



**VISION 2020 LATIN AMERICA
Report from October-December 2004**

WORLD SIGHT DAY IN LATIN AMERICA, OCTOBER 9TH 2004

ARGENTINA

- From October 7 to the 15th, a refractive error detection program was conducted in the Salto Municipality. 843 children were examined and 187 pairs of spectacles were given to children in need of correction. This activity was organized by Fundacion Nano with the financial support of the Montesanto enterprises.
- On October 17-18th, a white can parade was conducted on the San Miguel square by blind students and low vision patients attending the Fundacion Nano Rehabilitation Center. Leaflets on the white can day and world sight day were distributed to the public.
- On October 13th, blind students and low vision patients from the Fundación Nano Rehabilitation Center participated of a workshop on crafts and literature during the arts exhibition of Novartis Labs in Buenos Aires. Leaflets were distributed with a special mention to WSD.
- Reported by Maria E. Nano, menano@clinano.com.ar

VENEZUELA

- World Sight Day was celebrated on October 23 by the Fundacion Venezola de Prevencion de Ceguera and the Venezuelan Ophthalmology Society providing free consultation to 56 patients previously selected with specific eye problems. Education material on prevention of blindness and WSD were distributed to these people thanks to the contribution of POEN Labs. Doctors who provided this consultation were Gertrud Esche, Leonora Cavallin, Neil Ramirez, Gustavo Barrios and Felipe Siso.
- The same night, a concert by the strings quartet B-Cuadro of the Municipal Symphonic Orchestra, was presented in honor of the ophthalmologists. This event was organized by the Cultural Center Monte Sacro, Fundación Venezolana de Prevención de Ceguera and Alcon pharmaceutical. The main speech was offered by the Embassador of Austria in Venezuela, Marianne Da Costa.

- The Blindness Prevention Committee of the Venezuelan Ophthalmology Association, headed by Dra. Magally de Belisario, was also very active organizing two seminars for ophthalmologists and providing free consultations to patients from lower income groups all over the country. On WSD, Dra. Magally and Dr. Alejandro Ruiz, gave press interviews informing the public of WSD. Photos will be available on the www.v2020la.org site.

- Reported by Felipe Siso, siso@gmx.at
- Dra. Magally de Belisario clinicampoalegre@cantv.net

ECUADOR

A campaign against blindness for diabetic retinopathy was conducted yesterday

October 08, 2004

On October 14th. World Sight Day will be celebrated around the world. To celebrate it, the Ophthalmology Society in Ecuador organized a screening program to detect diabetic retinopathy at the Teodoro Maldonado Hospital of the National Social Security Institute in Ecuador. (IESS)



Jorge Peñafiel / EL UNIVERSO

This screening program lasted two days and was implemented thanks to an agreement with the IESS. Other participants providing the services were members of NGOs, Universities, Army force and the Junta de Beneficencia de Guayaquil,. The program was organized by Dr. Armando Gutierrez, President of the Ecuadorian Ophthalmology Society.

The President of the National Ophthalmology Society in Ecuador, Dr. Armando Gutierrez, is checking Bernarda Gavilánez.

The Hospital Teodoro Maldonado designated the entire outpatient area for this work and diabetic patients had blood and urine analysis, arterial pressure and weight examination. Later they were seeing by the group of ophthalmologists, free of charge. Approximately 350 patients were screened. Wilson Ceballos, one of the patients, reported that the consultations were necessary to prevent blindness due to diabetes.

- Reported by: Armando Gutierrez, agutierrez@easynet.net.ec

BOLIVIA

The Foundation Aguirre Pérez in Tarija conducted eye examinations to 59 patients with these findings:

- ❑ 29 were women and 30 men
- ❑ Age ranging from 3 to 83 years
- ❑ Normal IOP: 31 patients
- ❑ Suspected cases of Glaucoma: 7 pacientes
- ❑ Glaucoma: 6 pacientes

- * Terminal glaucoma: 1 patient
- * Operated glaucoma: 2 patients
- * Untreated glaucoma: 3 patients

Other pathologies: 15 patients with cataract, pterigion, dry eyes, etc.

Patients suspected of glaucoma were indicated visual camp, optic nerve examination and follow up controls of IOP.

Other pathologies were oriented in regards to the treatment needed.

