

## The status of optometry in Italy

Recchioni, Alberto

DOI:

[10.5384/sjovs.v15i1.155](https://doi.org/10.5384/sjovs.v15i1.155)

License:

Creative Commons: Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

*Document Version*

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

*Citation for published version (Harvard):*

Recchioni, A 2022, 'The status of optometry in Italy', *Scandinavian Journal of Optometry and Visual Science*, vol. 15, no. 1. <https://doi.org/10.5384/sjovs.v15i1.155>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

### General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

### Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact [UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk](mailto:UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk) providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.

## Optometry status in Italy: current views

Following a previous Editorial published in *Scandinavian Journal of Optometry and Visual Science* in July 2020 where the Italian Optometric Society (SOPTI) and The Norwegian Association of Optometry (NOF) decided to join to support SJOVS to further and faster development of the field of optometry in Europe, we asked to Anto Rossetti, O.D., teacher at Istituto Statale of Pordenone and Associate Professor at the University of Padua to share the current views of the status of Italian Optometry:

*“In Italy, both opticians and optometrists are classified by the National Institute of Statistics (Istat) as “health technical professions” where the latter (always also licensed opticians) may be considered “specialised opticians” that offer all services opticians can offer and some additional ones. While opticians are basically regulated by an old law (dated 1928) that qualifies them to work independently with “simple defects of myopia and presbyopia”, optometrists are not, but their practice is legal and generally accepted. They must have completed an education in optometry to become qualified optometrists (e.g., previously a regional qualification similar to level EQF 5 [European Qualifications Framework], or currently through a university program to EQF 6). Currently, no “single practice act” exists for opticians and optometrists, instead a complex of acts (both specific and general) defines the professional practice. An inter-association committee (TiOpto) has recently summarised (2021) typical services delivered by optometrists in addition to the well-established ones of supplying spectacles, contact lenses, and optical devices, and educating wearers and users, such as measurement of any refractive error, custom-made contact lenses, visual training, some examinations of ocular health (like non-contact tonometry, visual field testing, etc). As a system, opticians and optometrists can provide a wide range of ser-*

*vices, even if some improvement in the laws remains necessary.”*

During the last annual National Conference of the Italian Optometric Association (SOPTI) (Bologna, 29–30 May 2022) entitled *“Technical procedures for good clinical practice in optometry”*, the message sounded very clear: only by considering interdisciplinarity and working together with other eye care professionals and by applying good evidence-based clinical practice, can Italian optometry grow and progress further in Europe. The abstracts from the accepted posters are presented in this issue of SJOVS.

In this issue you can read about the requirement for further research to understand and tackle the problem of dry eye in Sweden. Using an online survey, Roth *et. al.* provide insight into the problem of dry eye symptoms in Sweden. The findings of the study confirm that dry eye symptoms are common among the Swedish population.

Additionally, we announce SJOVS’ second special topic. We encourage optometrists, researchers, and related professionals to submit their work to be considered for publication in standard issues of SJOVS over a two-year period. If accepted, manuscripts will be included in the online collection of the given special topic. The second special topic is going to be: OCT imaging, in particular automatic segmentation of choroidal thickness and ocular blood flow measurements in both healthy and diseased eyes. The special topic editorial on optical coherence tomography is authored by Scientific Advisory Board member and guest editor Prof. Christine Wildsoet and editorial board member Karthikeyan Baskaran.

On behalf of SJOVS, we wish you all a safe and peaceful summer.

Editorial Board Member Alberto Recchioni  
Editor-in-Chief Rigmor C. Baraas

### SJOVS Editorial board

Karthikeyan Baskaran, Alberto Recchioni,  
and Helle K. Falkenberg  
Editorial board members

Fabrizio Zeri  
Associate editor

Rigmor Baraas  
Editor-in-chief

Anneli Demberg  
Copyeditor

Antonio Filipe Macedo  
Associate editor

Stuart Gilson  
Typesetting

