

Dr. Peter Wilcox of Hayes, Virginia was one of the speakers at the annual meeting and educational conference of the Orthokeratology Academy of America (OAA) on April 4-7th in Chicago, IL, USA. Dr. Wilcox personally presented 4 different lectures and directly or indirectly shared the podium for 12 hours during the 4 day Symposium. International speakers presented on a variety of topics including: the myopic epidemic and its control, custom and unique orthoK lens designs and specialty lens designs to help the partially sighted. Over 400 doctors attended from twenty three countries including the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany, France, England, Scotland, Jordan, Thailand, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, China, Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Singapore, Italy, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Spain.

The OAA is part of the International Academy of Orthokeratology (IAO) which is a worldwide organization of orthokeratologists who provide a non-surgical alternative for the correction of nearsightedness, astigmatism, hyperopia and presbyopia. The Orthokeratology Academy of America mission is to establish policy and to develop and update protocols and education for doctors performing corneal reshaping (orthokeratology).

Myopia (nearsightedness) is a progressive disease affecting 1.6 billion children and adults worldwide, with expectations that the number will hit 2.5 billion by 2020. Research now shows that orthokeratology can slow the elongation of the eye which contributes to progressive nearsightedness in children and young adults. 20/20 vision can be restored in as little as one day to one month depending on severity. The health implications of progressive myopia can place children at risk for eye diseases like retinal detachments and glaucoma as they reach adulthood.

Orthokeratology involves the fitting of a specialized contact lens designed to reshape the cornea during sleep much like braces realigning the teeth. In addition, Ortho-K is a less expensive and safer alternative to surgical vision correction. For more information and testimonials on this process see [www.wilcoxeye.com](http://www.wilcoxeye.com)