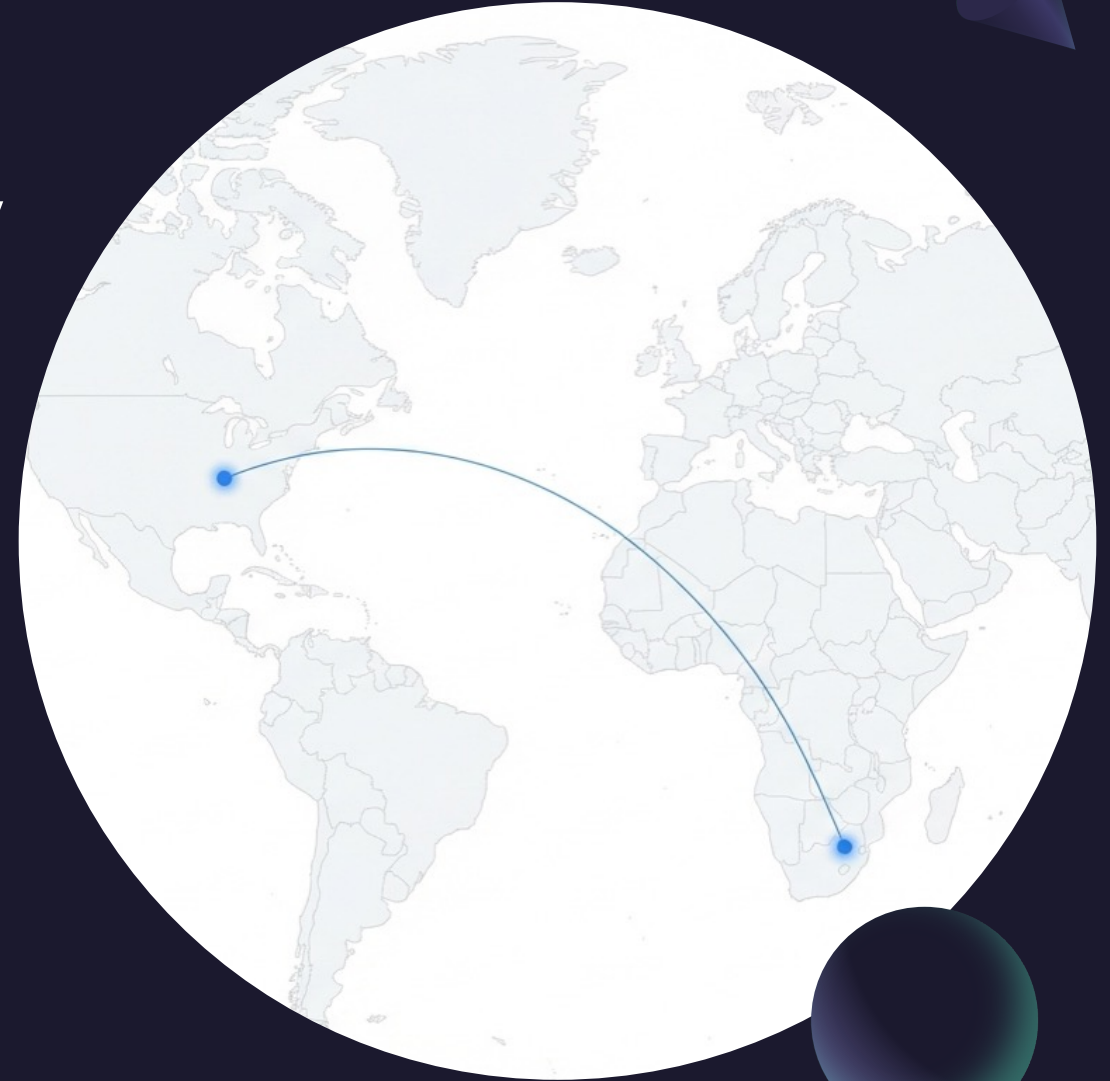


# Advancing Low Vision Rehabilitation Through International & Interdisciplinary Collaboration

*Training outcomes from a multidisciplinary  
conference in South Africa*

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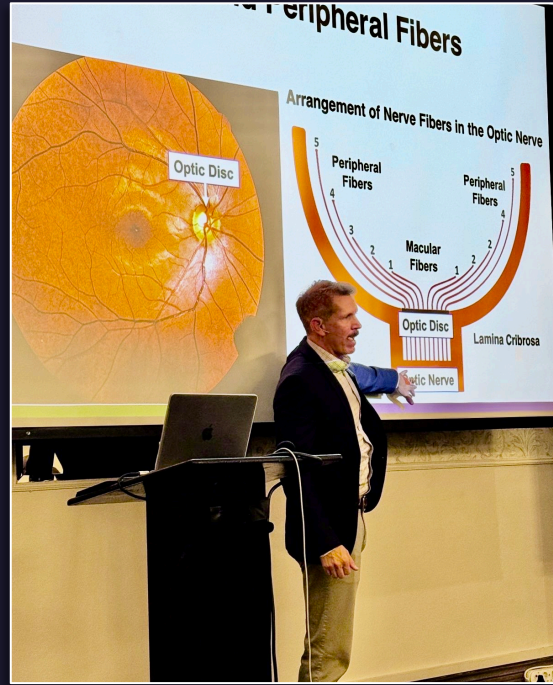


# Why This Matters

- Limited access to low vision rehabilitation services in many regions
- Workforce development requires interdisciplinary training and shared clinical language
- Goal: scalable training that improves service delivery and strengthens partnerships

