Cross the Bridge to Lifelong Learning at Academy 2010 San Francisco

“San Francisco itself is art, above all literary art. Every block is a short story, every hill a novel. Every home a poem, every dweller within immortal.”

see ACADEMY, p.2

A n American Academy of Optometry meeting in San Francisco marries the best of two worlds: a meeting of minds committed to lifelong learning in vision care, an extraordinary city of fine arts, fabulous restaurants, and an established medical research community. Academy 2010 San Francisco will take place November 17-20, 2010, at Moscone Center West. Seven hotels will house our attendees throughout the Union Square and Embarcadero areas of the city.

Meeting and hotel registration open May 20. Mark your calendars!

Mark Twain, Oscar Wilde, Rudyard Kipling, and Julia Child are but a few of those who have expressed their love of San Francisco. We anticipate that all attendees of Academy 2010 San Francisco will leave the meeting feeling that they discovered the city William Saroyan describes:

San Francisco Intercontinental - $219/night
Westin Market Street - $199/night
Hyatt Regency San Francisco - $185/night
Hotel Nikko San Francisco - $184/night
Parc 55 San Francisco - $187/night
Grand Hyatt San Francisco - $185/night
Handlery Union Square Hotel – $155/night (student hotel)

The Personal Program Planner (PPP for short) is a tool for creating as detailed an agenda as you need for attending Academy 2010 San Francisco. Check it out on the Academy website: www.aaopt.org!
This year’s **Plenary Session**, “Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice: Policy, Advocacy and Science in Women’s Health” on Wednesday, November 17, will be of interest to men and women alike, whether they are vision scientists, clinical optometrists, patients, or patient advocates. Keeping with the tradition of presenting big ideas in health care that affect our patients and our research, you will hear a dynamic dialogue between two key players in the field of women’s health. Susan Wood, PhD, Associate Professor at George Washington University’s School of Public Health and Health Services, will be joined by Barbara A. Brenner, JD, Executive Director of San Francisco’s Breast Cancer Action.

**These two engaging speakers will discuss:**

- Connections between breast cancer therapeutic treatment and vision
- How tragedies in women’s health care lead to regulation and changes in health care delivery
- The patient advocacy role in research and treatment options
- How researchers and clinicians can affect the research agenda and, ultimately, health care delivery
- Working with government regulatory and health care agencies, such as the FDA and NIH, on comparative effectiveness research
- How to get and use better data on health issues in a primary care setting
- Why cancer news appears on the business page

Join us at this compelling conversation about what you can do to help your patients and further the cause of effective research!

---

The National Ophthalmic Disease Genotyping Network (eyeGENE) was created by the National Eye Institute to stimulate grassroots patient and clinical interest and involvement in genotype-based clinical care. With the combined participation of patients and clinicians, researchers hope to develop a future repository of linked phenotype-genotype data with potential to identify patients for future clinical treatment trials.

This Hirsch Symposium includes leaders in molecular genetics, network development, and gene therapy. The symposium will address a variety of topics including:

- Molecular diagnosis—what is it and why should I care?
- Using molecular diagnosis in practice—how eyeGENE® can help
- A review of future therapeutic options for inherited eye disease

Members of this conversation are Brian Brooks, MD, PhD, former Chair of the eyeGENE® steering committee and Chief of the Unit on Pediatric, Developmental and Genetic Eye Disease at the National Eye Institute; Richard Lewis, MD, MS, Professor, Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor School of Medicine, and Rodney Nowakowski, OD, PhD, FAAO, Interim Dean at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry.

This symposium will equip the practicing clinician with the tools to use the network’s web-based tools to explore its potential, to find or become a referring clinician, and to master the steps to identify, examine and enroll patients.

The Academy’s Research Committee has once again brought together former Ezell Fellows who will report on the latest in their research during “Ezell Fellows Present: Translational Research in Contact Lenses.” This session will follow the AOF Luncheon and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 20, and will feature Kenneth Pyle, OD, MS, FAAO; Charlotte Joslin, OD, FAAO; and Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, OD, MS, FAAO.

The tradition of a joint meeting with the Optometric Glaucoma Society continues Wednesday morning. This year’s speakers include Wallace L.M. Alward, MD, Ted Acott, PhD, and Kuldev Singh, MD, MPH. Their topics include “Glaucoma Genetics for the Clinician,” “Aqueous Outflow,” “Gonioscopy,” and “Cataract Extraction in Glaucoma Patients.”

