



**World Council of Optometry and Saudi Society of Optometry Announce New Dates for 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Optometry (WCO6) / 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Saudi Optometry in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

**ST. LOUIS / RIYADH, 18 May 2026**— The World Council of Optometry (WCO) and the Saudi Society of Optometry (SSO) have confirmed the new dates for the 6th World Congress of Optometry (WCO6), to be held in conjunction with the 11th Saudi Optometry Conference and the first SILMO Exhibition in Saudi Arabia, from April 2–4, 2027, at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center (RICEC) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Originally planned for November 2026, the decision to reschedule follows careful consideration by WCO and SSO, with the shared aim of supporting broader international participation, improving travel accessibility, and ensuring a strong scientific, professional, and industry experience for delegates, speakers, partners, and exhibitors.

“Hosting this milestone event in the Eastern Mediterranean region is a significant moment for optometry, and we are confident that the new dates will allow us to realize its full potential,” said Dr. Cindy Tromans, President of the World Council of Optometry. “Ensuring that our members and partners worldwide can fully engage in and benefit from the Congress remains at the heart of our decision-making.”

“This joint event represents an important milestone for optometry in Saudi Arabia and the wider region,” said Dr. Waleed AlGhamdi, President of the Saudi Society of Optometry. “Together with WCO, we are committed to delivering a high-quality international congress that advances clinical practice, education, research, and professional collaboration. The revised dates will help ensure stronger global participation and an exceptional experience for delegates, speakers, partners, and exhibitors.”

WCO and SSO believe the revised timing will better support international travel, collaboration, and engagement, while maintaining the strong scientific, professional, and industry standards planned for the Congress and the 11th Saudi Optometry Conference. The updated timeline will also support

further development of the accompanying exhibition platform, including the first SILMO Exhibition in Saudi Arabia.

The Congress will mark a historic milestone as the first WCO World Congress to be held in the Eastern Mediterranean region. It also reflects SSO's growing role in advancing optometry, vision science, and eye health in Saudi Arabia, and WCO's continued commitment to expanding the global reach of optometry through collaboration, education, and advocacy.

The event will bring together optometrists, educators, researchers, students, policymakers, professional organizations, and industry leaders from Saudi Arabia, the region, and around the world. Through its combined congress, conference, and exhibition platform, WCO6 in Riyadh will provide a major opportunity for scientific exchange, professional development, regional collaboration, and international industry engagement.

The abstract submission deadline has been extended to 30 June 2026, and early bird registration will remain open until 31 January 2027.

WCO and SSO look forward to welcoming delegates, partners, exhibitors, and industry leaders to Riyadh in April 2027 for a successful and impactful WCO6, the 11th Saudi Optometry Conference, and the first SILMO Exhibition in Saudi Arabia.

For more information and updates, please visit:

- <https://sso.org.sa/en/sso2026-wco6/>

For additional inquiries, please contact:

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Congress Logo with New Dates (April 2-4, 2027)



**RIYADH - SAUDI ARABIA**  
2 - 4 APRIL 2027

Dr. Waleed AlGhamdi, President of the Saudi Society of Optometry (SSO)



Dr. Cindy Tromans, President of the World Council of Optometry (WCO)



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### **About the World Council of Optometry**

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international membership-based non-profit organization for individual optometrists, industry professionals, and optometric organizations, that envisions a world with high-quality, accessible eye health and vision care for all people. Its mission is to advance and promote optometry, global eye health and vision care through collaboration, education, and advocacy. To learn more, please visit [www.worldoptometry.org](http://www.worldoptometry.org) or follow WCO on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#).

### **About the Saudi Society of Optometry**

The Saudi Society of Optometry (SSO) is a Saudi non-profit society licensed by the National Center for Non-Profit Sector under license number 4609. SSO is dedicated to advancing optometry, vision science, professional education, clinical standards, and eye health awareness in Saudi Arabia. Through scientific conferences, continuing education, advocacy, and professional collaboration, SSO plays a leading role in supporting the development of optometry and vision care across the Kingdom and the wider region. To learn more, please visit [www.sso.org.sa](http://www.sso.org.sa) or follow SSO on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), and other official platforms.

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