The Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) brings together ophthalmologists from all countries in the Americas and it serves as a bridge between all the Associations in the region. The PAAO facilitates the collaboration of ophthalmologists from different countries to promote and stimulate interdisciplinary advanced training in their field to improve and standardize patient care. Fostering prevention of blindness programs with other supranational organizations, the PAAO provides the human resources and networking needed throughout the region and strengthens the cultural exchange between ophthalmologists from different backgrounds in the Americas.

Recent developments around the political geosphere around the world have threatened to disrupt our international collaborations and personal interactions. The leadership and membership of the Pan-American Association has been observing and reacting to these developments as changes in immigration policies may affect our activities. We want to make sure that we continue to focus on the exchange of ophthalmological education, research and clinical care across national boundaries in a way that continues to benefit patients regardless of national origin or personal ideologies. We will remain committed to these goals. In effect, the Pan-American Association and the Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation join our peer institutions that promote these same principles in supporting international collaboration. These include the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and many other international associations.

We have two very exciting meetings coming up. On May 6th the 2017 Pan-American Research Day will take place in Baltimore, Maryland, one day before the ARVO meeting. There is no cost to participate and it’s an exciting day of listening to the latest research in the Americas. The Pan-American Foundation offers four research incentive awards, sponsored by the Allergan Foundation and the David Pyott Foundation. Please visit our website www.paao.org about more details for the meeting and how to apply for the awards. We thank Allergan International for their valuable support of this event.

Our major event takes place every two years. Our 33rd Pan-American Congress of Ophthalmology will take place August 9-12, 2017 in Lima, Peru. What an exciting country to have a Pan-American Congress! There is so much to see in Peru for just one visit. The Local Organizing Committee is organizing an excellent Congress of the highest scientific quality. Please register early so that you can continue to receive important information on the academic and social events of the Congress. The registration information is also available at www.paao.org.

The Pan-American Foundation is featuring two events at the Congress in Lima. We hope you will join your colleagues, enjoy friends and meet new ones. All proceeds go to supporting the Pan-American’s educational programs. On Friday, August 11, we will host the “Pan-American Dinner.” It will take place at the Restaurante Cascajal which features a great show and dinner. Tickets are selling quickly at $150 (USD) per person and there is an opportunity to purchase premium tables. On Saturday afternoon, we have planned a fun afternoon of the “Pan-American Tournaments” of golf, mini-soccer and tennis. Ticket price is $100 (USD) per person. The fun afternoon concludes with the awards ceremony and a cocktail. We thank Labofta of Lima, Peru, for sponsoring this event. Please bring your friends for an afternoon of Pan-American Fun!!

You are the Pan-American Association, please support your colleagues by participating in these programs of your Association.

We are all proud to be Pan-American!

Sincerely,
Eduardo Alfonso, MD
President, Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO)
2015-17

Liana Ventura, MD
Chairman of the Board, Pan-American Ophthalmological Foundation