



Editorial

Expanding Horizons: AJO goes International

Welcome to the inaugural issue of AJO International—a vibrant addition to the American Journal of Ophthalmology. Our mission is to create a global community of ophthalmologists, optometrists, and researchers dedicated to advancing eye health through collaborative, multidisciplinary efforts.

"AJO International" is more than just a name; it reflects our commitment to high-quality, robust, and thorough scientific research. We aim to push the boundaries of the field by providing fresh insights into the pathophysiology of eye conditions, enhancing diagnostic methods, and refining treatment and resource management.¹ Rigorous peer review by field experts ensures the integrity of our research. Moreover, the term 'international' underscores our goal to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries, integrating diverse views and approaches from across the globe.

As editor-in-chief, I am excited by the potential of this journal to foster scientific progress. Although I am at an early stage of my professional and editorial career, my interactions with visionary scholars globally have reinforced my belief in collaborative knowledge dissemination as the backbone of scientific advancement—a principle that AJO International proudly upholds.

This journal is a platform for sharing innovative research and aims to serve as a developmental tool for mentees and trainees. I am thankful to our publisher, the editorial board, and all contributors, whose dedication and vision have been pivotal in launching this venture. Together, we will work to make AJO International a key player in the scientific and educational field.

We publish a wide range of original content, from full-length articles to photo essays and pilot studies. Our open access model ensures that our content is accessible to a broad audience, enhancing the impact of our work on global health policies and care standards. We believe AJO International will become a cornerstone of knowledge and a catalyst for positive change in eye care worldwide. We offer fee-free publication until the end of 2024, an opportunity not to be missed.

In this first issue, we are launching with a diverse set of articles that reflect our goals:

- **The Power of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Dr. Savastano demonstrates AI's potential in predicting postoperative outcomes after retinal detachment surgery.² Dr. Eriksen and her team explore how generative AI can break down language barriers in patient education through multilingual translation of patient videos, enhancing healthcare accessibility.³
- **A Closer Look at Genetic Eye Conditions:** Dr. Gocuk and colleagues emphasize the need for global awareness of the visual symptoms in female carriers of X-linked retinal diseases. This

highlights the importance of considering the quality-of-life impacts beyond measurable retinal signs.⁴

- **Evaluating Treatment Impacts:** Dr. Hibsh provides insights into how different anti-VEGF agents affect intraocular pressure after intravitreal injections, a key concern in retinal disease treatment strategies.⁵
- **Lifestyle and Risk Factors:** Dr. Ba and Dr. Li discuss how modern lifestyles contribute to myopia, advocating for public health strategies to address this trend,⁶ while Dr. Rizk explores gender disparities in glaucoma treatment outcomes.⁷ Dr. Kazantzis focuses on systemic risk factors for retinal vein occlusion, highlighting the importance of timely referrals and a multidisciplinary treatment approach.⁸
- **Burden of Vision Loss and Inequality:** Dr. Cheng and colleagues identify significant inequalities related to corneal ulcers in Nepal, underlining the need for community-focused prevention strategies.⁹ Additionally, Drs. Rohrbach and Voykov present a fascinating analysis of portrait photos of military generals during the American Civil War. Their review revealed notable cultural and economic disparities, suggesting that many soldiers participated in the conflict without the necessary visual correction. This historical insight aligns with the ongoing global challenge of uncorrected refractive errors, which remain a leading cause of vision loss.¹⁰
- **The Human Side of Medicine:** Finally, Dr. Pan discusses the rise of burnout among ophthalmologists, particularly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and emphasizes the importance of supporting mental health within the healthcare profession.¹¹

These articles are just a glimpse into the ambitious scope of AJO International. The foundation of the journal success lies in the variety of topics—from cutting-edge clinical practices to broader public health issues—that illustrates our commitment to amplifying a global voice within the fields of visual science. We hope you enjoy this first issue and join us in nurturing and expanding this dynamic international community.

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