Dates, times, and topics can be found in your Program Preview. Please contact the office at aaoptom@aaoptom.org if you have not received your copy by June 1, 2010.

Mark your calendar! The Scientific Program Committee invites you to submit your abstracts May 1-31 for the paper and poster sessions.

The Academy’s **Scientific Program** offers scientists, educators, and clinicians the opportunity to exchange the latest information in optometry and vision science. During the paper sessions, researchers present the results of their unpublished research in classic lecture format (15 minutes). Authors summarize their work and field questions from the audience. Poster sessions involve the visual presentation of recent research findings with authors available for discussion. The integration of science and CE in the meeting is what sets the Academy apart from all other optometric meetings.

Have you mastered the “Art of Writing a Scientific Abstract”? At Academy 2010 San Francisco, four members of the Scientific Program Committee will be presenting a professional enrichment workshop designed to deal with thought disorganization, writer’s cramp and the kind of mental inertia associated with scientific writing. This one-hour non-credit course is designed for anyone who is interested in improving their ability to author scientific abstracts and will be targeted to students and new candidates for Fellowship in the Academy. The instructors will use entertaining examples of the good, the bad and the ugly to teach common mistakes and how to avoid them.

As always, Academy 2010 San Francisco is All CE, All the Time®. The entire Academy-developed program is submitted to both COPE and Florida’s CE Broker. This includes the Special Events, Section Symposia, and the Papers and Posters. British attendees, please note that the entire program will also be submitted to CET Optics. **We look forward to seeing you November 17-20, 2010 in vibrant San Francisco, California!**
WK-01 – Vision Therapy in a Primary Care Practice: A Systematic Approach to Optimal Patient Care
David Damari, Marc Taub, Janette Dumas
This workshop gives a groundwork for and provides hands-on experience with practical techniques for offering vision therapy/orthoptics in today’s primary care practice with minimal investment in specialized equipment.
$150

WK-02 – Lacrimal Dilation and Irrigation Workshop
Lorne Yudcovitch, Tracy Doll
Dilation and irrigation is used in the diagnostic evaluation of tear flow dynamics, as well as therapeutically in cases of lacrimal system obstruction or punctal occlusion. Learn fundamentals of lacrimal dilation and irrigation, as well as hands-on instruction and performance of these procedures by all participants.
$100

WK-03 – Rational Procedures for Prescribing Optical Magnifiers for Near Vision
Robert Greer, Ian Bailey
A series of short lectures and discussions followed by practical hands-on exercises covering determination of required equivalent viewing distance (EVD), location of the image in stand magnifiers, determination of enlargement ratio (ER) and selecting stand magnifiers based on their optical characteristics.
$100

WK-04 – Polishing your Gonioscopy Skills
Denise Goodwin, Dina Erickson
A personal instruction and hands-on experience with examination and interpretation of the anterior chamber angle by indirect gonioscopy. This workshop will help attendees achieve procedural competency and accurate interpretation in order to encourage use in a clinical practice.
$100

WK-05 – Getting a Better View of the Fundus
Caroline Pate, Elizabeth Steele
With all of the fundus lenses available today, which one is the best for you? Considering factors such as image quality, magnification and field of view, it is important to understand the benefits of each lens. Become familiar with various options of fundus lenses and their uses in clinical practice.
$100

WK-06 – Hi-Tech Diagnostic Procedures in the Detection and Management of Glaucoma and Retinal Disease Workshop
Sherry Bass, Jerome Sherman
High-tech instruments are an important adjunct in optometric practice. Get hands-on experience in data acquisition and interpretation using several exciting technologies: GDxVCC, Cirrus Spectral Domain OCT, Optos Retinal Exam, HRT3, the Foresee PHP (Preferential Hyperacuity Perimetry) and the Pascal Dynamic Contour Tonometer.
$150

WK-07 – Fitting GP Contact Lenses Beyond the Limbus
Stephen Byrnes, Ronald Watanabe
Learn a variety of corneo-scleral, mini-scleral and scleral GP lens designs. Using either a shared bearing fitting strategy or a corneal vaulting strategy, the participants fit each other with a lens from each category. Lens fits are reviewed in a grand rounds format.
$150

WK-08 – Assistive Technology Workshop for Low Vision Providers
William O’Connell, Michael Fischer
Designed to provide low vision practitioners hands-on experience with the latest hardware and software solutions for low vision and blind patients. Partnering with several low vision technology/accessibility vendors will offer workshop attendees a unique opportunity to work with these solutions.
$100

