

Editorial ▶ ICBO: A Coming Together of International Behavioral Optometry

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In September of 2014, the 7th Quadrennial Meeting of the International Congress of Behavioural Optometry (ICBO) will be held in Birmingham, UK. I have been waiting four years since the meeting in Pomona, California ended; I can't explain how excited I am! Yes, it is just another optometry meeting in that there are speakers, a poster session, and a vendor fair, but it is so much more. Let me explain with the use of David Letterman's famous Top Ten List! Let's call this the Top Ten Reasons you should go to ICBO next year!

- 1) The keynote speakers are world renowned.
 - a. Alain Berthoz is a Professor, College de France and Director of the Laboratory of Physiology of Perception and Action of CNRS. His book, *The Brain's Sense of Movement* (<http://bit.ly/BrainMvmtBk>) is beyond great! Here is a [link](http://bit.ly/BrainMovmt) (<http://bit.ly/BrainMovmt>) to a list of papers he has produced!
 - b. Janette Atkinson is Co-Director of the Visual Development Unit at the Department of Psychology, University College London and the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford. She has also written a formative text on *Infant Vision* and her research interests are vast.
- 2) The poster session will once again be awesome. At the last Congress, poster authors came from all over the globe! I am ready to help anyone and everyone formulate their ideas and design their own posters. Case reports, research papers, and free thinking are wanted! Please feel free to email (mtaub@sco.edu) me if you would like more information.
- 3) The pre-meeting education offerings are being provided by three diverse organizations: BABO, OEPE, and NORA. These two-day courses are worth coming just on their own. These hands-on courses have helped thousands of clinicians.
- 4) The location is fantastic! I plan on making this a longer trip, spending time with my wife, and traveling to several big European cities to soak up the culture. Please make sure not to tell my bosses, as they will think I will be hard at work!
- 5) The speakers are you! ICBO gladly invites attendees to submit talks. There are both short and long talks on a variety of topics all under the umbrella of one over-arching theme. This year, that topic will be

Vision is the brain's way of touching. Email [Paul Harris](mailto:PaulHarris.OD@gmail.com) (PaulHarris.OD@gmail.com) or follow this link www.oepf.org/CallForPapers if you would like to learn more about speaking at the meeting.

- 6) Not everyone has to listen to the same speakers. This meeting is special in that there are multiple tracks occurring at one time for most of the meeting. This allows for a greater number of speakers on a greater number of topics.
- 7) You will kick yourself if you don't come! Remember that this meeting occurs once every four years so you will HAVE to travel all the way to Australia to attend in 2018. My wife has already informed me that she will be going and I am free to tag along.
- 8) The vendors represent companies from all over the world. You will have the chance to look at, touch, play with, and yes, buy equipment from the best and most accomplished vendors.
- 9) The camaraderie is amazing. Through the DOC-list, I have had the opportunity to interact with optometrists from all over the world. ICBO offers those who have only met online an opportunity to interact face to face, speaking with each other instead of typing! As DOC-list administrator and *Optometry & Visual Performance* Editor-In-Chief, I get the opportunity to connect with people all over the world; I get to hear their voices through their written word. The meeting allows me the chance to actually hear their voices. I am a child of the dawn of the computer age and have grown up watching technology dominate our lives, but there is nothing like a handshake, hug, and yes, kiss, from a far-away friend!
- 10) While I am lucky to work with many doctors who also practice vision therapy, others are not so lucky. They may be the only or one of a handful of optometrists who offer vision therapy in their country. This is an international meeting that unites the world's behavioral optometrists. We must all support each other and offer a helping hand and encouragement to those around the world fighting for patients' health and rights.

Please join me and hundreds of optometrists from around the world at ICBO in September of 2014. I promise you will not regret it!



7TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF BEHAVIOURAL OPTOMETRY

2014

The Optometric Extension Program
Foundation (OEPF) & The British
Association of Behavioural
Optometrists (BABO) invite you



Birmingham, England
Hilton Birmingham Metropole
11 - 14 September 2014

Pre-Conference
with BABO, NORA & OEPF
9 - 10 September 2014

Full program details forthcoming!