

## Dr. George Woo

Professor George Woo received his Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree from the College of Optometry of Ontario and the University of Waterloo in 1964. After graduating he became an optometrist with the Canadian Red Cross Society travelling throughout Northern Ontario in their mobile eye clinic to provide eye care to underserved communities for the next two years. He then returned to academia at Indiana University, completing his MSc in 1968 and his PhD in 1970 in physiological optics.

Dr. Woo then returned to the University of Waterloo and joined the School of Optometry & Vision Science as a faculty member, where he taught in the optometry program for the next 26 years, rising to full Professor in 1980. During his time at UW he taught over twelve different optometry courses, ranging from Optics to Visual Perception and had many remarkable achievements including becoming the first Canadian low vision diplomate in history of the American Academy of Optometry in 1975.

Motivated by his clinical encounters and his research using novel contrast sensitivity procedures, George co-founded the School's Low Vision Clinic in 1974 and is the Founding Director of the Centre for Sight Enhancement (CSE). Thanks to George's political savvy and strong advocacy, low vision services became an essential component of most government-funded vision rehabilitation programs across the country. The CSE is Canada's first and only vision rehabilitation service to be accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services. World renowned for clinical teaching and research, specific initiatives include the Sight Enhancement Equipment Pool and Assessment Centre (SEEPAC), the first government-sponsored high technology low vision service in Ontario.

During his tenure at the University of Waterloo and until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1996, he took up many visiting and consulting appointments at several institutions. Most notably, he served as the founding Head and Professor of the Department of Diagnostic Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 1987 to 1989. His main remit was to establish an optometry degree program which he did successfully.

Upon retiring from Waterloo, Dr. Woo returned to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in January 1997 and was appointed Chair Professor of Optometry and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He became Associate Dean and CEO of PolyVision after deciding to relinquish the deanship after eight years, but resumed the position in August 2008. Professor Woo retired from the University in 2011, becoming an Emeritus Professor and acting as a Visiting Professor at the PolyU School of Optometry. He has also been Honorary Professor at China's Sun Yat-sen University, Sichuan University, Tianjin Medical University and Wenzhou Medical University.

Professor Woo has served on numerous local and international optometry, health and research committees. He has served as President of both the World Council of Optometry and the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry (APCO). He is currently Acting Chief Administration Officer of

APCO and President of the Hong Kong Contact Lens Research Association. He served as a member of the Research Grants Council of University Grants Committee from 2000 to 2006. He was appointed as a board member of the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong from 2008 to 2011. He has been a member of the Working Group on Primary Care under the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee from October 2008 to December 2016.

During his time as a teacher and administrator, Professor Woo has kept up with his own research program which includes interests include low vision, myopia, contrast sensitivity function, refraction, and contact lenses. He has published over 170 papers and made numerous invited presentations. He is regarded as having “provided important contributions to literature on such topics as contract sensitivity and low vision”. He is a current Fellow and a Diplomate in Low Vision of the American Academy of Optometry.

Dr. Woo has received many awards and accolades including the William Feinbloom Award and the Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions to Optometry from the American Academy of Optometry, was a recipient of one of the University of Waterloo’s 50th Anniversary Awards in 2007 and was recognized by Indiana University with the Distinguished Asian Pacific American Alumni Award in 2015.