

EyeSustain Update for Global Member Societies – June 2023

Background

EyeSustain is co-sponsored by 3 lead societies - AAO, ASCRS, & ESCRS – which will cover the ongoing costs of maintaining the www.EyeSustain.org website and app. This will be done without industry funding to avoid any potential conflict of interest. The website was launched in April 2022 and has been redesigned in advance of the 2023 ASCRS annual meeting. Our mission is to advance sustainability in ophthalmology and is described here <https://eyesustain.org/about> Throughout EyeSustain, we have adopted a leadership structure, pairing a senior and an early career ophthalmologist as “co-leads”.

The April issue of JCRS <https://journals.lww.com/jcrs/toc/2023/04000> has an article that I wrote to summarize the specific challenges we must tackle in order to reduce surgical waste, along with an introduction to EyeSustain https://journals.lww.com/jcrs/Fulltext/2023/04000/Tackling_the_challenge_of_needless_surgical_waste.1.aspx It also features a survey of ESCRS members’ attitudes toward OR waste. Both are open access papers. https://journals.lww.com/jcrs/Fulltext/2023/04000/Survey_of_ESCRS_members_attitudes_toward.3.aspx

The EyeSustain Facility Pledge

We have developed a 7-part online pledge for ophthalmic surgical facilities to take, which are immediately actionable ways to reduce surgical waste. <https://eyesustain.org/facility-pledge> This pledge can be taken by an ambulatory surgery center or hospital department and applies only to ophthalmic surgical cases. The simple online pledge form should be filled out by one designated representative of the facility. Once a surgical facility or ophthalmology department has taken the pledge, their name/city/country will be added to a “pledge wall” list displayed on the ES website. They can also download a certificate that can be displayed on their website or within their facility. This ES pledge wall feature is currently under development.

EyeSustain Global Council (ESGC)

We currently have 37 additional global ophthalmology organizations that have formally joined as *EyeSustain Member Societies* (full list @ <https://eyesustain.org/about/global-member-societies>) and are part of the EyeSustain Global Council (ESGC). Each society has pledged to educate, advocate, and collaborate to advance sustainability of quality eye care and surgery. Each member society should designate two ESGC representatives (1 senior and 1 early career), incorporate sustainability into educational activities, consider forming a sustainability committee, and promote the EyeSustain website and app to its membership. The 2 representatives will act as the liaison between their society and EyeSustain. They will be encouraged to share annual updates on their societies’ sustainability activities.

We have created a logo for ES member societies to use for their own website or signage (e.g at meetings). Please email Janell John jjohn@ascrs.org if you would like a higher resolution copy of the member society logo image.



Immediate Action Items:

We are in the process of building the ES Member Society pages. If you have not yet done so, please send the name/email address/photo of the two ESGC representatives to Ms. Janell John jjohn@ascrs.org who is organizing the master list. We will display each representative's name, email address, and photo on their society's sustainability page.

EyeSustain Global Council (ESGC) Meeting

We will have the first live meeting of ESGC member society representatives at the ESCRS and AAO annual meetings. Drs Findl and Silva will host one at the ESCRS Meeting in Vienna on **Monday, September 11 from 1100 – 1200 in room Schubert 2**. Please email Janell John jjohn@ascrs.org if you can attend.

Sustainability News

- In the July issue of Ophthalmology is an excellent open access article, co-authored by ES advisory board member Cassie Thiel PhD, summarizing how we can decarbonize eye care [https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420\(23\)00137-9/fulltext](https://www.aaojournal.org/article/S0161-6420(23)00137-9/fulltext)
- Finally, Drs Rengaraj Venkatesh and Kannusamy Veena from the Aravind Pondicherry recently won the 2023 ASCRS Film Festival Grand Prize for their film on sustainability - "Wasteless – A Model for Green Cataract Surgery". Out of more than 150 entries, it is gratifying that the judges chose to highlight the topic of sustainability this year with the award – "telling the story of the cataract surgeon's connection to the planet". You can view the film and award presentation here <https://ascrs.org/clinical-education/presentations-on-demand/meetings/2023-ascrs-annual-meeting/films> Go to the 45' mark to hear the award presentation by the Film Festival chair, and to watch the 10 minute film.

On behalf of the Eye Sustain advisory board, editorial board, and global council leadership committee, thank you again for joining us in this global cause.

Best regards,

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