WK-09 – In-Office Laboratory Procedures for the Optometrist
Elizabeth Steele, Caroline Pate, Keshta Elder
The inherent relationship between ocular and systemic health requires that optometrists be familiar with diagnostic laboratory testing. Get hands-on experience with CLIA-waived laboratory procedures including ERS, blood glucose, A1c, urinalysis, RPS Adeno detector testing, and conjunctival swabbing. Attendees will sit as patients.
$100

WK-10 – Everything You Wanted to Know about Punctal Occlusion
Walter Potaznick, Irwin Shwom
Punctal plugs help relieve symptoms of dry eye. Learn to insert diagnostic collagen plugs and enhance your skills inserting various semi-permanent material plugs.
$100

WK-11 – Injectable Medications in Primary Eye Care
David Talley
A detailed introduction to the utilization of injectable medications in primary eye care. Specific injection techniques reviewed: intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, subconjunctival, subtenons, peribulbar, intracameral, and intravitreal.
$150

see WORKSHOPS, p.4
WORKSHOPS from p. 3

WK-12 – Advanced Techniques in Dry Eye Diagnosis: Meibomian Gland Evaluation
Jerry Paugh
Recent understanding of dry eye syndrome highlights the role of MGD as a common etiologic factor. Learn the major clinical methods to accurately diagnose MGD, perform gland expression and evaluate gland dropout using meiboscopy. $50

WK-13 – Advanced Examination of the Retina: Scleral Indentation and Retinal 3-Mirror
Meredith Whiteside, Nimesh Patel, John Shan
Advanced funduscopic techniques of scleral indentation and retinal 3-mirror are valuable for evaluating the retina. Instructional aides include live video and teaching tubes. Interpretation of common peripheral retina findings are reviewed. $100

WK-14 – Gonioscopy and Identification of Normal and Abnormal Angle Structures
Rebecca Diller, Kelly Thompson
Participants will become proficient in the gonioscopic technique with three and four mirror lenses. They will learn to identify angle structures on real “patients” and document their findings. Images of normal and abnormal angles will be reviewed. Indications for evaluation, referral criteria, and management of angle closure will also be covered. $100

WK-15 – Fitting Peripheral Prisms for Hemianopia
Eli Peli
This workshop provides hands-on experience in fitting and ordering peripheral prisms. Participants gain experience in training patients in the use of these prisms. Hemianopic volunteer subjects enable the participants to experience field expansion in confrontation field as measured with tangent screen. $100

Professional Enrichment Workshops

WK-16 – Getting to Know the Academy Online
Helen Viksnins
This non-credit workshop introduces attendees to the Academy website, the various submission processes, the archives of previous meetings, as well as basics on using Social Media platforms, such as Twitter. No charge/no CE credit

WK-17 – Public Speaking Workshop
Diane Adamczyk
This workshop provides a foundation to the development of the various skills necessary to become an effective public speaker. Active participation from the attendees is an important component of the workshop. Constructive feedback on how to improve and develop public speaking skills will be given to the attendees’ brief presentations. $50 fee ($10 students)

WK-18 – Art of Scientific Writing
Scientific Program Committee
Past and current members of the Scientific Program Committee will conduct a short course on writing scientific abstracts. This program is intended to help students, Fellowship candidates, industry representatives and members of the Academy learn the essentials of writing scientific abstracts. Instructors will illustrate the elements of successful and unsuccessful writing with an emphasis on how to prepare high-quality submissions for the Scientific Program of the American Academy of Optometry. No charge/no CE credit

WK-19 – Interactive Learning: How to Incorporate it into your Lectures
Blair Lonsberry
The ability of a speaker to effectively convey their message is dependent upon being able to capture and engage their audience. Utilizing interactive technology or ARS (audience response systems) provides a unique way for the presenter to engage with their audience and for the audience to participate in an active learning environment with their peers and the presenter. The following presentation will demonstrate a currently available interactive system and how to effectively design and present an interactive presentation. No charge/no CE credit

Residents Day at Academy 2010
San Francisco
Saturday, November 20, 2010
For its fourth year, residents will have the opportunity to present their research projects! Papers will be presented 8:00 am – Noon and posters, 1:30 – 4:30 pm.

