OSWI
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE WEST INDIES

OSWI Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies

Issue 01
October 2026

Message from the President

This is our OSWI



Arindel Maharaj MD, PhD
President, OSWI 2026–2028

Greetings,

I am honored and grateful to serve as the new President of OSWI for 2026-2028.

When I left Trinidad for the United States at sixteen, I felt the loss of the community I grew up in. As a medical student, I was introduced to OSWI by Dr. Eduardo Alfonso, Chair of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Six years later, on my very first day as a Bascom Palmer faculty member, I attended my first OSWI Congress in Jamaica in 2014. I immediately felt a connection with people I had never met: the warm welcome, the camaraderie, the quality of the lectures, and the chance to meet colleagues from across the Caribbean. Twelve years later, I am proud to see how far OSWI has grown as the regional leader in ophthalmology education and advocacy.

Expanding our reach

Over the coming years, we aim to make OSWI more than an annual congress. We will continue to host online CME lectures from world-class international and Caribbean ophthalmologists. The annual congress will remain our flagship in-person meeting, offering networking, collaboration, and 25+ CME credits. It will draw the region's brightest ophthalmologists, technicians, associates, and trainees, and showcase the quality of Caribbean ophthalmology to strategic international partners, including Bascom Palmer, Moorfields, and Leeds.

Service in the Caribbean

OSWI is committed to safe, high-quality ophthalmic care across our region. In February 2027, we will host a one-week teaching, surgical, and clinical mission to Dominica. Our goal is to partner with countries to provide volunteer surgical and clinical services as well as formal instruction. The interest from volunteers has been overwhelming, and we hope to make this an annual regional mission in which Caribbean caregivers support one another.

Investing in Young Ophthalmologists

We recognize the challenges facing ophthalmology residency education in the Caribbean. To strengthen training and early careers for Young Ophthalmologists (YOs), we will:

1. Provide open access to OSWI information. All trainees have recently been added to the OSWI member group chats.
2. Offer financial support for trainees who are presenting at the congress.
3. Encourage regional ophthalmologists to welcome trainees into their private clinics for surgical and clinical experience.
4. Create opportunities for international training through our partners.
5. Build YO networking and mentoring programs.

The OSWI Foundation

We are establishing the OSWI Foundation as the charitable arm of OSWI. Preliminary outreach to senior ophthalmologists and partners has begun, and we hope to build the Foundation significantly to support the missions above. I encourage all members to help build and promote it.

I am inspired by Dr. Garth Taylor's dedication to eye care in the Caribbean, and I hope to continue elevating OSWI. Please reach out to learn how you can contribute to the organization's growth. **This is our OSWI!**

Sincerely,

Arindel Maharaj MD, PhD

President, OSWI 2026-2028

About Dr. Maharaj. Dr. Arindel Maharaj is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, where he specializes in glaucoma and cataract surgery. He is the Director of the Palm Beach Glaucoma Fellowship and served for ten years as Medical Student Clerkship Director, mentoring generations of students and trainees. He also holds a full medical license in Trinidad and Tobago.

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Mark your calendar

Upcoming OSWI Events

SEP 22 2026	Webinar · 6:00 PM	Corneal Topography for Cataract Surgery and Corneal Pathology — Dr. Paul Tomlins
OCT 13 2026	Webinar · 6:00 PM	Normal Pressure Glaucoma — Dr. David Burton
NOV 24 2026	Webinar · 6:00 PM	Residents' Grand Rounds Webinar
FEB 2027 One week	Mission	Teaching, Surgical and Clinical Mission to Dominica

Barbados, July 8–11, 2026

OSWI 2026 Congress: A Look Back

The 37th Annual OSWI Congress, held at the Hilton Barbados Resort from July 8–11, 2026, brought together a vibrant community of eye-care professionals from across the Caribbean and beyond.

75	35	30+
doctors	nurses	industry representatives

Over the four days, the meeting created a strong platform for education, collaboration, innovation, and professional fellowship.



