



Issue 5: Fall 2013

From the President's Desk



Fall is here and it's my favorite season of the year! When I was younger, it meant back-to-school rituals: new clothes, sharing summer vacation stories with friends, and the excitement of the year's classes. I still find excuses to buy new fall clothes, and swap summer vacation stories with co-workers, but now I'm excited about the IOA year ahead. I'm thrilled to be your president, and honored to be leading such a talented group of council members. We have a lot planned for this year and I look forward to getting started.

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to examine the IOA Strategic Plan for 2013-2018. This document will be distributed to

all Council Members and Association Chairs. The strategic plan not only represents hard work by the members of the Council of Management it also reflects the best analytical thinking of our member Associations and former officers of the IOA from whom input was sought. And yes, it reflects our hopes and dreams as well.

Strategic Plan Role-Out and Implementation

- The draft plan will be shared with IOA Council of Management Members, Association Chairs and former IOA officers to solicit feedback from all constituencies.
- Based on that feedback the IOA President will revise the plan.
- Once the Council of Management has approved the Strategic plan, each Program Area will begin developing term specific plans that align with the Strategic plan.
- Program-level plans will be created in an inclusive and transparent manner with input being solicited from the various stakeholders.
- A call for Program Coordinators to head up each of the five IOA Program areas will be made following Council



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approval of the guidelines for Program Coordinator's role and selection.

The IOA is wants to be accountable to its member associations. IOA member countries can anticipate receiving a detailed progress report at the two year mark on IOA ability to accomplish its desired 2013-2018 Strategic plan goals and objectives. In addition to all of the opportunities for participation noted above, there will be a strategic planning section on the IOA website where individual members can track the progress of the plan and submit their ideas and feedback.

IPOSC Update



The International Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Council is a council of national and supranational organizations working together to preserve and restore eye health and enhance visual function in children, and ocular alignment and binocularity in children and adults throughout the world.

The IOA is a supranational member organization. IPOSC held its second meeting in New Orleans on November 15th, 2013 in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting.

Highlights of this meeting included the following:

1. IPOSC proposed bylaws were passed & it was reported that the IPOSC has been incorporated in California.
2. It was announced that APPOS is providing startup funding for IPOSC. IPOSC has used some of these funds to date for bylaws creation, incorporation, liability insurance, lawyers' fees, website creation and other related administrative expenses. The goal of IPOSC is to be self-funded and efforts to obtain funding from grants, industry, the WHO, UNICEF, other NGOs and charitable donations will be made.
3. The IOA volunteer program was on the IPOSC agenda in order to garner contacts for future volunteer sites and develop a network of ophthalmologists who wanted to work in



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- collaboration with IOA volunteers. The program was highly praised by those present. IPOSC will be circulating a notice of this program to all of IPOSC member organizations. IPOSC has agreed to dedicate space on its website for the IOA initiative.
4. IPOSC has requested IOA orthoptic expertise on the IPOSC Vision Screening Committee in recognition of the important role orthoptists play globally in vision screening. The IOA Vision Screening Chair has been asked to appoint an IOA member to this IPOSC committee.
 5. IPOSC has sought and obtained membership in the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness. These organizations are world recognized and supported by organization such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Membership is important for any group who wants to influence decisions being made about eye care initiatives.

IPOSC website address is www.IPOSC.org Stay tuned to this site as the website is under development.



IOA News Flashes

The journal Strabismus has climbed in the citation-score (<http://www.scimagojr.com>) to 50th out of 97th position among ophthalmology journals. The contribution of orthoptic research was cited as a reason for this climb by it's editor.

Gail Stephenson represented the IOA on the World Society of Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (WSOPS) symposium held at the 9th International Symposium of Ophthalmology (ISO) in Guangzhou China in November. This meeting was hosted by the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Centre (ZOC) and the State Key Laboratory of Ophthalmology



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(SKLO) of the Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) and featured a feature a Plenary Lecture by Nobel Laureate, **Prof Andrew V. Schally**. Gail's well received talk was on non- surgical management of exo's.