This special event is created just for residents to showcase their work with meeting attendees. Your grand round-type cases are due September 1, 2010 for Resident’s Day.

Presentations should be approximately 15 minutes, and PowerPoint® is the required method for all presentations. HIPAA rules involving patient identification must be followed by presenters.

To receive a complimentary registration for Academy 2010 San Francisco, residents have the opportunity to work for the Lectures & Workshops Committee for one half day of the meeting either introducing speakers or monitoring CE attendance.

For more information or to email case reports, contact Helen Viksnins at helenv@aaoptom.org.

“It’s simply a very romantic place. Just one look at any one of those streets, and you couldn’t be anywhere else — it’s so beautiful, and there’s that location, and the sense of free spirit. Who couldn’t become ravenous in such a place?” – Julia Child, Chef
Exhibitors for Academy 2010 San Francisco
(as of March 19, 2010)

Abbott Medical Optics (AMO)
Acuity Pro/VisionScience Software, Inc
Advanced Vision Research
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.
Alden Optical
Allergan
American Academy of Optometry
American Optometric Foundation
Bausch + Lomb
Bausch + Lomb Pharmaceuticals
Blanchard Contact Lens, Inc.
Boston Foundation for Sight
Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.
Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc
CIBA VISION
Compulink
CooperVision, Inc.
Designs for Vision
DGH Technology, Inc.
Elsevier
Enhanced Vision
Eschenbach Optik of America
Essilor
Eye Designs
Eyefinity / Officemate
EyeMagnet
EyeMedVision Care
FCI Ophthalmics
Glaucome Today (Bryn Mawr Communications)
Haag-Streit USA
HAI Laboratories, Inc.
Heidelberg Engineering
Heine
Hoya Vision Care
Hydrogel Vision Corp.
ICARE USA
Imtek Direct Marketing
Inspire Pharmaceuticals
Integrity Digital Solutions
Keeler Instruments
Leiter’s RX Compounding
Lombart Instrument
Matsco (A Wells Fargo Company)
MedOp Inc.
Menicon
Metro Optics
M&S Technologies
National Vision Inc.
Nidek
NovaVision
Oculus, Inc.
OcuSoft, Inc.
Optos
Optovue
Paragon Vision Sciences
Reichert, Inc.
Smile Reminder
Stereo Optical Displays
Synemed Inc.
Tear Lab Corporation
Telscreen
Topcon Medical Systems, Inc.
Tru-Form Optics
Unilens Corporation
Veatch Instruments
VISTAKON
VOLK Optical
VSP

One great location… one week… two big conferences

World Congress on Refractive Error
Vision Correction: Broadening The Development Agenda
20 - 22 Sept 2010
Durban, South Africa

Join leaders in optometric and development fields to define global eye care priorities and build strategies to achieve sustainable, integrated solutions that transcend the boundaries of eye care and encompass social, political and economic solutions.

World Conference on Optometric Education
22 - 24 Sept 2010
Durban, South Africa

A unique opportunity for optometric educators from around the world to examine practice modes, share teaching methods and build relationships towards mutual cooperation in educational design, research and implementation.

Early bird registrations close 31 May 2010
Registrations and more information

For World Congress on Refractive Error:
www.icee.org
For World Conference on Optometric Education:
www.worldoptometry.org
Leadership InSight Courses
Academy 2010 San Francisco

Generously sponsored by
CIBA VISION.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP
PART I: What is Leadership?

Instructors: Rick Weisbarth, OD, FAAO
Barbara Caffery, OD, MS, FAAO
David Kirschen, OD, PhD, FAAO
Harue Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO
Julie Schornack, OD, MEd, FAAO
Barbara McGinley, MA, FAAO

Wednesday, November 17,
8:00 am – 11:00 am
$50 fee (Students $10)

Regardless of position, everyone can benefit from learning about leadership and how to bring about change through leadership. Part I of this course will focus on topics such as definitions of leadership, the differences between leadership and management, traits and characteristics of leadership, and using leadership to influence organizational culture. Part I of this course also discusses individual strengths, different leadership styles, and psychological preferences, which will be individually assessed for all attendees as part of the pre-course work. Enrollees will also be mailed a workbook of pre-course readings and assignments.

