



In 2011, Prevent Blindness identified a need to elevate the national dialogue around vision and public health. There existed numerous opportunities for discussions on the science of eye health, but very few to delve into significant public health issues such as equity, surveillance, access, prevention, service integration, program development, and dissemination of best practices. Further, there was a lack of focus on pursuing new research on the state of vision problems, research that can be used not only to advance public health initiatives, but that can also be used to make the case for policy change through Prevent Blindness's advocacy efforts. As a result, in June of 2012, Prevent Blindness hosted the first Focus on Eye Health Summit establishing a venue to advance the public health dialogue around vision and eye disorders.

This annual event attracts a diverse audience – each committed to improving some aspect of vision health. Past participants have included patient advocates, caregivers, community-based and advocacy organizations, national vision and eye health organizations, researchers, health-care providers, senior- and child-care professionals, government agency staff, corporate partners, health program professionals, and legislative staff. The Focus on Eye Health Summit is unique in that it provides diverse stakeholders with a direct connection by convening in one location, to learn about the latest research, and consider the role that each group can play in advancing eye health through collaboration.

Our 11th annual Focus on Eye Health Summit was held on July 13-14, 2022, as a completely virtual experience with 800 registrants from more than 40 countries and welcomed nearly 400 virtual attendees during the two-day event, with many viewing the recorded sessions online afterward. Information about past Summits and presentations can be found at: <https://preventblindness.org/2022-eyesummit-presentations/>.



*Lobby entry for the 2022 Focus on Eye Health Summit. This location provides consistent sponsor recognition and access to all activities within the Summit.*

Attendees of the 2022 Focus on Eye Health Summit responded to the event evaluation with 80% rating the Summit as “outstanding” and “more than satisfactory.” A virtual interactive platform was used to mimic an in-person conference experience. Attendees could visit the auditorium to attend presentations, browse the exhibit hall to collect materials and chat with the booths, go to the social lounge to interact



with others in attendance, and view the leaderboard to see how they were collecting points by taking advantage of everything the event had to offer. The attendees had very favorable reviews to share about the event and the platform:

- “Cohesive presentation--all went smoothly and concise. Best program yet!”
- “Thank you for providing this learning opportunity.”
- “Very enjoyable & informative virtual conference!”
- “I love the after-the-presentation chat with presenters.”
- “This was a great opportunity and appreciate the opportunity to participate.”
- “It was all excellent!”
- “Presenters did an outstanding job on preparation for the conference - a great deal of their effort was shown tremendously. Great job!”

On **July 12-13, 2023**, Prevent Blindness will host the 12<sup>th</sup> annual [Focus on Eye Health Summit](#) as a virtual interactive event. The event will be held over two days via a virtual conference platform that offers simultaneous access



to expert presentations; a dedicated exhibitor hall with access to free educational materials, videos, and toolkits; on-demand educational content; and in-platform opportunities for networking and collaboration. The Summit will be available to a global audience at no cost to attendees.

**2023 Agenda:** Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Focus on Eye Health Summit asks the question “**Why the Eye?**” with an aim of stimulating dialogue as we continue to explore vision and eye health through a public health lens. From our earliest years through our final days, our sight – and, at times, the loss or threat thereof – plays a wondrous role in who we are as people and as a population. Diverse voices engaging in discussions around this lifelong impact will stimulate conversations around the challenges to equitable access to eye care, explorations of new and unique collaborations across stakeholders, and opportunities to integrate vision and eye health into public health policies, practices, and research advancement. This event will remind us *why the eye* should be an important focus for us all.

#### Goals/Objectives

Our goal for the 2023 Summit is to educate 400 virtual participants viewing remotely through the course of each day on issues related to vision and public health. It is our intent that the knowledge gained will promote collaborations, advance vision and its role in quality of life, as well as the work of the attendees and the organizations they represent.

***The Focus on Eye Health Summit will take place July 12-13, 2023. Sponsorships are accepted at any time prior to the Summit. For more information, contact Nita Sinha, Director of Public Health, at [npatelsinha@preventblindness.org](mailto:npatelsinha@preventblindness.org).***