Lists of people, news media and institutions who received information on WSD 2004

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| 1. Gastón Vaca Guzmán | Periódico “El País” |
| 2. Julio Cesar Fernández | Radio FIDES Tarija |
| 3. Juan Carlos Navajas | Universidad Católica Boliviana |
| 4. Eduardo d’Arlach | SBO filial Tarija |
| 5. Fernando Arandía | Colegio Medico Tarija |
| 6. Martha Silva | Impuestos Internos |
| 7. Teresa Días de Jijena | Alcaldesa Municipal |
| 8. Nancy Aparicio de Hamdan | Presidenta del Consejo Municipal |
| 9. Eduardo Farafan | Caja Nacional de Salud |
| 10. Javier Castellanos | Prefecto del Departamento |
| 11. Guido Vera | SEDES |
| 12. Paola Castellanos | Canal 13 |
| 13. Eduardo Cortéz | Rector Universidad J. M. Saracho |
| 14. Eulogio Ruíz | Periódico “Nuevo SUR” |
| 15. Roberto Vargas | Radio Guadalquivir |
| 16. Roberto Pino | Director Hospital Obrero |
| 17. Germán Hoyos | Director Hospital Regional S.J. de Dios |
| 18. Alberto Angulo | Agenda Medica radio ABC |
| 19. Sergio Navarro | Director Aduana |
| 20. Danilo Olmos Tejada | Global de comunicaciones |
| 21. Luis Granier | Casa Real |
| 22. Marcelo Arce | Gerente Regional EMBOL S.A. |
| 23. Yussef Casal | La Cascada |
| 24. Julio Kolberg | La Cabaña |
| 25. Elizabeth Rosales | Laboratorio SAVAL |

Nine institutions supported the realization of WSD.

Reported by Dr. Gustavo Aguirre (h) clinojos@cosett.com.bo

CUBA

The Cuban Ophthalmology Society held a training course in cataract surgery with the support of CBM-LARO in adherence to WSD. Discussions were also held around the V2020 program with the visiting Professor Dr. Felipe Chiriboga from Ecuador. Patients were informed of WSD.

Reported by Dr. José Carlos Moreno: jocamore@princesa.pr

PARAGUAY

- ❑ Fundación Visión operated 35 adults and 5 children from a low income strata in celebration of WSD. Ophthalmologists working at the Foundation donated their work. Also in Ybycui, a town about 150 km. from Asunción, primary schools students were trained to detect eye problems in their families and neighborhoods.
 - ❑ Fundación Banco de Ojos performed two cornea transplants and 20 cataract operations to join the celebration of WSD in the country.
 - ❑ The Eye Health program at the Ministry of Health conducted a diabetic retinopathy screening program in Paraguari, where examinations, educational talks and treatment were provided free of charge.
 - ❑ Plan Paraguay offered a press conference on the refractive error screening program conducted in five departments with the National Vision 2020 Committee Paraguay. The press coverage was given by Ultima Hora, ABC, Noticias and La Nacion. Telefuturo and Teledos also covered the press conference.
 - ❑ Trinity school students were taught by Dr. Miriam Cano, President of the Ophthalmology Society, to perform the visual acuity and simple eye examination. These students then screened their peers at a nearby school and an orphanage, detecting those who will need an examination by an ophthalmologist. They also have a stand on eye health during the science workshop of the school, where they show what they had learned during the visit of Orbis to Paraguay. Many of these students helped as translators during the campaign.
- Reported by: Osvaldo Benítez, iapb_la@v2020la.org

PERU

- ❑ Opeluca, a very active NGO in the PBL field in Perú, provided cataract surgery to 8 patients and had TV promotions on WSD- Channel two and five covered these surgeries.

- ❑ Hospital Hipolito Unanue provided eye examinations to 1,500 patients over a 10 days period in celebration of WSD.

Reported by Dra. Rosario Espinoza respinoza@apoyovisual.com

COSTA RICA

Assembis in Costa Rica provided eye consultations in several disciplines to lower income patients in its Clinic in San José. Also lectures and conferences were held in waiting rooms and leaflets and messages were distributed to patients coming to the Clinic. The whole staff of Assembis participated joyfully of these events. A power point presentation is available on the activities held by Assembis.

