



LOW VISION

Centre of Learning

NPC #K2023823144

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

College of
Community
Health Sciences

LOW VISION MATTERS...

Even More.



19 – 21 OCTOBER 2026

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY



SOUTHERN SUN ROSEBANK

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



PROGRAMME



web: lvcol.org



email: lvcol.conference@gmail.com



phone: 068 518 7408



DAY 1

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2026

DIABETES & LOW VISION

08:00		REGISTRATION & TEA
09:00		Diabetes in South Africa: From Crisis to Action – The Johannesburg Declaration DR PATRICK NGASSA-PIOTIE <i>Medical doctor & researcher</i>
09:45		Do Healthy Habits Really Impact Vision KAREN DENTON <i>Diabetes Educator</i>
10:30		TEA BREAK
11:00		Strategies to Promote Effective Diabetes Self-Management in People with Vision Loss BETH BARSTOW <i>Occupational therapist</i>
12:30		LUNCH
13:30		Optimising Optometric Care for Patients with Diabetes: With and Without Vision Loss WENDY HISTED <i>Optometrist</i>
14:15		GLP-1 Agonists – Separating Evidence from Hype KAREN DENTON <i>Diabetes Educator</i>
15:30		TEA BREAK
15:30		More Than Blood Sugar: Living with Diabetes Then, Now and Tomorrow SIOBHAN KOTZE <i>Personal experience</i>
16:15		Understanding and Managing Vision Loss Related to Diabetes DR JOANNE MILLER <i>Ophthalmologist</i>



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DAY 2

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026

CLINICAL PEARLS & CASE STUDIES

TRACK 1

BETH BARSTOW

Occupational Therapist

**IMPACT TRACK –
MULTIDISCIPLINARY FOCUS**

TRACK 2

HAZEL SACHAROWITZ

Optometrist

**CLINICAL VISION TRACK –
OPTOMETRIC FOCUS**

08:00		REGISTRATION & TEA	
09:00		Integrating the Revised Self-Report Assessment of Functional Visual Performance (R-SRAFP) into Intervention Planning and Goal Setting	Seeing Beyond Visual Acuity – Clinical and Functional Assessment
09:45		From Prescription to Participation: Addressing Optical and Assistive Technology Issues in Practice	Refraction and Magnification: Clinical Pearls that Improve Outcomes
10:30		TEA BREAK	
11:00		Fall Prevention and Management for Individuals with Vision Loss	Identifying Optimum Strategies and Devices for Reading in Patients with Decreased Visual Function
11:45		Low Vision Rehabilitation on a Shoestring Budget	Prescribing Low Vision Devices: Matching Solutions to Patient Goals
12:30		LUNCH	
13:30		Keeping People at Work: Vision Loss Should not Equal Job Loss	The future role of the Low Vision Practitioner
14:15		CASE IN FOCUS From Diagnosis to Daily Living: Practical Strategies for Facilitating Independence in Individuals with Vision Impairment	
15:00		TEA BREAK	
15:30		Interdisciplinary Case Forum – Shared Perspective	
16:15		Insights from the discussion – bringing the threads together	



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DAY 3

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026

NEUROLOGICAL VISION LOSS

08:00		REGISTRATION & TEA
09:00		The developing Brain and Vision: Why Early Reflexes Matter MELODIE DE JAGER <i>Neuro-developmental therapist</i>
10:30		TEA BREAK
11:00		Seeing Beyond the Field Cut: Evaluation and Intervention for Hemianopsia BETH BARSTOW <i>Occupational therapist</i>
12:30		LUNCH
13:30		Beyond General Optometry – The Quest for Functional Visual integration DEIDRE DE JONGH <i>Optometrist</i>
15:00		TEA BREAK
15:30		Facilitating Psychosocial adaptation to Vision Loss: Intervention Approaches BETH BARSTOW <i>Occupational therapist</i>
17:00		CONFERENCE CLOSURE



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