



*Pennsylvania College of Optometry
College of Education and Rehabilitation*

*George S. Osborne College of Audiology
College of Health Sciences*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Satya Verma Elected Chair of National Academy of Practice in Optometry

Elkins Park PA, December 22, 2009 – Satya Verma, O.D., FAAO, was elected chairperson of the National Academy of Practice in Optometry (NAPO) at the organization's annual meeting during the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) meeting in Orlando. Dr. Verma was elected to a two year term.

One of the longest serving board members of the National Council on Aging (NCOA), Dr. Verma serves on the AAO Finance Committee and chairs its Public Policy Committee. He also serves on the Public Health and Programs Committee of Prevent Blindness America, is a member of the Healthy Person 2010 Task Force, and secretary of the Vision Conservation Institute of the Pennsylvania Optometric Association.

Dr. Verma's past offices include the presidency of the Pennsylvania Optometric Association and the faculty organization of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. He has chaired the Professional Relations Committee of the American Optometric Association, the Public Health and Environmental Optometry Section of NCOA, the Diplomate Program for the AAO, and the Vision Care Section of the American Public Health Association and its Awards Committee.

In 2008, Dr. Verma was honored with several awards: the Geneva Mathiason Award from the National Council on Aging; the Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Indian Organizations; Distinguished Service Award from Prevent Blindness America; Carl C. Koch Jr. Medal Award from American Academy of Optometry; Optometrist of the Year Award from both the American Optometric Association and the Pennsylvania Optometric Association, and George Gottschalk Jr. Award from the Pennsylvania Optometric Association. He is one of the four optometrists selected for the Primary Care Health Policy Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Verma is an assistant professor and the assistant director of the externship program at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. NAPO is one of the ten academies of the National Academies of Practice (NAP), a Washington, DC based nonprofit professional organization composed of elected distinguished professionals from each of the ten disciplines.

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The purpose of the National Academies of Practice is to advise public policy makers on health care issues, using NAP's unique interdisciplinary perspective from expert practitioners and scholars from each of its academies. The ten Academies of Practice within NAP are: Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Osteopathic Medicine, Pharmacy, Podiatric Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine.

Salus University was established by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) in July 2008. Now the University's founding college, PCO was founded in Philadelphia, PA in 1919, and has long been recognized as a leader in the education of health care professionals. Salus University has three additional colleges: the George S. Osborne College of Audiology, the College of Education and Rehabilitation, and the College of Health Sciences. For information on the nine accredited degree programs offered by Salus University, please go to: www.salus.edu

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