*Disclosure: No financial disclosures.*



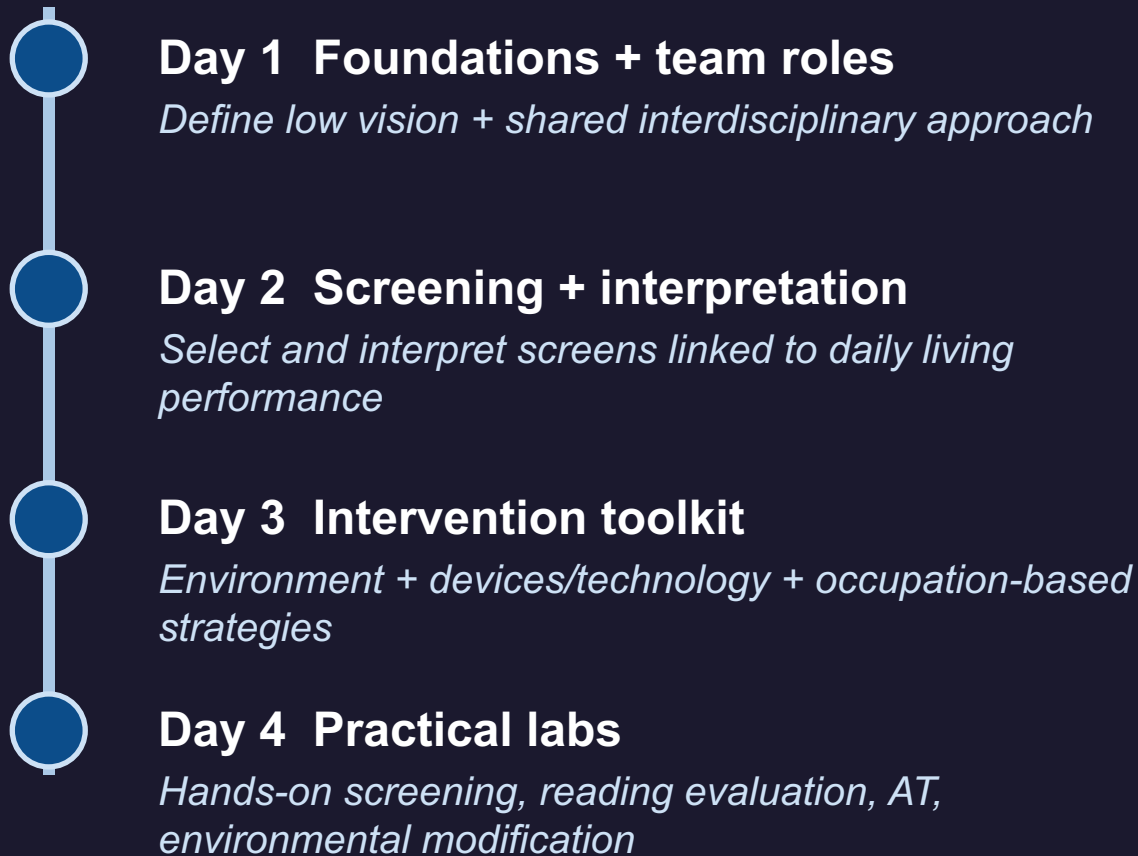


# What We Did

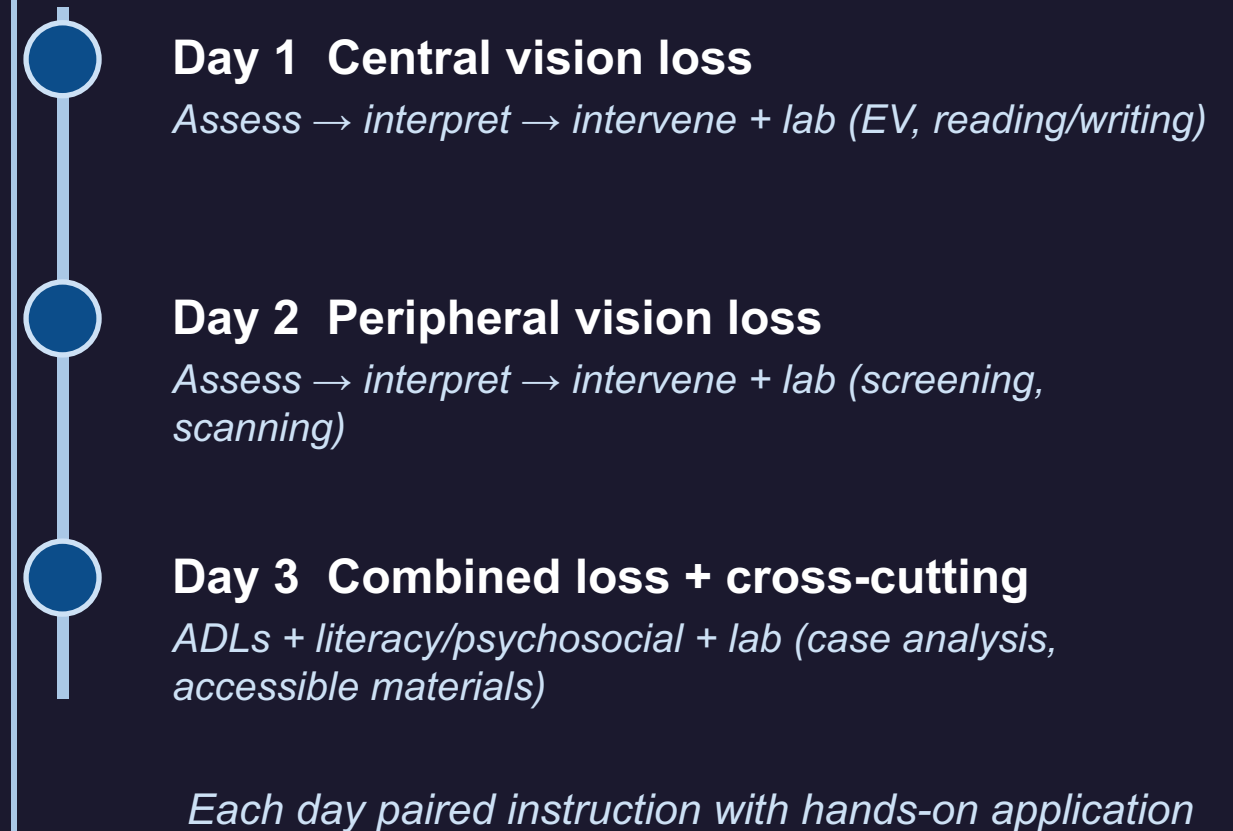
- Multidisciplinary training conferences in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Led by experienced occupational therapists from the United States
- Interactive format: lectures + hands-on labs + collaborative discussion
- Attendance: 60+ professionals across multiple countries

# Training Design

## 2024: 4-Day Progression



## 2025: 3-Day Themed Model



# What We Taught

Four core content areas used across didactic sessions and hands-on labs

## 1) Screen & Assess

- Central and peripheral field screening tools
- Reading & handwriting screens
- Neuro & cognitive screens
- Functional vision evaluation for daily living

## 2) Interpret for daily living

Translate findings to barriers in occupational performance and priorities across home, work, learning, mobility, and participation.