An IOA Symposium will be held at the 2014 International Strabismological Association (ISA) meeting in Kyoto, Japan on December 2. The topic is 'Ophthalmic Prisms - from Diagnosis to Therapy'. Please not the following early bird registration and abstract submission dates for this meeting:

Early registration **1**:
2013.Dec.1st- 2014.July 31
Early registration **2**:
2014.Aug.1st - 2014.Oct.31
Abstract submission:
2014.Apr.1st - 2014. Jun.1st

The IOA welcomes Pakistan as a new Associate member. The national association for orthoptists in Pakistan is the orthoptic wing of SOOP - the Society of Optometrists, Orthoptists & Ophthalmic Technologist Pakistan. Welcome to Ayesha Sarafraz who will be acting as SOOPs Council of Management representative. Ayesha was a winner of an IOA Education grant in 2012,

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participated in the IOA Exchange Program and gave an excellent presentation at the IOA Congress in Toronto. It is a real pleasure to have her join us on council.



WEBSITE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

serious updates going on.....

New IOA Website

Over the next couple of months the IOA's a new website will be under construction. In order to build a successful platform please be patient and keep in touch for updates. Our current website is active and will continue to be so until the launch of the new site.

2014 World Orthoptic Day Logo Now Available



WORLD ORTHOPTIC DAY
JUNE 2, 2014



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World Orthoptic Day was first launched on 3rd June 2013. The first Monday of each June is an important date in the orthoptic calendar to promote and celebrate the profession internationally. The IOA is pleased to provide the 2014 World Orthoptic Day logo to assist your Associations in their celebration of our profession. Enjoy World Orthoptic Day and let's tell the world about our profession and the great things we achieve every day.



2014 World Orthoptic Day Photographic Competition

The IOA Public Relations Committee has launched the first International Orthoptic Association, *World Orthoptic Day*, Photo Contest. The IOA photo competition will showcase members' photographic celebration of their profession on a global scale. The theme of the contest is "Orthoptists Promoting Visual Health Globally". They are looking for

entries that show orthoptists doing what they do best – namely – engaging in their occupation and promoting the profession.

The Public Relations Committee is asking Council to promote the competition to your colleagues by distributing the competition rules and regulations that have been sent to you by PR Chair, Jennifer Schofield to your Association members and posting notice of it on your websites or social media.

IOA members can submit digital photos as jpeg files this competition to WODphotocontest@outlook.com for a chance to win:

1st Prize \$100 EUROS
2nd Prize \$75 EUROS
3rd Prize \$50 EUROS

All entries for the contest must be submitted by 11:59 PM (EST) February 14, 2014.

Finalists will be announced in March 2014 via email to the winners directly as well as on the International Orthoptic Association website www.internationalorthoptics.org Winning photos will be used to promote World Orthoptic Day. This year, set your sights on moments and images that



inspire you and give us your best shot!



IOA Seeks Nominations for Education Grant

The IOA recognizes that opportunities for education are essential for professional development and since 2003 has been providing financial help to attend the International Orthoptic Congress to an orthoptist from a non-IOA country.

In order to be considered for an award, nominees should meet the following criteria:

- A. The Candidate must be sponsored by an IOA representative and their association.
- B. Each representative can only submit one (1) candidate.
- C. The Candidate must have received some training

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from an IOA orthoptist and their clinical skills must have been observed by the orthoptist who recommended them.

- D. The Candidate must be from a non-IOA country.
- E. The Candidate must present a plan for their ongoing orthoptic education.
- F. The Candidate must display a plan to share their knowledge with their colleagues.

The deadline to submit nominations is **September 1, 2014**. Do notify you're Associations that we are seeking nominations from IOA members.

