

Prof. Serge Resnikoff, MD, PhD

Prof. Resnikoff is an international expert in global ophthalmology, eye health and public health. He is a visiting professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and he teaches at universities in Geneva, Switzerland and Paris, France. He is also the President of Thea Foundation, the President of International Health and Development and the President and Chair of *Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité* (OPC), an NGO active in prevention of blindness in francophone Africa.

From 2008 to 2010 he served as CEO of Thea, a European pharmaceutical group, active in 65 countries, specialized in the research, development and commercialization of ophthalmology products.

From 2004 to 2008, he coordinated various World Health Organization (WHO) programs aiming to prevent and manage noncommunicable diseases such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory, genetic, ear and eye diseases.

From 1999 until 2004, Prof. Resnikoff led the WHO Program for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness, which aims to make essential eye and ear care available to all. Since joining the WHO in 1995, he has developed public health strategies and contributed to built global partnerships such as Vision 2020, involving governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and private sector groups.

Before joining WHO, Prof. Resnikoff worked for 14 years in developing countries, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa, on assignments from the French government to strengthen local and national capacity in disease prevention and control. These assignments also included epidemiologic, clinical, and operational research, and international program planning, implementation, and evaluation. From 1989 to 1995, he was the director of the Institute of African Tropical Ophthalmology, a WHO Collaborating Center.

Prof. Resnikoff holds a PhD from Paris University, an MD from Bordeaux University, and postgraduate degrees in ophthalmology, tropical medicine, air and space medicine, public health, epidemiology, and biostatistics. He has published over 100 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, authored or co-authored several chapters in medical textbooks, and presented more than 200 invited lectures. He has also received numerous national and international awards for his contributions to research and program implementation. He is an officer in the French national order of the Legion of Honor. In addition, Prof Resnikoff has been involved in a number of international NGOs and foundations such as the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, the International Council of Ophthalmology, the African Eye Foundation, SightFirst, the EVER Foundation and the International Coalition for Trachoma Control.