

## The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation, Florence (Italy), 8-12 September 2025



It is with great pleasure that we announce **Vision 2025**, the 15th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR), which will take place in **Florence on 8-12 September 2025**.

We believe that Italy and in particular Florence, in many international rankings considered as among the most beautiful cities in the world, can be the perfect venue for this important meeting that will be able to combine scientific innovation with traditionally unparalleled hospitality and climatic gentleness.

Florence is easily reachable by the international Florence airport and by the main railway station of Santa Maria Novella, located five minutes away on foot from the entrance of the Congress venue, Palazzo dei Congressi. The venue will allow full access to speakers and visitors with visual and mobility impairments by trained staff supporting.

The conference is organized as an interdisciplinary hub for the exchange of scientific advances, innovations and ideas among different professional components in order to address and contain the implications of vision impairment.



The conference is organized by three of the main Italian scientific entities involved in the study of low vision: the Low Vision Academy, PRISMA (Professionisti Riabilitazione Ipovisione e Studio Malattie Associate), and the National Centre of Services and Research for the Prevention of Blindness and Rehabilitation of Visually Impaired.

The conference is sponsored by various entities, including the University of Florence, the Azienda Ospedaliera Meyer of Florence, IAPB Italia onlus, the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the European Society for Research and Rehabilitation of Low Vision (ESLRR), the Lions International Club, the Ophthalmology Clinic of the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, the University La Sapienza in Rome, the University of Verona, the Department of Neuroscience, Biomedicine and Movement, the National Research Centre Institute of Optics (CNR INO), and the Social Cooperative Yeah for the study of accessibility for the visually impaired. The conference is also supported by the Municipality of Florence, the Chamber of Commerce of Florence, and the Ministry of Tourism of the Region of Tuscany.

The aim of the conference is to study ways to minimize the impact of visual impairment on daily independence. Low vision rehabilitation aims to improve the patient's residual visual abilities, maintain them over time, and facilitate perception and living in the environment. The use of the traditional or innovative aids, appropriate training, social and psychological support are just some of the strategies used to achieve this goal. The conference also aims to assess the possibility of improving the clinical condition of the visually impaired within the visual process, for example, by improving fixation stability, retina-brain cortex connections, or awakening silent neuro-retinal cells. A particular attention will be given to subjects in the evolutionary age.

Space will be given to sharing experiences from different Countries and a focus will be dedicated to training in order to ensure accessibility to services for vision rehabilitation in all Countries of the World.

During the conference, there will be a plenary session in the morning and one in the afternoon, with the main topics introduced by a keynote lecture. Before and after each plenary session, countless topics will be explored in 6 parallel lecture halls, with up to 24 different topics. Topics will include cell therapy, diagnostics and gene therapy, the use of artificial intelligence, strategies for proper visual rehabilitation, and strategies to compensate for vision loss. In addition, there will be extra-congress visits to the Carlo Monti Visually Impaired Centre, the Guide Dog School in Scandicci, the Uffizi Gallery, and the Braille Printworks. Finally, the "Dark on the Road" route will be available to encourage greater knowledge and understanding of visual impairment through an immersive experience.

We hope to meet you all in Florence in 2025, save the date!

