

World Glaucoma Day: A WGA/WGPA initiative

6 March 2008, Global

Fighting the glaucoma pandemic poses some complex challenges. Although this disease is one of the main causes of blindness globally, glaucoma doesn't elicit a 'sympathy factor' like other blinding diseases, mainly because of the wide geographical variation of required glaucoma prevention measures. More specifically, in developing countries where cataract or river blindness is endemic, there is little incentive to invest resources in diagnosing a disease that will require lifelong treatment and sophisticated follow-up. In developed countries, the pharmaceutical industry and health authorities consider that it is a relatively well-addressed disease, with limited unmet needs, especially when compared with conditions such as cancer, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or, in the field of ophthalmology, retinal degeneration. Furthermore, the specific visual needs of patients with glaucoma are not well known by the authorities, doctors, and sometimes by the patients themselves.

Add to these considerations the incredible fact that globally, for every diagnosed patient with glaucoma there is an undiagnosed one, and the need for increased glaucoma awareness, advocacy, prevention, and education becomes obvious. To jumpstart a global and highly visible effort to coordinate activities in these areas, the World Glaucoma Association (WGA) and the World Glaucoma Patient Association (WGPA) have taken the initiative of organising the first World Glaucoma Day on 6 March 2008, hopefully to be established as an annual event. While significant efforts are directed at achieving recognition of World Glaucoma Day by national or international organisations (several countries are considering issuing World Glaucoma Day stamps, for instance), this will mostly be a day for local events to be simultaneously organised around the globe, in the form of newspaper articles, radio and television coverage, screening campaigns, 'open-door' days at glaucoma clinics, and so on. As these events will ultimately rely on voluntary work at every level, the WGA is calling upon all enthusiastic and resourceful volunteers to propose and implement new ideas for local and global events, to make the first World Glaucoma Day a resounding success.

Increasing Community Awareness

As glaucoma is a progressive disease causing irreversible visual loss, usually without warning until it is relatively advanced, and because 50% of affected people in the developed world, and 90% in developing countries, do not know they have the condition, and are not receiving treatment, we believe community awareness needs to be increased. This includes awareness of the disease, and of the need to have regular eye checks, thereby permitting earlier detection and avoidance of preventable visual disability.

We will work for recognition by national and international organisations and several governments in various ways, such as issuing commemorative stamps and media releases. WGA and WGPA will provide resources to assist local activities, including newspaper articles, radio and television coverage, public glaucoma 'screening' campaigns in public places and 'open-door' days at glaucoma clinics and ophthalmology departments.

WGA and WGPA ask you how you could contribute to the success of World Glaucoma Day. [Click here](#) for an Expression of Intent form listing various activities that could be organised on or around 6 March 2008. This is by no means exhaustive: all ideas would be most welcome, and would be shared globally. Please indicate to us what activities you would like to organise, or nominate someone who would work with you. Please send the completed form electronically to one of the Physician Liaison Committee Members listed below, or to the WGPA board member or liaison officer in your country (cc: George Lambrou).

- Ivan Goldberg, WGA President and WGPA Co-Chair, Physician Liaison Committee
E-mail: eyegoldberg@gmail.com
- Robert Ritch, WGPA Co-Chair, Physician Liaison Committee
E-mail: ritchmd@earthlink.net
- George Lambrou, WGPA EVP, Physician Liaison Committee; WGD Global Project Leader
E-mail: gnlabrou@hotmail.com; george@lambrou.eu
- Scott Christensen, WGPA President
E-mail: scott@glaucomafoundation.org

世界青光眼日

วันต้อหินโลก

世界緑内障の日

세계 녹내장의 날

Hari Glaukoma Sedunia

NGÀY GLAUCOMA THẾ GIỚI

Dünya Glokom Günü

يوم الغلوкома العالمي

ימלועה המוקואלגה סוי

Wereld Glaucom Dag

Dia Mundial del Glaucoma

Dia Mundial do Glaucoma

Journée Mondiale du Glaucome

Welttag des Glaucoms

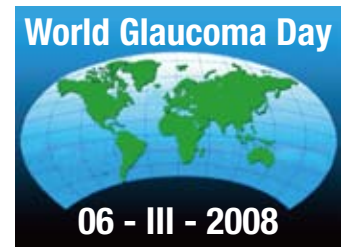
Giornata Mondiale del Glaucoma

Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Γλαυκώματος

Γλαυκώματος Παγκόσμιοι 'Ημάρ

Dies Glaucomatis Universalis

DIES GLAUCOMATIS UNIVERSALIS



Международный День Глаукомы

Nemzetközi Zöldhályog Nap

Халықаралық Глаукома Күні

Swiatowy Dzień Glaucomy

Ziua Mondială a Glaucomului

Dydd Byd Glaucoma

Diwrnod Byd Glaucoma

Wérelld Glaukoom Dag

Ihlabathi Glaucoma Imini

Wiase Nyinaa Glaucoma Da

Համաշխարհային Գլաուկոմայի Օր

Kelame Petee Glaucoma Liwe

Xexeame Kataa Glaucoma Nkeke

Dzen Fee Glaucoma Gbi

Ranar Tunawa Da Ciwon Ido na

Gilakoma A Duniya

Ubochi uwa nile necheta Glacoma

Ayajo Agbaiye Arun Oju ti anpe nu

Glokoma

Umsanzi Glaucoma Ilanga

WORLD GLAUCOMA DAY EXPRESSION OF INTENT FORM

Please, put an "X" in one of the 3 columns marked "yes", "no" or "maybe" and fill in the contact person's details, if not yourself (or write "myself"). If you cannot organize the activity, but you think that someone else could, please put an "X" in the "no" column and add that person's contact details – or at least their name – in the last column. Please add your own contact details at the bottom of the page.

ACTIVITIES	Yes	No	Maybe	Contact person details
Contact newspaper to publish an article				
Write newspaper article (you can also use the "contact person details" column to nominate suitable persons to do that)				
Contact radio station to cover the WGD				
Contact TV channel to cover the WGD				
Lobby my country's postal services to issue commemorative stamps				
Organize open-doors event at my institution				
Organize free screening day at my institution				
Organize free screening at public site (mall, market, place of worship, town hall, community center, etc)				
Organize patient-educational conference at my institution/ at a public site (please delete one)				
Organize a patient-run conference at my institution/at a public site (please delete one)				
Participate at a conference if someone else organizes it (you can also use the "contact person details" column to nominate suitable persons to speak at conferences)				
Post on my website, blog or newsletter/BBS relevant material advertising the World Glaucoma Day, and/or brochures, a patients' journal, patient interviews, etc (please delete as appropriate or add your ideas for an online event)				
Distribute at my practice/institution/at a public site printed material advertising the WGD, and/or brochures, a patient's journal, patient interviews, etc (please delete as appropriate)				
Other activity idea (please fill in)				
Other activity idea (please fill in)				
Other activity idea (please fill in)				
Other activity idea (please fill in)				

Your name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Tel/Fax numbers: _____

Postal address: _____