Enrollment is limited to 50 people.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP
PART II: Putting Leadership into Action

Instructors: Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, FAAO; Sally Dillehay, OD, EdD, FAAO; Peter Bergenske, OD, FAAO; Linda Casser, OD, FAAO; Steven Eyler, OD, FAAO

Thursday, November 18,
8:00 am – 11:00 am
$50 fee (Students $10)

Building upon the foundation of Part I of this course, Part II will examine the real world aspects of leadership and how to put leadership into action. This course will focus on Kotter’s model of leadership and how to use it to establish a vision, align people to that vision, and motivate them to stay with the vision. The course will also include a discussion of how communication can be used to support leadership efforts. Enrollees will be mailed a workbook of pre-course readings and assignments.

Note: Part I of this course is strongly recommended prior to taking Part II. If you have taken the Fundamentals of Leadership Course previously, Part II will also be a valuable refresher on how to actively practice leadership in everyday situations.

Enrollment is limited to 50 people.

INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP
Saving Dr. Ryan: An Optometric Leadership Boot Camp

Instructors: Andrew R. Buzzelli, Col (Ret), US Air Force, BSC, FAAO
Penny E. Walter, OD, MPA, FAAO, CAPT, MSC, USN

Thursday, November 18,
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
$50 fee (Students $10)

In terms of military tradition, Boot Camp describes the process through which an individual develops the personal characteristics and specialized knowledge that turn talented men and women into leaders of trust and compassion. Leadership in Optometry transforms doing an eye exam into making a difference, while balancing both professional and personal responsibilities to lead an organization. This course facilitates the life-long journey its learners take as one moves from complacency to champion; from acknowledged to respected; from Doctor to leader.

Dr. Andrew Buzzelli is Associate Professor and Director of Advanced Studies at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. He is a graduate of the Illinois College of Optometry and holds the Master of Science degree in Child Development and Visual Perception from the State University of New York.

Captain Penny Walter was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy in 1989. Since then she has served as a Staff Optometrist, United States Naval Academy and Arlington Annex; Optometry Department Head, Sigonella, Italy and Great Lakes, IL; Clinic Department Head, Great Lakes, IL; Director of Ancillary Services, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and Executive Officer, Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity. She is currently the Commanding Officer, Naval Ophthalmic Support and Training Activity and Program Executor, Department of Defense Optical Fabrication Enterprise.

"San Francisco only has one drawback. 'Tis hard to leave." – Rudyard Kipling
Hotel Information

Academy 2010 San Francisco will be held at:

Moscone Center West
747 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

The closest airport, San Francisco International Airport (SFO), is conveniently located near the heart of San Francisco. Travel easily from the airport to the meeting site on BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit). Moscone Center West’s closest BART station is Powell Street.

Review the map and highlights of each hotel to help you make your decision about which hotel to choose. You can select your hotel based on where your Academy colleagues and friends will be staying, or based on what part of the city you would like to see as you walk or ride public transportation to get to Moscone Center West.

Consider staying at the same hotel with your section membership or a section you’re interested in joining. This is a great opportunity for networking and getting together with friends!

There are seven contracted hotels:

San Francisco Intercontinental Hotel (Headquarters Hotel)
$219/night
888 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

BART Station: Powell Street

Highlights: Next to Moscone Center West and walking distance to Union Square, which provides the ultimate shopping experience. Sleeping rooms have contemporary feel that’s elegantly appointed with rich wood and marble, striking contemporary art, sleek, stylish furniture, and the latest high-tech amenities. 10-room spa, bar at lobby level.

· Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies Suite will be located at this hotel.
· Low Vision Section Suite will be located here.

Westin Market Street - $199/night
50 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

BART Station: Montgomery Street

Highlights: three blocks from Moscone Center West, amazing views of the San Francisco skyline. Rooms have metropolitan elegance. Enjoy the spacious feel of floor to ceiling windows. Soak up the culture; it’s across the street from San Francisco Museum of Art, one block from the Jewish Contemporary Museum and one block from Yerba Buena Gardens.

· The Disease Section will hold its meetings and symposium at this hotel.

Hyatt Regency San Francisco - $185/night
5 Embarcadero Center
San Francisco, CA 94111

BART Station: Embarcadero, door to door shuttle from SFO airport to hotel: http://sanfranciscoregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/services/transportation/index.jsp

Highlights: Ten blocks from Moscone Center West and across the street from the Embarcadero BART station. Hotel situated right on the gorgeous Embarcadero waterfront, closest to Chinatown, the famous Fisherman’s Wharf, the historic Ferry Building, and the Financial district. Continue your exercise routine with their 24-hour complimentary fitness center with state-of-the-art equipment.