Congress Highlights

- Garth Taylor Memorial Lecture with Dr. Jas Singh
- OSWI–Moorfields Orbital Symposium
- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Symposium
- Multispecialty scientific programme
- Residents' Competition
- Hands-on Wet Lab and surgical training
- Industry exhibition and technology showcase
- Networking and social events

The Congress reflected OSWI's continued commitment to advancing ophthalmic education and strengthening eye care across the Caribbean.

The next two years

Looking Ahead: OSWI's Strategic Priorities

Over the next two years, OSWI will focus on strategic growth, sustainability, innovation, and regional collaboration, with the goal of building a stronger and more engaged Society that delivers value to members year-round. Our key priorities include:

Member Engagement
Strengthening communication and expanding our digital and social media presence through educational content, updates, and member highlights.

Financial Sustainability
Diversifying revenue streams, encouraging voluntary member contributions, and strengthening long-term financial planning.

Modernizing Operations
Digitizing registration, payments, and financial processes to improve efficiency and transparency.

Industry Partnerships
Enhancing our sponsorship programme while maintaining professionalism, ethics, and transparency.

Regional Collaboration
Strengthening OSWI's role as a regional ophthalmic organization through CARICOM partnerships, education, advocacy, research, workforce development, and support for the DM Residency Programme.

Fair & Sustainable Policies
Reviewing conference fee waivers and other policies to ensure consistency and responsible use of Society resources.

These priorities reflect our commitment to creating a stronger, more connected, and forward-thinking OSWI. We encourage members to share their ideas, volunteer their expertise, engage with our programmes, and support initiatives that advance ophthalmology across the Caribbean.

Together, we aim to grow smarter, stronger, and more united, while continuing OSWI's commitment to collaboration, integrity, education, and service.

Next year's meeting

OSWI 2027 Congress Highlights

38th Annual OSWI Congress
July 7–10, 2027

Royalton Resort, Antigua

Innovate • Collaborate • Elevate Vision Care

OSWI 2027 will bring together eye-care professionals from across the Caribbean and beyond.

Highlights Include:

- Comprehensive scientific and educational programme
- Regional and international faculty
- Resident and Young Ophthalmologist programme featuring presentations, mentorship, and networking
- Industry exhibition and partner engagement
- Regional collaboration and professional networking
- Social events and Caribbean hospitality

Join us in Antigua as we connect, learn, and shape the future of eye care across the Caribbean.

oswinet.org

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From the Immediate Past President

Past President's Report



Dr. Rajrishi Sharma
FRCOphth, FRCS, CCT(UK)
Immediate Past President, OSWI 2022-2026

As I conclude my four-year tenure as President of the Ophthalmological Society of the West Indies (OSWI), I do so with immense pride and gratitude. Serving as President has been one of the greatest honours of my professional career, and I sincerely thank our members for their trust and support.

During my presidency, OSWI achieved several important milestones, including our landmark Annual Congress in Miami, which expanded our international reach and strengthened professional relationships. We continued to enhance our digital presence, quarterly magazine, member engagement, sponsorships and regional eye health initiatives.

We also strengthened existing international partnerships and established new collaborations, including the inaugural Moorfields Eye Hospital–OSWI Symposium. Our renewed participation in the American Academy of Ophthalmology Leadership Development Program has further created opportunities for emerging leaders, while our ongoing partnerships continue to support education and training throughout the Caribbean.

The 37th Annual Congress in Barbados has been a fitting conclusion to my presidency, showcasing the strength of our scientific programme, regional and international collaborations, and shared commitment to advancing eye care.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the Executive Committee, Lay Secretariat, volunteers, committee members, practice partners, my family and the entire OSWI membership. Your dedication and support have made these achievements possible.

As I hand over the presidency, I do so with confidence in our incoming leadership and the future of OSWI. I leave with lasting friendships and immense pride in what we have accomplished together.

It has been a privilege to serve, and I thank you for the opportunity.

Partner News

POEN Laboratories' New Headquarters



POEN Laboratories has moved into a new building in Buenos Aires. Now located in this state-of-the-art building, the management departments, including marketing and logistics, have a new house. Also Regulatory Affairs and Microbiology Laboratory have moved into brand-new facilities. We are POEN and we grow together!

Contact the OSWI Secretariat

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Partner News

Pharmaceutical Solutions Barbados

