmic nurses and programme managers interested in strategies to reduce diseases leading to visual impairment with an emphasis on middle- and low-income settings. Learn more about the course and apply [here](#).

5.2 Global Virtual Simulation Symposium



Orbis International is organising a **Global Virtual Simulation Symposium** for anyone to join from the across the globe interested in incorporating simulation training into their ophthalmic training programmes!

The Programme will run **October 12 – 16th, 2020**. This symposium will bring together leaders in the field of simulation to present on technology, best practices, guidelines and provide demonstrations. This will apply not

only to ophthalmologists, but also ophthalmic nurses and anaesthesiologists. They have an excellent line up of nearly 30 speakers and facilitators from academia, industry, and partners. Register and download the programme via this [link](#).

5.3 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to be held in June 2021

The President of Rwanda HE Paul Kagame and Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland have announced the new date for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which was to have been held in Kigali in June 2020 but was postponed because of the impact of COVID-19. The new date agreed with member countries will be the week of 21 June 2021. [Visit Rwanda's CHOGM Website](#)



5.4 4th World Congress of Optometry Postponed Until 2023



After much consideration, the [World Council of Optometry \(WCO\)](#) has announced that the 4th World Congress of Optometry (WCO4) planned for Melbourne, Australia in 2021, will now be postponed to September 8-10, 2023. The partnership with Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) and the Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association of Australia (ODMA) will continue. Read the full report [here](#).