**Regional Report**

**ALDOO 2019-2020**

The strategic plan for the 2019-2020 period will work around 7 main axes.

1. Members of ALDOO

2. International optometry organizations.

3. Civil organizations of health professionals.

4. Optical industry, Contact Lenses and Drugs industry

5. Latin American Journal of Optometry and Optics

6. ALDOO 20/20 vision campaign

7. Update ALDOO Statutes

**1. - Members of ALDOO**

Define the situation of optometry in Latin America. How many countries have a bachelor's degree, Optometry Technician (Optical), or Optometry Technical Professional, as well as those countries where optometry is not allowed or is not regulated.

\* This information is indispensable not only to define the magnitude of the challenges to be faced and to develop the strategies to reach the goals, but it is also necessary to be able to obtain material and economic resources from WCO and other international organizations).

Establish constant communication with the different institutions and civil associations’ members of ALDOO. This with the purpose of having an open communication respecting the autonomy of each of the colleges, schools, councils and associations as stipulated in article 4 of the ALDOO statutes and achieve prompt and expedited advice when necessary.

To be a mediator with the different national and international organizations that serve to develop each of these groups.

Associations: Check the list of current Optometrists / Opticians Associations in the region. Contact those associations or schools that are not members of ALDOO and look for them to join our association.

In synergy with these associations, update the regulations and laws for professional practice that are more in line with current reality based on the programs and plans of each region in particular. Provide advice in those places that do not have an association of Optometrists or Opticians according to local legislation, thus promoting the creation of this so that it becomes a member of ALDOO.

ALDOO will serve as a link with international speakers that associations are interested in bringing as speakers at their regional congresses, actively contributing to the ongoing and current education of these visual health professionals.

Schools: Prepare a list of schools, institutes and faculties that teach the optometry degree at their different levels of competence based on the WCO category.

Following the Tuning model for Latin America, work will be done to establish a greater number of collaboration and teacher exchange agreements and, if possible, a student with international institutions. This in order to facilitate the mobility of professionals in Optometry / Optics to other countries or regions in Latin America which allows them to aspire to better conditions and expand their labor field.

Economic resources will be managed to develop research in the area of ​​pedagogy in optometry schools, as well as the primary support in both economic and human resources that help to develop research in vision sciences. Its dissemination will be supported in indexed journals and international conferences such as ARVO, VSS, AAO and AOA.

Certification of Optometry school programs: It will seek to establish relationships with other international organizations to work together in the accreditation of Optometry or Optics schools and universities programs. This will help to ensure that more schools have homogeneity, thus facilitating a higher quality education.

Student body: Linkage will be made with their peers in the United States, which have a very good organization and have a membership greater than 1000 students. This will allow the students of the optometry schools in Latin America to collaborate in research work, community health brigades in the United States, Central America, South America and the Caribbean and other parts of the world, thus laying the foundations for a job in set already once graduated.

It will be negotiated with the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) so that students from ALDOO member schools are allowed to participate in their Student Fellowship program. Free membership for students of the optometry degree will be managed to the following international optometry organizations:

1. College of Optometrist in Vision Development

2. Optometric Extension Program Foundation

3. Neuro Optometric Rehabilitation Association

4. College of Syntonic Optometry

ALDOO will have a job board, serving, as well as a link between companies and students who are about to graduate, as well as those professionals who are looking for work in other latitudes.

**2. - International optometry organizations:** The relationships already established between ALDOO, Brian Holden Institute, WCO and the Optometric Extension Program Foundation (OEPF) will continue. In the same way, new relationships will be established with the American Association of Optometry Schools and Colleges (ASCO), the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association to continue promoting the development and growth of optometry in Latin America

**Community service.**

Relationships will be established with those organizations that contribute to vision care and prevention of blindness. All this so that together we can establish community programs that benefit both the population and the students of the optometry schools providing them with the clinical experience they will need to enter the labor field. It will work hand in hand with VOSH international ORBIS international, The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, WCO and special Olympics Opening eyes to reinforce existing programs and create new programs in regions where the most needy population does not have the necessary visual care by a visual health professional, thus fulfilling the social commitment and contributing to the public health of ALDOO member countries.

**3. - Civil organizations of health professionals:** There will be an approach with the following associations seeking to establish concrete actions for 2020 within the scope of the Vision2020 program of the United Nations:

The Latin American and Caribbean Association of Public Health Education (ALAESP)

Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO)

Latin American Pediatric Association (ALAPE)

Latin American Medical Association of Rehabilitation (AMLAR)

Pan American Health Association \* These professionals will seek to raise awareness about the importance of interdisciplinary work to reduce preventable blindness and get a little closer to the goal of the World Health Organization by 2020. Likewise, we will work together with said organizations to the health care to establish collaboration agreements to develop research works in the clinical area.

**4. - Optical industry sector, Contact Lenses, Drugs**

Work will be done to double the number of strategic alliances that will allow ALDOO to have greater economic resources to achieve the association's goals established in chapter II Article VI of the bylaws.

It will seek to achieve better commercial conditions for those optometrists who are active and current members of the ALDOO member bodies.

There will be an approach with the main laboratories of ophthalmological medicines to include the degree in optometry in their catalog of visual health professionals by giving them samples of their catalog of medicines (Where local legislation permits). All this in order to make the benefits of being a member and a member of ALDOO more palpable.

Greater support will be managed by these companies for the Latin American Congress of Optometry and Optics to be held in Viña del Mar, Chile, 2020

**5. - Latin American Journal of Optometry and Optics**

In follow-up to Article 5 subsection “G” The dissemination and update magazine in optometry will be created. Latin America has many competent professors and vast experience in scientific research and publications. We already have several schools that offer masters in Optometry or vision sciences which would have enough material to start, since additionally many schools teach the research subject where students are required to carry out research projects which unfortunately a Once the semester is over, this information is not disclosed. Initially it would be published every three months. The initial publication would be in March 2020. The editorial board will consist of academics from different universities in Latin America.

\* The publication which would be freely accessible and digital.

**6. - ALDOO vision 20/20 campaign**

Vision 2020 is a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Blindness Prevention (IAPB) launched in 1999 to eliminate preventable blindness by 2020. Unfortunately throughout Latin America, we are far from reaching that goal, as the social and economic gap has grown instead of decreasing.

Taking into account that we are about to enter 2020. ALDOO can still make a difference by informing society of the importance of preventive visual care carried out by a visual health professional.

ALDOO members will carry out concrete actions that provide visual attention to those who need it most. This campaign will in turn serve to educate society about the field of action of optometry, helping to eradicate the myth that the optometrist only and exclusively sells glasses.

\* Emphasis will be placed on high-risk groups

• Diabetes

• Hypertension

• Geriatric Population

• Infants (Prevention of Amblyopia, early detection of congenital ocular pathology)

**7. - Update ALDOO Statutes**

The ALDOO statutes include ALDEFO itself, which ceased to exist. This denotes that several years have passed without being updated to the current context and situation.

Explicitly define the code of ethics of ALDOO. As well as the creation of an honor and justice committee and who would be its members.