· This is where the President’s Banquet will be held on Saturday evening.

"I fell in love with the most cordial and sociable city in the Union." – Mark Twain

see HOTEL, p.8
Top 10 Reasons to Stay at a Contracted Hotel for Academy 2010 San Francisco!

10 In order to secure sleeping rooms for the Academy’s Annual Meeting, AAO had to sign contracts for a minimum number of room nights. If we do not fill our room block, financial penalties will be due to the hotels. This impacts the fiscal health of the Academy.

9 Sleeping room usage helps the Academy secure meeting space for education, committees and section functions. The Academy continues to bring you the best education in the most diverse settings. If we don’t use a minimum number of sleeping rooms, our educational offerings could be limited.

8 The Academy has negotiated fantastic rates for the contracted hotels. You’ll be able to enjoy downtown San Francisco for reduced rates!

7 You can keep up with your home or office while you’re away, staying in one of the hotels’ guest sleeping rooms designed for the business traveler.

6 You can take advantage of the networking opportunities – the fellowship that we value so much – by staying at a property with many of your colleagues. This year the Section Suites will be located in seven different properties to make it easier for you to get together with your friends and colleagues.

5 Many events, including some offering CE and some sponsored by corporations, will be held at the contracted hotels.

4 Get your exercise in the hotel gym or fitness center, or walk to Moscone Center West while enjoying the sights and sounds of San Francisco.

3 Enjoy the great restaurants in the contracted hotels!

2 You are steps away from museums, shopping and many great eateries. See all the culture that downtown San Francisco has to offer.

1 Enjoy the ambiance of the city just outside your room!

---

**HOTEL from p.7**

**Hotel Nikko San Francisco**

$184/night

222 Mason Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

BART Station: Powell Street

**Highlights:** Four blocks from Moscone Center West, Cutting-edge style hotel. Enjoy the luxury of a heated pool, whirlpool, dry saunas, and steam rooms. State-of-the-art health club, also offers stress-reducing Shiatsu massages by appointment. Restaurant ANZU is one of San Francisco’s acclaimed dining experiences. Those looking for an exciting nightlife will only have to take a few steps to the premiere night club of San Francisco, Rrazz Room in the hotel lobby. Steps from Union Square, one block from San Francisco Shopping Centre and Hallidie Plaza.

**Parc 55 San Francisco - $187/night**

55 Cyril Magnin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

BART Station: Powell Street

**Highlights:** Three blocks to Moscone Center West, this boutique hotel is in the heart of Union Square. Right in the middle of the Financial District. Renovated rooms feature custom furnishings and stunning views of the city, and bay style windows. Across the street from Westfield Shopping Centre, San Francisco Shopping Centre and Hallidie Plaza. Close to many historic theaters.

**Handlery Union Square Hotel**

$155/night

(up to four students in a room)

351 Geary Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

BART Station: Powell Street

**Highlights:** Five blocks to Moscone Center West, Located in Union Square. Onsite barbershop, heated outdoor swimming pool open all year round, sauna. This upscale hotel has the feel of a boutique, with a warm, charming and historic feel. Guests can either walk or take the cable car to museums, Chinatown and Westfield San Francisco Centre, the largest shopping center in the west coast.

∙ This is the student hotel.

For more information, please visit our website at www.aaopt.org.

---

**Grand Hyatt San Francisco**

$185/night

345 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

http://grandsanfrancisco.hyatt.com

415-398-1234

BART Station: Powell Street or Montgomery Street

**Highlights:** Five blocks to Moscone Center West, this elegant hotel has amazing views of the city. Close to world-class shopping, Chinatown, museums, theaters and various famous sights. Across the street from Union Square. Pure hypoallergenic rooms and Hair & nail salon conveniently available.
NEW AIR OPTIX® AQUA MULTIFOCAL monthly replacement contact lenses offer emerging presbyopes a healthy, natural feeling and superior vision:

- Precision Profile lens design with 3 ADD power lens system
- Smooth transition between near, intermediate and far zones
- High oxygen transmissibility for white, healthy-looking eyes
- Outstanding comfort with the AQUA Moisture System

Recommend AIR OPTIX® AQUA MULTIFOCAL contact lenses for emerging presbyopes, who want better vision for real-world activities like BlackBerry® texting or computer use.

To order your free trial lenses go to mycibavision.com or call 1-800-241-5999 or your authorized CAN/DO distributor.

