

## **OPTOMETRIC CARE WITHIN THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY**

**Stanley Hatch      John Whitener**  
**W. Howard McAlister      Sandra Block**

The contents of this disk are the chapters finished thus far for the text “Optometric Care within the Public Health Community”. This text was undertaken for optometry students and the health care professions. A broad based public health resource dedicated to vision care or optometry has not been written since the second edition of “Public Health and Community Optometry” by Robert Newcomb and Edwin Marshall in 1990. Recognizing the need for a new text, this project began in October 2008 following discussion at the American Academy of Optometry Public Health and Environmental Vision Section meeting in Anaheim, California.

In the spirit of most public health work, we decided the text should be available to all without charge, and we are very grateful to all the authors who contributed of their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. We selected to publish as an ebook, available free through a web site, disc, or library.

A year and a half is a short time to complete any text book, much less one with five sections, 39 chapters, four editors, and, at last count, 51 invited authors. Through the process, some authors declined the invitation, and we searched for others. We did not succeed in obtaining an author for every chapter we had hoped, so some sections or chapters, such as World Optometry, U.S. Federal Agencies/Armed Forces/Veterans Administration, Optometric Specialization, State Policy and Scope of Practice, and others have been omitted for now are in process and will hopefully be included in a second volume. The advantage of an ebook is that as new authors and ideas are recruited, the chapters can be added without the need for a new printing. Existing chapters can be updated, and important information disseminated. The disadvantage is it becomes a never ending project, but perhaps there will be new editors and authors to move in as existing ones move on.

Therefore, in February 2010, we are releasing our first “printing”. The table of contents and esteemed authors are on the next page. Each section chapters are in alphabetical order. An asterisk suggests chapters to be read first for students just beginning their optometric or public health studies. We again extend our greatest appreciation to the authors who enthusiastically embraced the unique style we requested- a style which we hope is interesting (case problems and clinical pearls), practice based (public health principles and real world examples), and scientifically broad (evidence based literature reviews by experts in the fields). The style is enhanced for contemporary health professions education. Chapters are defined in scope with specific learning objectives similar to continuing education courses and summarized with take home conclusions. The optometric and public health professions

are life long learning endeavors. The principles provided in our text give us all the tools for learning in a long life.

*Stanley Hatch, OD, MPH, FAAO* *Cadyville, NY*

*John Whitener, OD, MPH, FAAO* *Asheville, NC*

*W. Howard McAlister, OD, MA, MPH, FAAO* *St. Louis, MO*

*Sandra Block, OD, M.Ed., FAAO* *Chicago, IL*

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