## 3) Intervention

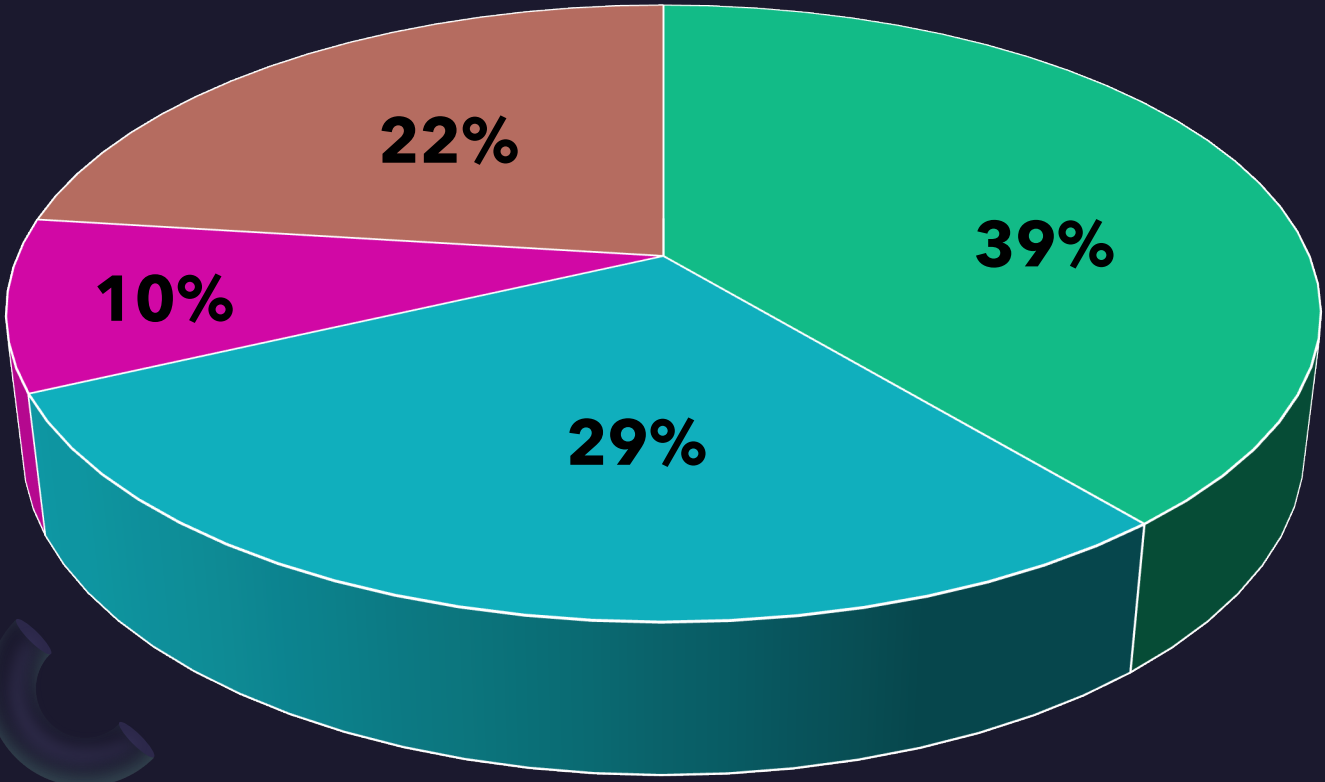
Adaptive technology, environmental modification, compensatory strategies (e.g., eccentric viewing, scanning training), and referral to other appropriate providers.

## 4) Apply in real contexts

Occupation-based problem solving: ADLs/IADLs, mobility, reading/writing, accessible materials, psychosocial factors, and case-based application.

# Who Attended

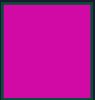
Professions in Attendance



**Occupational Therapy**



**Optometry**



**Orientation & Mobility**



**Other Professions**

nursing, physiotherapy, social work, education, and others

# How We Evaluated Outcomes

- Post-session daily surveys (1–5 rating scale) + open-ended comments
- Items: met expectations, quality of presentations, quality of presenters
- Comments captured what worked and what to improve



# Outcomes from 2024

**Met expectations**

**4.80 / 5 (mean)**

**81% rated 5/5**

**Presentations**

**4.87 / 5 (mean)**

**88% rated 5/5**

**Presenters**

**4.87 / 5 (mean)**

**88% rated 5/5**

*Across items, ~99% of ratings were  $\geq 4/5$ .*



# Outcomes from 2025

**Met expectations**

**4.90 / 5 (mean)**

**90% rated 5/5**

**Presentations**

**4.93 / 5 (mean)**

**93% rated 5/5**

**Presenters**


**4.90 / 5 (mean)**

**90% rated 5/5**



# What Participants Want Us to Improve

Common themes from open-ended feedback:

- More time and clearer structure for hands-on practical stations
  - Make role clarity explicit: what OT does vs optometry and how teams share decisions
  - Support networking and collaboration across disciplines (visibility of who is in the room)
- 

# Practical Implications

## Practice implications

- Structured interdisciplinary training can be a scalable workforce strategy
- Shared screening, interpretation, and intervention language supports co-management

## Future directions

- Expand profession-specific workshops while keeping interdisciplinary labs
- Extend duration when feasible
- 2026 goal: transition more teaching to local and regional experts from South Africa and other non-US contexts

# Questions?

## Contact Information

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