



Mike Hodin

Chief Executive Officer
Global Coalition on Aging

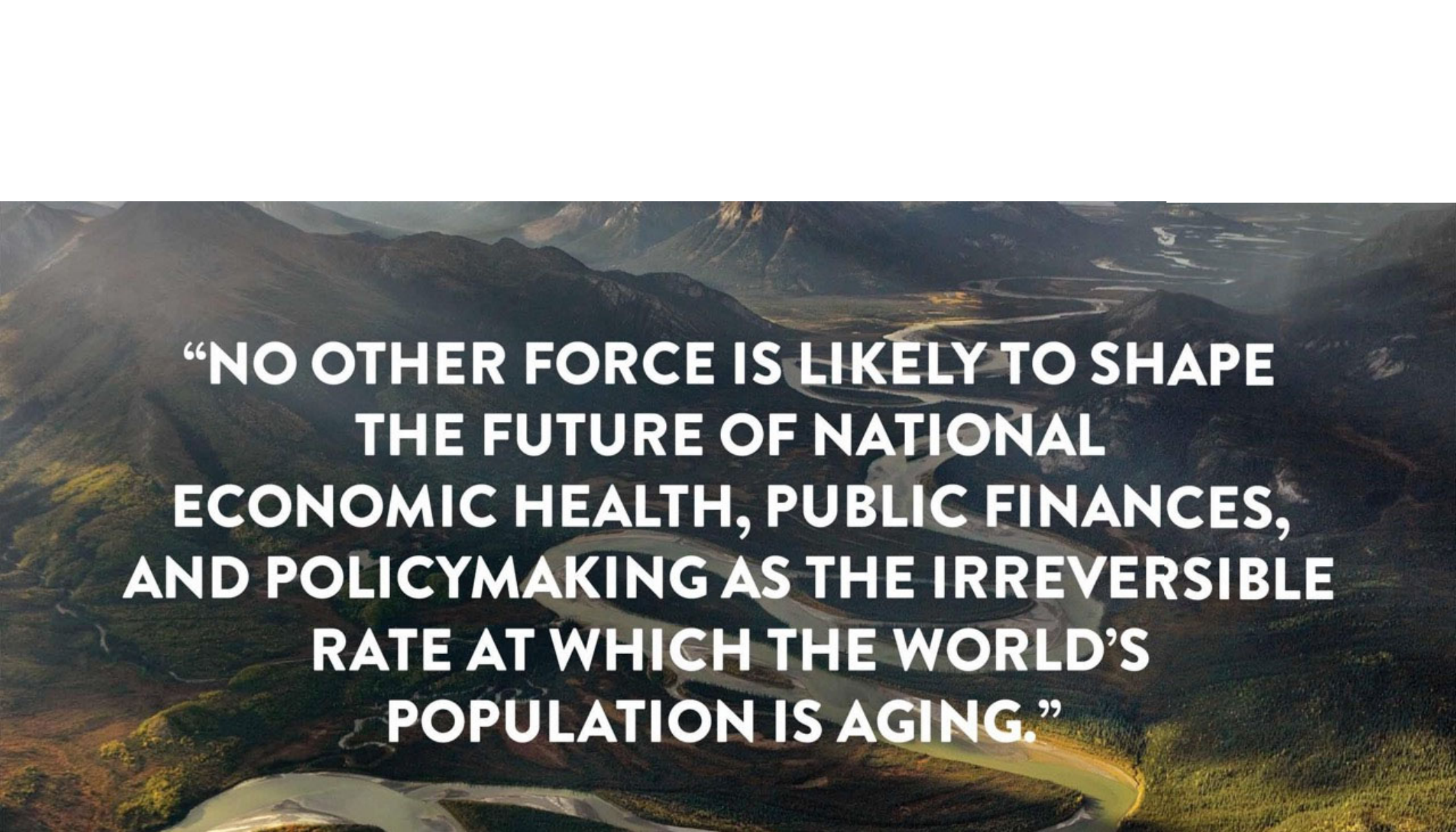
**A Life Course of Healthy Vision:
A Critical Priority for the 21st
Century**



 **Prevent
Blindness®**
Bringing Americans to Eye Care

Focus on Eye Health
National Summit

A Lifetime of Vision
July 17, 2019 | National Press Club | Washington D.C.

An aerial photograph of a winding river flowing through a mountain valley. The river is light-colored and meanders through a lush green valley, surrounded by dark, forested mountains. The sky is clear and blue.

