



Message from the President

Greetings, ECOO members, and welcome to this issue of our ECOO Newsletter.

Dear ECOO members,

Thank you to all participants for their great contribution to the latest ECOO General Assembly in Brussels. A lot of information was exchanged and we had an interactive workshop as well as constructive discussions during the committee meetings. Thanks to all participating members, I believe everybody went back home with new knowledge. The presentations that were made during the GA offered interesting perspectives about the present and future of our profession. They addressed the way in which the public values our profession (as shown by a survey in the UK), suggested best practices in the co-operation between optometrists and ophthalmologists and showed how new technologies open up ways for contact lenses use in the future. All in all edifying information about how our fantastic profession has unforeseen possibilities. We now look forward to our next General Assembly in Berlin on 19-22 May 2016. In the meantime, the Executive Committee has been working as planned on all political items that have to be covered.

As you know, you will all be invited soon to review the ECOO Blue Book. As we aim to present an updated version every second year, you will have the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the figures for your country. You may remember that in the context of the mutual evaluation of professions, ours was the only one that provided statistical data (i.e. the Blue

Book) that was then referenced by the European Commission, instead of relying on figures from the EUROSTAT. The Accreditation process for the European Diploma in Optometry is developing and we are happy to see new universities seeking accreditation. The Board of Management and the Board of Examiners are both doing a great work and we thank them for their engagement. Also, I would like to express on behalf of the Executive Committee and of all the members our positive view of our office in Brussels at Hill+Knowlton Strategies. We have been very pleased with the service provided by Mr. Thomas Tindemans and his team. A special thank you from all of us to Sonia Florian for her contribution to the work of the ECOO Secretariat. From 1 January 2016, we move the Secretariat office to Acumen Public Affairs and look forward to working with new team there. As decided at the last GA, we will continue to work with Fabienne Eckert as Secretary General. We are happy for that. Also we were very well received by the three partners at Acumen, Mrs. Elaine Cruikshanks, Mrs. Abigail Jones and Mr. Giles Keane, and we are looking forward to working with them.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Paul Folkesson
President ECOO



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Update from the ECOO GA in Brussels

ECOO members met on 16th – 18th October 2015 in Brussels for the General Assembly and related meetings, and a selection of photos from the event is available below as well as on the ECOO website. An advocacy workshop was organised around the topic of Vision

and Driving on 17th October, during which members identified main challenges and suggested potential future actions. The Public Affairs and Economic committee addressed, among others, the online trading of glasses, as well as the role of social security pay-

ments in patients' decision for buying spectacles. The Professional Services committee discussed vision therapy and continuing professional development (CPD).

The ECOO GA in Brussels



Country News

Optics and optometry in Spain - OPTOM 2016 - A NEW RECORD!

By Juan Carlos Martínez Moral, President Spanish General Council of Optometry

The Scientific and Organising Committee of the 24th International Congress of Optometry, Contactology and Ophthalmic Optics (OPTOM 2016) that will be held in Madrid on 8, 9 and 10 April 2016, at the IFEMA Conference Centre, coinciding with the holding of ExpoOptica, has started its work just a few months ago.

After the end of the term established for the submission of papers, the number of **authors** has increased, when compared to the last edition of OPTOM 2014, by **29%**, **dissertations by 47%**, **posters by 30%**, and the total number of **papers grew by 28%**.

What are the underlying reasons for such a significant and outstanding increase?

- The quality and the amount of research works prepared by Opticians-Optometrists is constantly increasing.
- The prestige deserved by the participation in OPTOM 2016 is growing one edition after another.

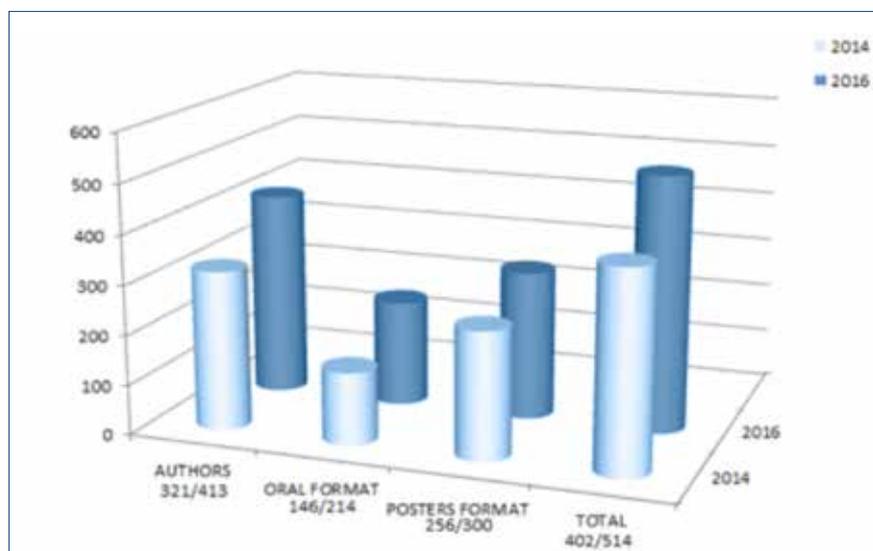
On the other hand, the most demanded subject areas, by order of precedence, are the following:

