A Word from the chair

Brenda Heinke Montecalvo, O.D.

Advocating For Optometric Care of Patients with Brain Injury and/or Visual Impairment

The American Optometric Association Vision Rehabilitation Section (AOA VRS) advocates for all optometrists as we ensure patients with brain injury (BI) and/or visual impairment (VI) have access to high quality, full scope optometric vision and eye health care. Optometry is the only profession with the education and skills to address all of the vision and eye health needs of these patients. The population our members serve is estimated at more than 8.3 million.

Today the AOA VRS faces a critical phase in its history. To be able to continue to advocate for and serve our members, it is crucial that we meet the financial requirements of our section. As the new chair of the AOA VRS, I am reaching out to current members and our leaders by asking you to help us increase our membership numbers. This year we need 600 more members to meet our financial obligations. This will allow us to focus on our primary goal, which is to provide access to the best optometric care for every U.S. citizen with BI and/or VI. Every optometrist has the opportunity to improve the lives of patients with brain injury and/or vision impairment through chair-side prescribing and/or consulting, co-managing or inter-professional referral.

To accomplish this goal, we need all optometrists who provide eye and vision care to patients with glaucoma, macular degeneration, brain injury, stroke, autism, and cerebral palsy to join our section. This year we will reach out to all primary care optometrists to support our efforts to advocate for our patients. Join me by contacting your state leaders, your partners and associates, and your colleagues and ask them to join the AOA VRS section for just $80 per year.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts to help our AOA VRS support optometrists and the patients they serve.

Best regards,

Brenda Heinke Montecalvo, O.D.
AOA VRS chair