

COS Humanitarian Service Award

The **COS Humanitarian Service Award**, first to be presented in 2026, recognizes Society members for exemplary humanitarian efforts. The recipient will have demonstrated significant contributions to improving the quality of human life, including charitable activities, care for marginalized communities, and community service performed above and beyond the typical duties of an ophthalmologist.

The award will be presented during the **Current Concepts of the COS Annual Meeting and Exhibition**, with one recipient selected per year. The nomination submission portal for the 2026 award will be open **August 29, 2025, to October 10, 2025**.

Eligibility:

The nominee must be a member in good standing of the Canadian Ophthalmological Society who has demonstrated a sustained pattern of humanitarian service in Canada or abroad over several years. Qualifying service may include, but is not limited to:

- Free care for marginalized communities.
- Service in inner-city, rural, or international locations serving disadvantaged populations.
- Care for underprivileged individuals.
- Care provided in high-risk settings.

Selection of recipients is based on factors such as intensity, continuity, and length of service; the need for the service; personal sacrifice of the ophthalmologist; and recommendations from the nominating organization or other references. Only one award may be given to an individual during their lifetime. Self-nomination is not permitted.

How to Nominate:

Nominations for the 2026 award will be accepted from **August 29, 2025, to October 10, 2025**, via the online submission portal.

Supplemental documents that may be uploaded with the nomination form include:

- **Required:** One letter of recommendation (maximum two pages, PDF format).
- **Required:** One-page biographical sketch highlighting the nominee's contributions in humanitarian service (PDF format).
- **Optional:** News articles or other supporting documents demonstrating the nominee's efforts (PDF format).

Questions? Contact Kate Cooke at kcooke@cos-sco.ca or Elisabeth Fowler at efowler@cos-sco.ca.