prevented or is yet to be addressed. As the global population ages and the prevalence of visual impairment increases, inequities in eye care and the downstream health and aging consequences of vision loss will become magnified. This session will: (1) provide key information regarding the burden of eye disease and visual impairment among older adults worldwide; (2) outline a framework created to conceptualize the aging and long-term health implications of vision loss, and (3) discuss the global public health challenges to eye care and to maximizing health for older adults with visual impairments.

UPDATES ON HEARING FROM THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE STUDY
Lydia Haile,1 Aislyn Orji,2 Paul Briant,2 Jaimie Adelson,1 Adrian Davis,3 and Theo Vos,2 1. University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States, 2. Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Seattle, Washington, United States, 3. Imperial College London, London, England, United Kingdom

Hearing loss is estimated annually as part of the Global Burden of Disease study. In 2019, input data came from 308 surveys in 77 countries. Hearing loss was measured by taking the pure-tone average of audiometric thresholds ranging from 0.5–4 kHz. We ran severity-specific prevalence models, adjusting the severity for hearing aid use down one level, and separately estimating hearing loss due to meningitis, otitis media, congenital abnormalities, and age-related and other factors. In 2019, 1.5 billion (95% UI=1.5–1.6) people experienced hearing loss, primarily due to age and other factors. Of those with hearing loss, 74% (UI=71–77%) had mild hearing loss and 7% (UI=6–9%) used hearing aids. Globally, age-related hearing loss was the third-ranked cause of Years Lived with Disability due to vision loss occurred in people with cataract and uncorrected refractive error. Vision loss numbers will continue to increase due to aging populations. Main causes of vision loss are correctable and, therefore, should be major targets of interventions.

SESSION 7500 (SYMPOSIUM)

POLICY SERIES: ILLUMINATING THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EXPERIENCED EMPLOYEES: CURRENT RESEARCH AND POLICY DIRECTIONS
Chair: Brian Kaskie

Population aging, resulting from the combination of longer life expectancy and lower birthrates, has widespread implications for both employees and employers across the United States. By 2040, age 55-plus workers are projected to account for more than 25 percent of America’s workforce. Yet, even though we have gained a better understanding of the needs and preferences of aging workers, we know far less about the organizations which employ them. This symposium presents the latest research concerning: age discrimination in the workplace, intergenerational workplace arrangements, work ability and performance, and the increasingly varied pathways older persons are taking from work to retirement. We also examine how employers have addressed these issues, and consider why one type of employer may be more likely to adopt and implement a policy or program supporting older workers. Panelists then discuss policy alternatives that may increase and expand current employer efforts to support experienced employees.
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