

Ophthalmology Foundation Strategic Vision

March 2025



Ophthalmology
Foundation



Ophthalmology Foundation has a unique role to play

Mission:

Strengthening ophthalmic education in partnership with eye care professionals, with a special focus on low-resource and underserved countries



Vision:

A world where every patient has access to improved eye health care in their communities, making the prevention of blindness and maintenance of high-quality vision accessible to all.

We must evolve our strategic plan to more clearly live into our mission & vision

From

Strategic focus on elevating ophthalmic education



To

Maintain focus on ophthalmic education, but more clearly communicate how our varied efforts ladder up to strategic focus area

Broad geographic target with selection criteria focused only on the individual applicant, and not the systemic context



Selection criteria that **narrows geographic focus** to targeted region(s) where we can have a **long-term transformational impact**

Impact Measurement focused on specific efforts under each foundation pillar of activity



Continue program-specific measurement, add in **overall outcomes being driven by the foundation's efforts**

Bringing clarity to who we are

Ophthalmology Foundation Strategic Framework

Mission & Vision

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Vision:

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Strategic Area of Focus & Critical Programs

Improving International Ophthalmic Education

Faculty Development

Building in-region program capabilities

Subspecialty Fellowships

Advancing provider subspecialty skills

International Exams & Accreditation Standards

Driving a consistent standard of excellence for ophthalmic education

Key Enablers

Brand Equity, Impact Measurement, Geographic Prioritization

Strategic Pillars

1. Faculty Development
2. Subspecialty Fellowships
3. International Exams & Accreditation Standards



1. Faculty Development

Program definition and target

Improve teaching skills of ophthalmic educators to train better ophthalmologists, while increasing the ease and availability of training.

- Offer regional, hybrid faculty development programs for ophthalmic educators.
- Collaborate to improve access to equipment and training for cataract surgical skills.
- Provide free, on-demand online faculty development and CME, with flexible content durations.

Scaling for Impact

- Expand the OF's cadre of ophthalmic educators to increase program availability.
- Reach online educators unable to attend in-person initiatives via program advertisement, offer priority for fellows, and provide exam fee discounts for course completion.

Driving Engagement

Foster an engaged community of educators to improve access to quality care worldwide.

- Gather participant feedback on course value, skills learned, and teaching improvements.
- Assess number of students our participants teach /Determine number of residents who benefit from improved teachers.
- Monitor the number of accredited programs, competent graduates, and examination pass rates and cataract surgical rates in regions served.



2. Subspecialty Fellowships

Program definition and target

Fund 3, 6, and 12-month fellowships in partnership with IOFF

- Advance to >150 IOFF-OF Fellowships per year by 2028.
- Increase the number of Cataract Fellowships to 25%, from 16%.

Scaling for Impact

- Identify additional host institutes, including in candidates' home countries.
- Expand fellowship opportunities in all subspecialties through local institute collaborations.
- Establish additional host centers for Cataract Surgery in alumni departments after OF accreditation.
- Specifically seek Cataract Fellowship funding from relevant industry as well as consider internally dedicated funding.

Driving Engagement

Build a sustainable, engaged and value-driven community.

- Recognize fellows' achievements and hosts on website and create social media groups.
- Hold IOFF-OF Receptions at international meetings inviting hosts, sponsors, and fellows.
- Generate awareness through regular symposia.





3a. International Exams

Program definition and target

Providing accessible, affordable, high-quality ophthalmology exams for global trainees

- Create an international standard for assessing ophthalmic knowledge for ophthalmology residents and recent graduates

Scaling for Impact

- Increase advertising, develop strategic regional testing centers.
- Partner with universities and residency programs to integrate exams into training curricula
- Establish reciprocity with the Royal College of Edinburgh

Driving Engagement

Create global standardization and career progression opportunities in ophthalmology.

- Catalogue supranational and national societies endorsements as a measure of our exams' success.
- Measure candidate performance trends to assess the effectiveness of training programs.
- Evaluate participation growth in underserved regions.

3b. International Accreditation Standards

Program definition and target

Drive improvement in ophthalmology training programs through accreditation.

- Increase competent graduates by providing guidelines for resources and training goals, identifying training gaps, offering feedback for improvement, recognizing standards-compliant programs, and increasing the number of competently-trained cataract surgeons.

Scaling for Impact

- Accreditation should lead to attracting better residents. Other regional programs will then desire accreditation to compete for these candidates and strive for accreditation.
- Collaborate with supranational & national societies.

Driving Engagement

Support training program self-improvement and better-trained ophthalmologists.

- Monitor the number of accredited programs, surgically competent graduates and regional cataract surgical rates.
- Connect programs with other OF resources and programs to continue improvements.