Message from the presidents.

What a remarkable year for the Pan American Association! The continued emphasis on fulfilling our mission statement has provided opportunities to learn, continue to provide services to our patients that will lead to the prevention of blindness and lots of social camaraderie.

In January we began the year with the Curso de Liderazgo in San Francisco. In February, in the jointly sponsored World Ophthalmology Congress, a large number of members met in Guadalajara, Mexico and enjoyed one of the most exciting scientific programs surrounded every day with social events that kept us all meeting our colleagues in fabulous cultural venues. In May, another very successful Pan American Research Day took place during ARVO in Seattle, Washington. A full day of presentations by clinician scientists provided highly motivating research discussions that will lead to improved diagnosis and treatment.

In August, the Regional Course sponsored with the Paraguayan Society of Ophthalmology brought together many ophthalmologists from Paraguay and the regional countries, concluding as an outstanding meeting. We then went on to Chicago in October for the American Academy of Ophthalmology, numerous scientific, educational and administrative meetings, with the final day culminating in the 30th Lo Mejor de la Academia.

In addition, we have continued to forge a long lasting training program through ongoing programs like the webinar series and our journal, Vision Pan-America, the Pan-American Journal of Ophthalmology. Our newly designed web page will continue to be an excellent portal that provides you all the information you need to have at your fingertips on participating in activities with your Pan-American colleagues.

We look forward to 2017, a year that will bring many great opportunities to engage and develop our professional activities. The highlight will be the Congress. We look forward to all of us getting together for the 33rd Pan American Congress, to be held Lima, Peru, August 9-12, 2017.

I thank of you for your involvement with the Pan-American Association. Your participation provides the support that makes all the programs happen!

Best wishes.

Message from the Chairmen of the PAAO Board.

Dear Colleagues,

The Pan American is proud of its rich heritage

November 2016

With a history of more than 77 years of excellence, the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO), offers ophthalmologists the best opportunities in programs and activities. The Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation (PAOF), has been supportive of the PAAO’s mission for the past 57 years.

While PAAO is proud of its rich heritage, it is firmly focused on the future. It combines the best of its history with contemporary and innovative programs to provide dynamic interaction and education for all Pan-American members, in a friendly and motivating atmosphere.

The Pan-American’s success is driven by teamwork, a combined effort. We have been breaking barriers and partnering with members and other organizations to deliver better services: Pan-American Research Day, Lo Mejor de la Academia en Español, Leadership Course, Summit of the Americas, the opportunity of submitting scientific publication in the PAAO’s journal Vision Pan-America and continuing education.

We offer several programs to support Young Ophthalmologists through scholarships, providing educational opportunities in universities. Through these efforts and giving opportunities of access to education, I am convinced that we can transform lives. And not only do these programs transform a doctor’s life, this impact will ripple out to their community with improved patient care and ultimately for their country.

I want to recognize and thank all of our new and renewing Circle of Vision members who share and generously support the same Pan-American dream. Because of this generosity from individuals and from our industry partners, you have helped us to achieve lots of dreams and lots of people were blessed. We are so grateful to the following partners for their generous support: Alcon, Allergan, Abbott, and Oculus. Your donations and contributions to the Pan-American Foundation’s programs have made all the difference.

Our 6th Annual Circle of Vision Luncheon, was held on October 14, in Chicago, during the American Academy of Ophthalmology. It was a delightful opportunity to see our special friends and learn about recent activities of the PAAO/PAOF. We had the privilege of recognizing Dr. Alice McPherson and Dr. Bradley R. Straatsma as our Guests of Honor, who have contributed and continue to contribute so much to Ophthalmology in the Americas.

Both the Local Organizing Committee and the PAAO Executive Committee are planning an extraordinary and prestigious Pan-American Congress in Lima, Peru, to be held on August 9-12, 2017. We kindly ask you to consider making your registration as soon as possible to make sure that you get the reduced member rate during this period.

Please let us know how you would like to collaborate to support the Pan-American projects through donations to the Pan-American Foundation. Send us suggestions of projects that you would support.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with the hope that you will be filled with many blessings in 2017.

Warm regards.

Oliveira Ventura, MD, PhD

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