



## **Areej Okasheh-Otoom**

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Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences  
Jordan University of Science & Technology  
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### **Education:**

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<b>PhD</b>	Low vision and vision rehabilitation (Thesis titled: The prescribing and use of pocket and portable electronic low vision aids), UK.	April, 2016
<b>Msc.</b>	Optometry, the University of New South Wales, Australia	September, 2009
<b>BSc. (Hons)</b>	Optometry, Jordan University of Science & Technology, Jordan.	June, 2005

### **Professional experience:**

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<b>Assistant professor and Faculty member</b>	Optometry Department, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.	2016- till
<b>Optometry clinics demonstrator and teaching assistant</b>	Optometry School, Cardiff University, UK.	2013-2014
<b>Full-time lecturer</b>	Optometry Department, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.	2009-2012
<b>Clinical supervisor</b>	Optometry clinics of Jordan University of Science and Technology, Princess Basma Hospital, Irbid- Jordan.	2005-2008
<b>Teaching assistant</b>	Optometry Department, Jordan University of Science and Technology, Jordan.	2005-2008

## **Professional committees and engagement:**

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### External Committees:

- Development of the system of practice of visual examination professions, equipping eyeglasses and installing lenses of all kinds committee. Jordanian Ministry of Health, 2018-till (Member)
- Optometry practices registration and licensing committee. Jordanian Ministry of Health, 2018 - till. (Member)
- Optometry professions (Refraction, Spectacles dispensing, and Contact lenses fitting) licensing exams board. Jordanian Ministry of Health, 2018- till (Member)
- University competency exams board. Accreditation and quality assurance commission for higher education institutes, 2018-2019 (Member)
- Committee for accreditation of the optometry program at Al-Ahliyya Amman University. Accreditation and quality assurance commission for higher education institutes, 2019 (Member)
- Cornea to Cortex research group. Cardiff, UK (2012-2013)

### Internal Committees:

- Committee of disable students' affairs. Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2022-till (Member)
- Committee of community public health services. AMS/ Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2018, and 2022-till (Member)
- University library committee. AMS/ Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019, and 2020 (Member)
- Scientific research committee. AMS/ Jordan University of Science and Technology, 2019, and 2020 (Member)
- Modifying and Developing the optometry program academic planner. AMS/ Jordan University of Science and Technology 2022 (Member)

## **Teaching:**

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Course coordinator and taught (at the optometry department, Jordan University of Science and Technology) all of the following courses:

- Community Eye Care
- Research Project
- Low Vision and Vision Rehabilitation
- Geriatric Optometry
- Pediatric Optometry
- Neuro-Optometry
- Clinical Training
- Case Studies
- Ocular Pharmacology
- Visual Perception
- Introduction to Optometry
- Optometric Examinations (2 and 3)

- Optometric Theory and Methods
- Binocular Vision (2)
- Binocular Vision Anomalies and Orthoptics
- Patients Group Meetings and Counseling
- Ocular Motility and Normal Binocular Vision
- Ocular Disease (1 and 2)
- Special Testing Techniques and Instruments
- Corneal Physiology and Contact Lenses

### **Conferences:**

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- JOPAL. Amman-Jordan (Speaker)
- MEACO. Amman-Jordan, 2018 (Scientific committee member, and Speaker)
- JOVISION. Amman-Jordan, 2018 (Organizer, Scientific committee member, and Speaker)
- JOVISION. Amman-Jordan, 2017 (Organizer, Scientific committee member, and Speaker)
- First Optometry Conference of JUST (Organizer, Scientific committee member, and Speaker)
- AAO. Seattle-USA, 2014 (Speaker)
- OPTOM Poster Day. Cardiff-UK, 2014 (Speaker)
- BCOVS. Bradford-UK, 2012 (Speaker)
- HOAC. Chester-UK, 2012 (Speaker)

### **Community Services engagement and activities:**

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- Administrative board at Al-Dhia'a Association for education and rehabilitation of visually impaired children. Jordan, 2018-till. (Member).
- Executive committee at Al-Dhia'a Association for education and rehabilitation of visually impaired children. Jordan, 2019-till. (Member)
- Spectacles provision program for uncorrected refractive error in outreach and rural communities in Jordan. 2017-till
- Organized and participated in several screening programs and free medical days across Jordan in cooperation with private sector, optometry syndicate, and NGOs.

### **Awards:**

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- Full-Scholarship from JUST towards PHD degree, 2012-2015.
- Full-Scholarship from JUST towards master degree, 2008-2009.
- Three honors from JUST on academic performance (2003, 2004 &2005).

### **Research:**

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I dvocate that all people have the right to sight and to perceive high quality eye care services. I am interested in improving the low vision services in Jordan and to help visually impaired get access to low vision aids (particularly electronic low vision aids for school age children) to enable them to use the useful residual of their visual functions. In addition, I am interested in expanding the role of optometrist in Jordan to provide all the required services by WCO categories or competencies, and to reflect that in practice. Also, interested in evaluating low vision services, demographics of low vision patients, prescribing and use of low vision aids, reading performance assessment among

visually impaired, and the compatibility of reported and actual parameters of low vision aids. Uncorrected refractive error and presbyopia is another research interest of mine.

Research (publications, projects accepted for publication, or pending projects):

- The effectiveness of portable electronic low vision aids.
- Reading performance with electronic low vision aids among school age children in Northern Jordan.
- Outcomes of multidisciplinary vision rehabilitation program.
- Barriers to access low vision service in Jordan.
- The profile of children attending a multidisciplinary low vision service.
- The scope of optometry practice in Jordan, *Journal Optometry and Vision Science*; 99:1 (2022)
- Okashah. The use and prescribing of pocket and portable electronic low vision aids for people with visual impairment. 2016. ORCA, UK
- Okashah et al., Portable electronic low vision aids: Do the manufacturers provide an accurate description? *Ophthalmic & Physiological Optics* 33 (2013)
- Barriers to access eye care services among AMD patients in Australia.

### **Professional Qualifications/ Courses/ Workshops:**

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- Capacity development for e-learning development. The academic development center- JUST. Jordan, 2022
- Exams and evaluation. The academic development center-JUST. Jordan, 2020
- Recognition as a teacher in higher education. UK, 2014
- Assessing students learning in the sciences. UK, 2014
- Effective researcher. UK, 2014
- Seven secrets of highly successful researcher. UK, 2014
- Imposter syndrome: Why successful people often feel like frauds. UK, 2014
- Presenting research in 3 minutes. UK, 2014
- Turbocharge your writing. UK, 2014
- Working with long documents, Microsoft. UK, 2013
- SPSS (advanced). UK, 2013
- Presentation skills. UK, 2012
- Understanding the funding application peer review process. UK, 2011
- Writing and publishing your research. UK, 2012
- R- package for statistical analysis. UK, 2012
- Endnote. UK, 2012
- Exploring career options beyond academia. UK, 2012
- "Hints for writing a funding proposal" and "proposal evaluation". The academic development center-JUST, Jordan, 2010
- Behavioral Optometry module with Prof. Howell, Melbourne-Victoria, 2009
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, at St. John Ambulance. Australia, 2008
- "Low Vision & Rehabilitation" Training Program. Abdullah Bin Um- Maktoom School for Blind. Jordan, 2007
- The vision & rehabilitation workshop, at King Hussein Cancer Centre. Jordan, 2007

### **Referees:**

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will be provided upon request.