1	25%	Ocular surface Contact lenses
2	12%	Pathology / Pharmacology
3	12%	Basic research
4	12%	Refractive surgery
5	10%	Binocular vision Refraction/ Visual function
6	8%	Geriatric optics / Low vision Visual rehabilitation
7	7%	Ophthalmic Optics, Instruments
8	6%	Primary attention Public Health
9	5%	Paediatric optometry
10	4%	Other issues

As we can see, the wish to acquire an up-to-date scientific knowledge is growing exponentially. Such increased

training should provide us a greater visibility in connection with the visual attention provided by Optometrists within the field of public and private General Health Services.

You can find more details about OPTOM 2016 by accessing the website www.optomcongreso.com.



Update from the Academy

Berlin 2016 - register for more information

Preparations are underway for the European Academy of Optometry and Optics' (EAOO) eighth annual conference, Berlin 2016, which will be held at Beuth University of Applied Sciences, Berlin, Germany. The conference is a joint meeting with the European Council of Optometry and Optics' (ECOO) Spring meeting and takes place 19-22 May 2016. It is aimed at anyone involved in optometry, optics and vision science who want to learn, share and network with other professionals from Europe and beyond.

Delegates can expect an extensive three day programme offering inspiring lectures, 14 clinical skills workshops, engaging discussion workshops, poster

sessions, networking opportunities, SIG forums, and also two keynote lectures, which will be announced in the coming weeks. You will also be in the fantastic city of Berlin, known for its art scene, nightlife and modern architecture. Last year the conference welcomed more delegates than ever before, with over 300 optometrists, dispensing opticians and contact lens opticians coming together from 44 countries.

Thank you to all ECOO members who either submitted an abstract or promoted the call for abstracts on the Academy's behalf. Please encourage your members to attend one of the most exciting fixtures in the optometric calendar. ECOO meetings will begin on



Thursday 19 May and the Get Together dinner will take place on Friday 20 May.

Conference tickets are open to all members of ECOO representatives and cost €295 (including dinner on Friday). Visit www.berlin2016.info to register for further information on the programme, fees and accommodation. Bookings open on the 14 December 2015.

European Diploma in Optometry graduations

Windisch, Switzerland

The School of Engineering of the University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland FHNW hold their graduation festivities in Windisch on 25th September 2015. The event was attended by 321 graduates, accompanied by their families. In all, there were more than 1100 persons at the Lichthof Gebäude 1 venue.

31 students from the Institute of Optometry in Olten received their BSc in Optometry Diploma. The diplomas were handed out by their dean, Prof. Roger S. Crelier. The president of ECOO, Mr. Paul Folkesson, also presented graduates with the EurOptom Diploma from ECOO. The awards ceremony was fol-

lowed by the speeches of Prof. Crelier and Mr. Folkesson. They both gave the students thoughtful words to take back home about their future in their interesting and important profession.



Update from the World Council of Optometry

1st World Congress of Optometry

The 1st World Congress of Optometry held in partnership with our member, the Colombian Federation of Optometrists, FEDOPTO, was a resounding success! Over 2000 optometrists enjoyed 4 days of scientific and education programmes and public outreach activities in the beautiful city of Medellin, Colombia. Building on this success, the 2nd

World Congress of Optometry will be held in Hyderabad, India from September, 2017 in partnership with the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry and the Indian Vision Institute.

The World Council of Optometry would like to announce the publication of “Why Optometry” and “A Global Com-

petency Based Model of the Scope of Practice in Optometry”. These documents detail the role, composition and contribution of the profession of Optometry in its various forms throughout the world. These publications will prove useful in highlighting the contribution optometry can make to eliminate avoidable blindness and visual impairment as well as aid in advocacy efforts to initiate or expand the presence and the scope of practice of Optometric eye care. These publications and other useful information about the World Council of Optometry can be found at www.worldoptometry.org



Moving on!

After seven years at the College of Optometrists in London, we are delighted to advise that the WCO head office is now located at:

243 N. Lindbergh Blvd
St. Louis, Missouri
USA 63141
314-983-4196

ECOO upcoming meeting

**General Assembly in Berlin (Germany),
19-22 May 2016**

The ECOO Spring 2016 General Assembly will take place on **19-22 May 2016 in Berlin**, Germany. Registrations and information on the meetings, including the schedule and logistics, will be available on the EAoo website at <http://eaoo.info/>.



Save the date

ECOO Autumn 2016, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

The ECOO Autumn meeting 2016 will take place in **October in Ljubljana**, Slovenia. More information will follow soon.

Please mark your calendars accordingly.



Newsletter

The Newsletters are sent to ECOO's members and contacts via e-mail. Please inform us of any additions to the mailing list or of staff changes in your respective organisations. Should

you have any news or updates which may be of interest to ECOO members, please contact Fabienne Eckert at the ECOO Secretariat: secretariat@ecoo.info.

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