Reported by Lic. Rebeca Villalobos Vargas asembis@racsaco.cr

NICARAGUA

- ❑ In Nicaragua, WSD was celebrated from October 9 to the 16ths. 80% of the ophthalmologists associated in the Nicaragua Ophthalmology Society joined the activities, which consisted of two parts:
 - 1- First was an intensive IEC campaign on the prevalence of blindness, causes and socio-economic impact of blindness in the world, from October 11-16th. through radio, newspapers and TV channels. Teachings were also given on prevention of blindness.
 - 2- Second: 48 ophthalmologists all over the country provided free consultations to 20-30 patients according to these criterias: people over 45 years of age, with low vision, black and diabetic patients, family history of glaucoma, trauma history, from low income groups and with no previous eye examination.

Approximately 1,400 people were examined. Patients who needed surgery were referred to the National Institute of Ophthalmology. The program will continue each year and its already promoting the need to elaborate a National Eye Health Care plan with all the constituences involved, according to the guidelines of the Vision 2002-The Right to Sight Program. The Coordinator of this program was Dr. Diego Valle González, Vice-President of the Nicaragua Ophthalmology Society.

- ❑ The Blind Association NGO “Maricela Toledo” distributed 1,000 posters to sensitize the population on behalf of the blind people. They also provided 100 consultations and performed 20 cataract surgeries. Dra. Justina Valle was the Coordinator of the program.
- ❑ Managua, Villa Libertad: 300 eye examinations, 290 refractive examinations. Coordinator: Dra. Kristina Gutiérrez.
- ❑ Managua: 760 eye consultations, 57 cataract surgeries, 06 glaucoma detected, 320 refractive examinations. Coordinator: Dr. Noel Lindo Palma

- ❑ Nagarote: 230 refractive examinations. Coordinator: Lic. Maria A. Betancourth.
- ❑ Ciudad Sandino: two workshops on visual acuity were conducted and 450 examinations of VA were done by the NGO Arco Iris. Also 280 refractive examinations were conducted, 17 cataract surgeries, two glaucoma surgeries, three strabismus surgeries and 320 lenses were prescribed. In the same city the Baptist Church Sinai distributed 1,000 leaflets on prevention of blindness and two banners were displayed on World Sight Day.
- ❑ Las Flores: 12 eye examinations and two cataract surgeries. Institution responsible: World Vision Eye Clinic.
- ❑ Managua: Provalidic conducted a workshop on community eye health, provided 375 visual acuity examination, 32 refractive error examination and performed 15 cataract surgeries. Coordinator: Dra. Laura Parajón.

Reported by Lic. Elena Zuniga oftalmologia@hbautista.com.ni

MEXICO

From Alamos, Sonora State, Dr. Mario Bracamontes sent us a report on the cataract surgery program they conducted on behalf of 32 natives of the ethnic group Masos, with the support of the Ophthalmology Society of Sonora, DIF, the local government and CBM-CARO. Six members of the Society contributed with their expertise in cataract surgery. One of the patients who received surgery was an 88 old year lady who had only 7 g. of hemoglobin and 37 kg. of weight!

Reported by Dr. Mario Bracomontes mabraca@hotmail.com

COLOMBIA

The Institute for Blind and Deaf Children in Cali celebrated WSD with an outreach providing these results:

REPORT OF THE CELEBRATION OF WSD			
DESCRIPTION	CALI	BUENAVENTURA	TOTAL
Screening	218	5.166	5.384
Optometry Consultations	1.441	588	2.029
Surgeries	36	62	98
Total	1.687	5.780	7.511

Reported by Doris Garcia de Botero, Director General of the Clinic instituto@ciegosyordos.org.co

Community Eye Health Course in Guatemala, October 27-29

This was the 1st. CEH course done in Guatemala. Selected participants came from Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize and from the host country. The main objectives of the course were to introduce to participants the epidemiology of eye blinding diseases, the VISION 2020-THE RIGHT TO SIGHT program and motivate participants to get involve in community eye health. The course was also an opportunity to discuss with the participants the results of the RACSS study conducted in two provinces of the country and to formulate an action plan to meet the needs detected in the survey. As part of the advocacy plan, the course and the RACSS study provided an opportunity to meet with health authorities, the Guatemalan Ophthalmology Association, the Guatemalan Optometry Association, PAHO and different NGOs, to discuss the need of creating the National VISION 2020 Committee in Guatemala, which was formalized at the last day of the course.