



**WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY**  
*Advocacy | Education | Policy Development | Humanitarian Outreach*

***Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry!***

The past couple of years have seen the development of the World Congress of Optometry into a must attend gathering of the global optometry community. From Colombia to India the enthusiasm, participation and quality of the conference can justifiably make optometrists proud. The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress bears testimony to this by the competitive bidding to host the conference by different countries, but more importantly by the American Academy of Optometry offering to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry in conjunction with their 2019 annual meeting. The Academy meeting is renowned for its commitment to research and clinical excellence. Its annual meeting is a quality education fest and one of the largest optometry gatherings in the world. The meeting has become increasingly attractive to optometrists around the world - and given the increased international flavor - Academy is a logical partner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry.

I urge optometrists to attend this meeting in numbers and enjoy the joint offering of WCO and Academy with a breadth and scope of education that is hard to come by. Optometry today is facing multiple challenges:

- Increasing access to millions of people around the world.
- The growing epidemic of myopia that is impacting both the refractive error and ocular disease profile of populations around the world.
- The need for quality optometric education and the adaptation of educators to the technological as well as public health needs of our world.
- Expanded scope of practice and the need to support optometrists via quality clinical education.

All of the above will be addressed through the clinical, research, education and public health tracks that the Academy conference and 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry will be bringing to you. The optometric education gathering, the public health forum and the joint plenary will offer a high-profile focus on key areas with experts providing the latest updates. The meeting will ensure that optometrists receive COPE and other credits to meet annual continuing education requirements in some countries. The location of Orlando makes it attractive for us to bring our families along and make this a vacation as well.

I look forward to seeing you at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry. See you in Orlando.

Prof. Kovin Naidoo  
Chair of the WCO 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of Optometry Committee