Vote for a Single Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) Suspended

IOA Council of Management Members were asked to suspend the vote to determine whether the international professional congress organizer (PCO) company Congrex should be hired to act as the IOA single PCO. This decision was taken when we became aware that the Congrex Holding Company based in Holland had declared



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bankruptcy and Congrex subsidiary companies in Sweden and Germany had also been declared insolvent after defaulting on payments. Congrex has been in business since 1982 and has held an excellent reputation but unfortunately they appear to be a victim of the global economic downturn. The IOA single PCO committee will reconsider single PCO options this year and report to Council at our next Council of Management meeting.

Congrex has been acting as the PCO for the Rotterdam IOA Congress. I can assure you that their misfortune has in no way affected the Congress funding for Rotterdam. The meeting funds are protected and the Amsterdam Congrex subsidiary is operational. We continue to anticipate a successful Rotterdam IOA Congress.



Invitation to Submit Bids to Host The 2020 IOA Congress

IOA Full Member and Associate Member Associations are invited to submit a bid to host the 2020 IOA Congress. A formal invite to

submit a bid and comprehensive guide to preparing a bid is being distributed to council members by the IOA Secretary, Katherine Fray.

A letter of intent to submit a bid should be submitted no later than **September 1, 2014** by interested applicants. The IOA Council of Management will select the successful applicant association and formally announce the venue at the closing of the proceedings of the Rotterdam Congress.

Questions and answer re IOA Congresses

Where can I find additional information on the IOA Congress and its requirement?

The Bid Guide will provide you and your Association with information on the IOA Congress bid process and requirements. Do also refer to your IOA Handbook section 25 & 26 which addresses the Congress. The most up-to-date version can be found on Dropbox.

Don't be shy do talk to Council Members who have been involved in past Congresses to garner further information.



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Is there a prescribed format to follow to submit a bid?

The formal bid needs to include only a letter of intent, a description of the city/venue, and a very preliminary “broad-brush” Congress plan that includes financial considerations and plans to attract delegates and exhibitors.

The completed bid should be sent to IOA President, Karen McMain

president@internationalorthoptics.org and copied to IOA Secretary, Katherine Fray secretary@internationalorthoptics.org

Bids for the 2020 Congress must be submitted by September 1, 2013.

What happens following submission of a letter of intent to bid for the 2020 IOA Congress?

Letters of intent to host the 2020 Congress will be distributed to IOA Council Members. Each applicant will be provided with an opportunity to give a presentation at the next Council of Management meeting scheduled for Kyoto, Japan. Applicants are not required to bring city tourism reps, PCO or Association bid committees when presenting but may do so if so desired.

What questions will Council wanted answered when our bid is presented?

While this is not an exclusive list here are some suggestions:

1. Which city and venue your association is planning to use?
2. What is your association’s prior experience of running large meetings?
3. What is the accessibility of this city from other IOA member countries?
4. Do you have any city support for your bid? (assistance with local arrangements, financial, other)?
5. What numbers do you anticipate attracting (have you thought about how many of your association members, global orthoptic colleagues, ophthalmologists, and visual scientists would attend)?
6. Do you already have established relations with exhibitors who could be counted on attending?
7. What local sites or events would make this an attractive venue for delegates to visit?

If my Association makes a bid to host the 2020 IOA



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Congress am I required, as their representative to the IOA, to act as the Congress Organizing Committee (COC), Chair?

No – while this has occurred for some prior Congresses it is not a requirement of our Articles of Association. Your Association has the ability to appoint a COC, Chair.



Charitable organization Innovates the in the Delivery of the Right Free Glasses

The World Health Organization estimates that about 280 million people in the world have low vision (moderate to severe impairment) and that glasses could correct the sight of more than half of them. Many medical missions travel with boxes of donated eyeglasses, but the chance of finding a pair of glasses in those boxes with the correct prescription match and acceptable frames is slim. Dr. Lynch thought there could be a more efficient way to match underserved patients with the glasses they needed. The idea for his nonprofit was seeded

when Dr. Jeff Lynch served as a volunteer surgeon in Peru in 2006 and found that most of those who came seeking eye surgery really just needed a decent pair of eyeglasses. He and colleague Dr Grant developed an algorithm to find and rank the best matches between an individual prescription and the stock of donated eyeglasses.

