

IALVS Marks 20 Years with International Growth, New Education Initiatives, and a National Low Vision Awareness Campaign

January 20, 2026

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The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists (IALVS), a global network of low vision optometrists, announces a milestone year in 2025, marked by significant organizational growth, new professional development resources, and a nationwide awareness campaign focused on vision rehabilitation and macular degeneration support.

IALVS celebrated its 20th Annual Meeting this year, convening 43 low vision optometrists from four countries. The meeting offered nine hours of continuing education (CE), reinforcing the Academy?s commitment to advancing excellence in patient care and clinical collaboration. This year?s meeting represented the highest attendance in IALVS history, signaling growing professional engagement and awareness of the importance of low vision rehabilitation as an essential component of patient care. Attendees participated in hands-on learning, case reviews, and peer-to-peer dialogue focused on innovative strategies for maximizing visual function in patients with significant vision loss.

In its largest expansion to date, IALVS welcomed eight new Fellows in 2025. The additions include

representation in Mexico and new U.S. regions such as Southern Idaho, New Mexico, Southwest Florida, Wisconsin, and Westchester County, New York, as well as further reach into the Canadian provinces. With these additions, IALVS now includes 57 Fellows across five countries, solidifying its presence as a leading international organization dedicated to serving individuals with functional vision loss from conditions such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and more. The year also marked the retirement of two long-time Fellows, further emphasizing the evolution and growth of the organization.

Further enhancing its educational impact, IALVS has launched a national Speakers Bureau. This new initiative connects healthcare professionals, aging organizations, and media outlets with a vetted group of experienced low vision optometrists who are equipped to speak on topics related to vision loss, rehabilitation, and patient empowerment.

The Speakers Bureau underscores the Academy?s role as a trusted resource in advancing public education and clinical awareness of low vision care. These speaking engagements are designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and inspire hope among patients and caregivers alike.

To coincide with Low Vision and Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Month, IALVS has developed and launched a national campaign to expand public understanding of low vision and combat persistent myths about vision loss. The campaign is designed to reach individuals who have been told that "nothing more can be done," by highlighting the value of vision rehabilitation and the role of low vision optometrists in helping patients regain functionality and improve quality of life. Educational materials have been developed to support both patient outreach and professional referral channels across the country.

Additionally, the campaign includes a digital media component aimed at increasing visibility through social media, newsletters, and patient testimonials.IALVS remains focused on its mission to empower individuals with vision loss through accessible, personalized care and education. With 20 years of leadership, an expanding international presence, and growing influence across medical and public health spheres, the organization continues to elevate the future of low vision care through collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

About IALVS

The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists (IALVS) is a global network of low vision optometrists committed to helping individuals maximize their remaining vision. Through customized devices, education, and practical strategies, IALVS members help patients maintain independence and improve their daily function. The organization includes 57 Fellows across five countries and continues to expand access to care for individuals living with vision impairment.

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For more information about The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists, contact the company here:IALVSDr. Richard Shuldiner +1 951-898-2020doctor@lowvisioncare.com

The International Academy of Low Vision Specialists

We are optometrists specializing in low vision care for conditions like Macular Degeneration (Wet/Dry), Albinism, Glaucoma, Stargardt?s Disease, Diabetic Retinopathy, Retinitis Pigmentosa, and other vision-limiting conditions.

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