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## PRESS RELEASE

Dr. William Berke just returned from the annual educational conference of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control (IAOMC), this year held in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Berke is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control (AAOMC) and the International Academy of Myopia and Myopia Control (IAOMC) and has lectured at the international forum more than ten years. Doctor Berke is one of the world's few designers of ortho-k corneal molds and holds four US patents on orthokeratological lens designs and methods of fitting therefor. Speakers presented on a variety of orthoK topics but the myopia epidemic, its impact on public health and new methods for slowing nearsightedness in kids were the top priority. Almost 600 doctors attended representing the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, China, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Costa Rica, Spain, Austria, Viet Nam, Venezuela, South Africa, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, England, Italy and Scotland.

The AAOMC is part of the International Academy of Orthokeratology (IAOMC), a worldwide organization of orthokeratologists who provide a non-surgical alternative for the correction of nearsightedness, astigmatism, hyperopia, presbyopia and myopia control.

Myopia (nearsightedness) is an epidemic disease affecting 1.6 billion children and adults worldwide, with expectations that half the people in the world will be myopic by the year 2050. In the U.S. alone, more than 400,000 new cases of myopia occur every year! Extensive research has proven that ortho-K can slow the progression of nearsightedness reducing the risk of retinal detachment, cataract and glaucoma as well as the social issues associated with wearing thick glasses. The treatment involves fitting a specialized gentle mold designed to reshape the cornea (eye surface) during sleep refocusing/realigning the visual image to see clearly without needing glasses or contact lenses and slow or stop eye growth and hence, myopia. The image focused by glasses and conventional soft lenses may actually contribute to the axial length growth of the eye, increasing nearsightedness. **For more information go to [www.orthokacademy.com](http://www.orthokacademy.com).**