**“NO OTHER FORCE IS LIKELY TO SHAPE
THE FUTURE OF NATIONAL
ECONOMIC HEALTH, PUBLIC FINANCES,
AND POLICYMAKING AS THE IRREVERSIBLE
RATE AT WHICH THE WORLD’S
POPULATION IS AGING.”**

S&P Global

GLOBAL COALITION ON AGING



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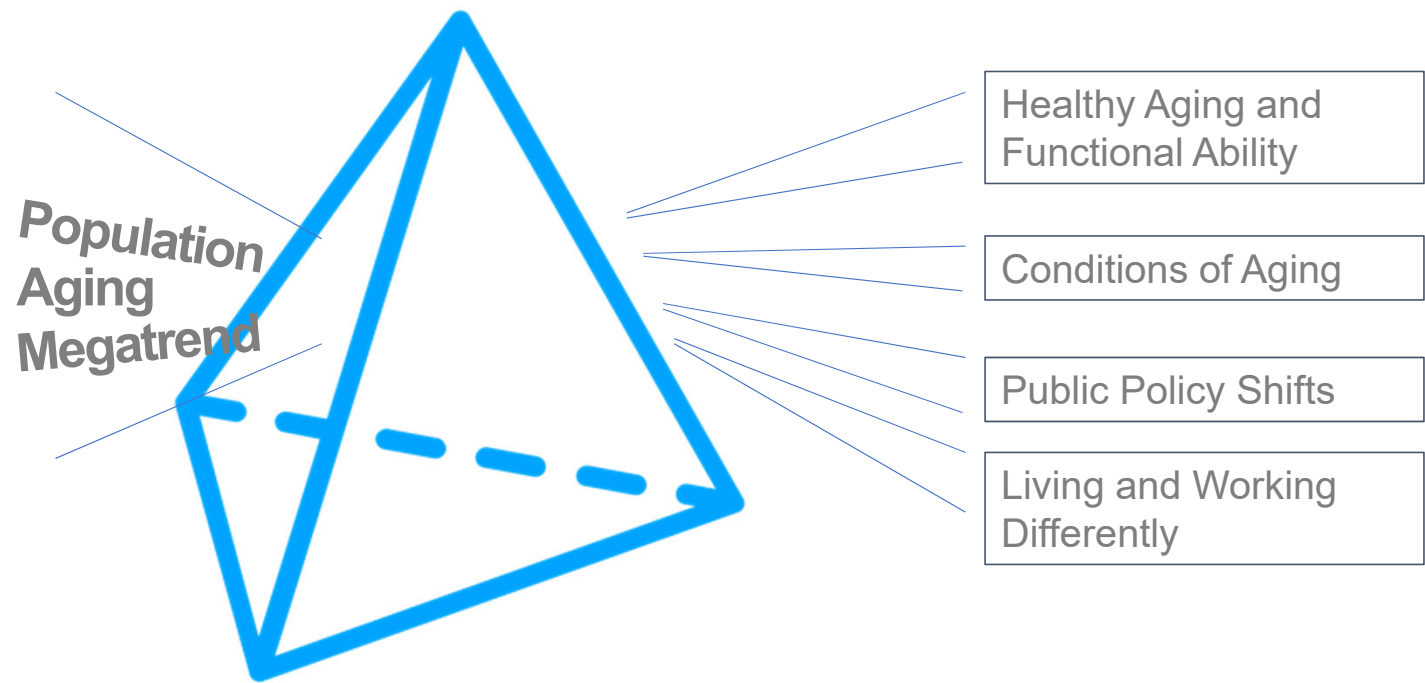


GLOBAL POPULATION OVER 60:

1,000,000,000

Doubling by Mid-Century

Profoundly Reframing Our 21st Century



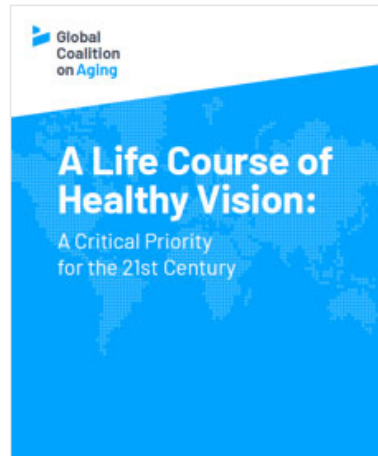
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A LIFE COURSE OF HEALTHY VISION

A Crossroads for Vision Health



Reframing vision loss in older adults

Visual impairment and vision loss are:

- Widespread
- Largely preventable
- Undertreated
- Predicted to skyrocket

Most people value sight over their other senses yet this **fails to translate into action** on an individual or a system level.