Respectacle was created as a nonprofit organization that uses the power of the Internet to facilitate redistribution of quality, used eyeglasses to underserved communities worldwide. Their glasses are donated by members of their various community sites. They are then cleaned, categorized, photographed and loaded into their online database based on their prescription.

To obtain their glasses all you need to do is to send them a digital file of pictures of each person you have performed retinoscopy on while each individual holds a page that lists their refractive error. Respectacle will go through their data base and find all the glasses that watch the prescription you have sent them and select the pair that would best fit the person in the picture. They then package the



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glasses and ship them anywhere in the world free of charge.

To learn more or become a collection site you can contact Dr Jeff Lynch at LynchMD@respectacle.org You can also visit Respectacle at their website or on Facebook www.Respectacle.org



Kyoto, Japan

Our next Council of Management meeting will be held in Kyoto on November 28, 29 and 30th. The Annual General Meeting of the IOA is being held in conjunction with the Japanese Association of Certified Orthoptists (JACO) on the 29th. For anyone who plans to stay after the Council meeting for the ISA meeting it is scheduled to run December 1-4 and there will be an IOA symposium held at this meeting.

Kyoto is known throughout the world for its stunning beauty. Kyoto-city is the capital of Kyoto

prefecture in western Japan It served as Japan's capital and the emperor's residence from 794 until 1868. It is now the country's seventh largest city with a population of 1.4 million people.

The city located about 25 miles northeast of central Osaka (where the international airport is Kansai) and about 230 miles west of central Tokyo (the largest international gateway of Japan is Tokyo's Narita Airport). You will find Kyoto easily accessible from either city by train. Kyoto is 1hr and 45 minutes by train from Osaka on the JR line or Limousine bus and 2.5 hours from Tokyo by the bullet train (Tokaido Shinkansen).

November rivals May as the best time to travel in Kyoto. The weather is usually warm or cool and sunny skies predominate. Kyoto's famous fall foliage is lovely during mid- to late November.

November Temperatures In Kyoto:

Average high (C/F): 17/62

Average low (C/F): 8/54

If you stay into December winter will be setting in. The temps vary from cool to cold in the day, with cold temps in the evening. If you have an aversion to crowds, this is a good time to visit. Anticipate the following temperatures:



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December Temperatures In Kyoto:

Average high (C/F): 11/52

Average low (C/F): 3/37

Toshiko Yokota is arranging for a block of hotel rooms for Council's visit to Kyoto. Japan has a huge range of hotels to suit any budget. If you planning to combine personal travel in Japan with attendance to the Council of Management meeting do consider staying in a Ryokan. A **ryokan** is a type of traditional Japanese inn that originated in the Edo period (1603–1868). They typically feature tatami-matted rooms, sliding walls, futon beds, communal baths segregated by gender, and other public areas where visitors may wear yukata (a casual kimono) and talk with the owner. Most ryokan offer dinner and breakfast, which are often included in the price of the room. Ryokan usually promote themselves on the quality of their food. Another type of accommodation is a **Minshuku** which are a budget version of ryokan and very similar to an English boarding house or bed and breakfast.



Kyoto in fall

I am extremely grateful to the IOA Officers, Council of Management Members and member Associations. who participated in our IOA strategic planning process. The IOA is indeed very fortunate to have such high quality individuals who are willing to dedicate their time and talent to our association.

I look forward to continuing to share updates with you in future issues, as well as through our more frequent communication channels of IOA announcements. Until then, I hope you and your families and friends enjoy what remains of this beautiful, and all too short, fall season.

Sincerely,

Karen McMajin