*CIBA VISION® AQUA MULTIFOCAL contact lenses: D(k) = 139 @ -0.040. Other factors may impact eye health. **In emerging presbyopes.

References:
1. CIBA VISION data on file, 2009, Compared to PureVision® Multi-Focal lenses and monovision, based upon subjective ratings by emerging presbyopes.
2. CIBA VISION data on file, 2009, Compared to monovision.
3. CIBA VISION data on file, 2009, Compared to PureVision® Multi-Focal lenses.

AIR OPTIX, CIBA VISION and the AIR OPTIX MULTIFOCAL and CIBA VISION logos are trademarks of Novartis AG.

CIBA VISION is a trademark of Bausch & Lomb, Inc. BlackBerry is a trademark of Research In Motion Limited.

© 2009 CIBA VISION Corporation, a Novartis AG company

S P R I N G  2 0 1 0  9
Expand your Perspective with Section Symposia at Academy 2010 San Francisco

Management of Refractive Error in Children, sponsored by the Binocular Vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section

Wednesday, November 17
3:00 – 5:00 PM
Speakers will present the latest research findings on myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, as well as make recommendations for translating results from clinical trials and basic science research into clinical practice.

- Doyle Stulting, MD, Update on CXL in Children
- Sam El Hage, OD, PhD, DSc, Review of devices will also be presented.
- Combined CXL treatments with other procedures for new treatments for their condition.
- Yaron Rabinowitz, MD, New Treatments for KC and Corneal Ectasia
- Urs Businger, OD, MS, FAAO, Contact Lens Fitting after CXL, Is There Any Difference? The Swiss/European Perspective

The Lawrence G. Gray Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders Symposium, sponsored by the Disease Section

Thursday, November 18
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
This symposium is named in honor of the late Lawrence G. Gray, OD, who was not only instrumental in introducing optometry to the important emphasis area of neuro-ophthalmic disorders, but also in training and teaching many optometrists about neuro-ophthalmic disease processes. His mission, continued in this symposium, will feature speakers from the optometric community as well as from the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society (NANOS), namely two world-class neuro-ophthalmologists.

- Leonard V. Messner, OD, FAAO
- Steven L. Galetta, MD, Diagnosis and Management of Optic Neuritis
- Patricia A. Modica, OD, FAAO
- Kelly A. Malloy, OD, FAAO
- Mark L. Moster, MD, Localizing Forms of Nystagmus

Collagen Crosslinking and New Treatments for Keratoconus, sponsored by the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies

Supported by an educational grant from BAUSCH + LOMB
Friday, November 19
3:00 – 5:00 PM, Section Awards & Schapero Lecture to follow
Keratoconus patients frequently yearn for new treatments for their condition. Come hear international experts discuss promising new treatments for the stabilization and treatment of keratoconus and corneal ectasia. Learn the applications, patient selection, stability, and success of collagen crosslinking (CXL) as it is performed around the world and in the U.S. Combined CXL treatments with other devices will also be presented.

- Sam El Hage, OD, PhD, DSc, Review of CXL and European Results
- Doyle Stulting, MD, Update on CXL in the U.S. and Future Applications
- Marjean Kulp, OD, MS, FAAO, Data from the Correction of Hyperopia in Children Study
- Joseph Miller, MD, MPH, Latest Research Findings on Astigmatism and its Clinical Management
- Thomas Norton, PhD, FAAO, Translating Basic Research into Future Treatments for Refractive Error
- Wendy Marsh-Tootle, OD, MS, FAAO, Summary and Recommendations for Clinical Practice

Evening Symposium, sponsored by the Disease Section

Supported by an educational grant from Alcon
Wednesday, November 17
8:00 – 10:00 PM
Audience participation required! Pit your wits against the leaders in our profession. Exploring the latest challenges in ocular disease diagnosis, treatment and management utilizing the latest in interactive technology with a panel of leading experts in the optometric field.

- Fraser Horn, OD, FAAO
- Jeffry Gerson, OD, FAAO
- David Sendrowski, OD, FAAO
- Judy Tong, OD, FAAO
- Diana Schechtman, OD, FAAO
- Ben Gaddie, OD, FAAO

Congenital Achromatopsia: Genetics, Psychophysical Testing and Clinical Intervention, sponsored by the Low Vision Section

Saturday, November 20
8:00 – 10:00 AM
Individuals with congenital achromatopsia have genetic mutations that result in aberrant cone function. Clinically this manifests as a relatively rare, stationary condition with reduced acuity and color perception. Achromats frequently demonstrate significant photophobia as well as nystagmus. This symposium will present the underlying genetics, psychophysical testing and clinical interventions for this interesting group of low vision patients.