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A CROSSROADS FOR VISION HEALTH

Widespread

In 2017, **253 million individuals worldwide** were considered **visually impaired**

81% of those were **age 50 or older**



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Largely Preventable

**80% of visual impairment
and vision loss is avoidable**

A CROSSROADS FOR VISION HEALTH

Undertreated

Americans rank losing their sight among their biggest health fears, but 86% don't visit an eye doctor regularly

In the UK, there are only 0.38 ophthalmologists per 10,000 inhabitants

In the US, 44% of older adults do not believe they even have a need for eye care

Nearly 40% of AMD patients in Germany and 60% in the U.S. drop out of treatment after 2 years

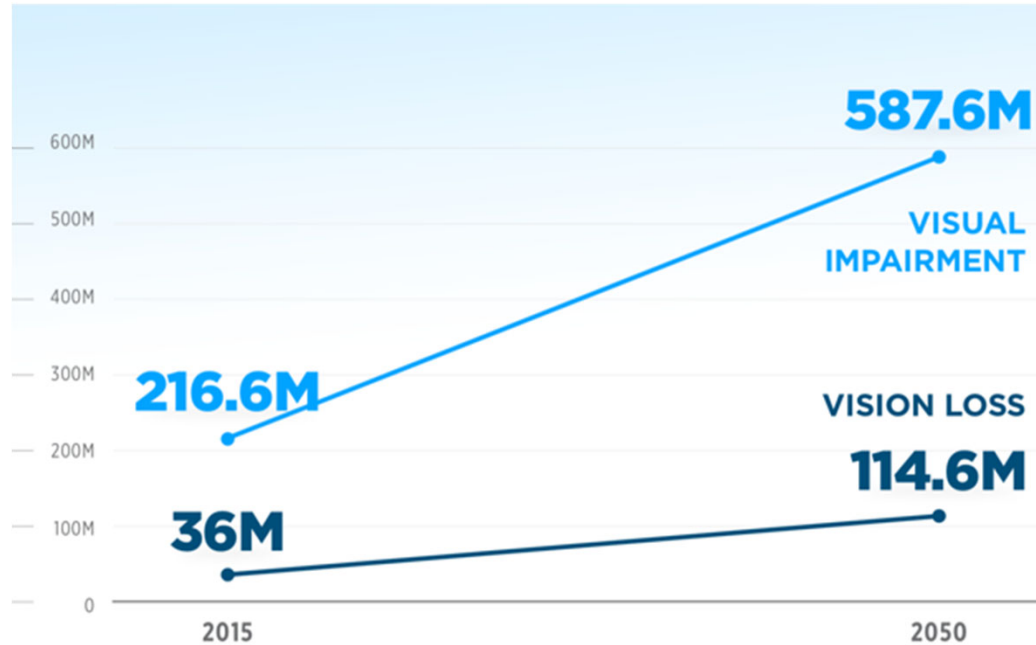


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Predicted to Skyrocket



With **1 billion** over 60 and **2 billion** by midcentury, aging will dramatically increase the number of people living with visual impairment.



A LIFE COURSE OF HEALTHY VISION

Costs of Poor Eye Health

\$3 trillion

estimated **direct**
healthcare costs

Indirect costs of visual
impairment are
projected to rise from
\$652 billion in 2010 to
\$760 billion by 2020

\$168
billion in
lost productivity
due to global vision
loss per year

\$246 billion estimated
informal care costs due to visual
impairment per year



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Vision Loss and Impairment Negatively Impact Quality of Life

9.5X

**GREATER RISK
OF ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE**



2.4X

**GREATER RISK
OF FALLS**



200%

**INCREASE
IN DEPRESSION**



CAREGIVER INVESTMENT

25%

**OF CAREGIVERS
MISS WORK TO SUPPORT
EYE TREATMENTS**



\$47K

**PER YEAR SPENT
ON CARING FOR THOSE
WITH VISION LOSS**



Barriers to a Priority For Eye Health

Ageism



The **myth** that vision loss is a normal part of aging leads to decreased care

Health System



Segregated care results in barriers to prevention and early intervention

Treatment



Treatment for eye disorders is **resource-intensive**, which disincentivizes care

Capacity



A **shortage of specialists** and an **overburdened workload** leads to low access

Policy



Policies **prevent easy access**

- ▶ In the US vision loss care is **not reimbursed** along with chronic diseases
- ▶ “Step therapy” in the US **forces patients to fail** on less expensive drugs before accessing preferred drugs



Calls to Action



Increase **accessibly and capacity of care**



Develop **funding and reimbursement mechanisms** that incentivize access to care and person-centered treatment



Invest in **research** to improve treatment and community-level public health interventions



Launch an **education campaign** to change the narrative and increase literacy around eye health



Cultivate a **workplace** that supports vision health and adopts age-friendly principles





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