- Moderator: Roger W. Cummings, OD, FAAO
- Gunilla Hagerström-Portnoy, OD, PhD, FAAO, Genetic Considerations and Clinical Psychophysical Testing of Congenital Achromatopsia
- Muriel Schornack, OD, FAAO, Tinted Contact Lens Treatment of Achromats
- Mark E. Wilkinson, OD, FAAO, Low Vision Treatment of Achromats

Scholarship: A Practical Guide to Enhance Faculty Success, sponsored by the Optometric Education Section

Friday, November 19
4:00 – 6:00 PM
Success as an optometric educator is often measured by the quality and quantity of scholarship produced. Although optometric faculty are often comprised of skilled clinicians, devoted teachers and highly motivated individuals, most lack formal training in areas related to scholarship. This disconnect can often impact a faculty members’ professional development and retention. The purpose of this symposium is to educate and increase awareness of opportunities related to scholarship. Additionally, the symposium will provide practical guidance to help faculty achieve success.

- Kathy Takayama, BS, PhD, The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and Faculty Development
- Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, MPH, DrPH, FAAO, Grant Writing; Tips from a Grant Reviewer
- Anthony Adams, OD, PhD, FAAO, Publication as One Measure of Scholarship; How to Make it Work Across Both Clinical and Basic Sciences.
Primary Care Section/Ocular Nutrition Society Joint Symposium

Thursday, November 18
1:30 – 3:30 PM

This symposium features evidence based information regarding optometric nutrition. It will also educate participants on the utilization of optometric nutrition with respect to treatment and management of anterior and posterior segment ocular disease. The participants will be able to obtain information from the symposia and integrate it into the participants’ clinical practice to better serve their patients.

• Diana Shechtman, OD, FAAO, Stuart Richter, OD, FAAO, Debate: AREDS vs. AREDS 2, Cautions and Contraindications when Recommending
• Hal Bohlman, OD, FAAO, Vitamins/Supplements
• Ellen Troyer, OD, Fish Oil and Dry Eyes
• Jeff Anshel, OD, FAAO, The Role of Nutrition in Primary Care Practice

VISION 2020: Assessing the Past and Planning for the Future, sponsored by the Public Health & Environmental Optometry Section

Friday, November 19
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

VISION 2020: The Right to Sight campaign is a joint program of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). VISION 2020 aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020 and has reached the half way mark in this quest. It is imperative that Optometry in particular take stock of the contributions we have made to this global effort and the challenges we face as well as the strategies we need to adopt to make a qualitative and quantitative contribution to this effort.

• Ivo Kocur, VISION 2020 and Avoidable Blindness: How Far Have We Come?
• Robert Chappell, OBE, Role of Optometry Thus Far
• Brien Holden, BAppSc, PhD, DSc, OAM, FAAO, Refractive Error Prevalence and Economic Impact
• Kovin Naidoo, OD, MPH, FAAO, Meeting the Challenges of Providing Global Eye Care: Role of Optometry in the Next Ten Years

ARVO/AAO Joint Symposium:
Normal and Abnormal Ocular and Visual Development, sponsored by the Vision Science Section

Thursday, November 18
1:30 – 5:30 PM

During the last 20 years, there has been enormous progress in the understanding of normal ocular and visual development and the clinical consequences of its disruption. Recent advances in novel technologies for structural and functional imaging of the visual system, and in genetics and molecular biology, have advanced the potential to allow unprecedented understanding of normal developmental and maturation of the visual system and developmental anomalies. These advances will ultimately provide enhanced diagnosis, treatment planning and monitoring of progression of visual dysfunctions. The goal of this symposium is to bring together leaders in the area of ocular and visual development to present the latest developments.

• Suresh Viswanathan, BOpt, MS, PhD, FAAO, Introduction to the Symposium
• Christine Wildsoet, DipAppSc (Optom), PhD, FAAO, Can Refractive Errors Be Controlled By Manipulating Emmetropization?
• Rowan Candy, BSc (Optom), PhD, FAAO, Normal Visual Experience: How Can We Provide It To Young Hyperopic Patients?
• Eileen Birch, PhD, Binocular Visual Development: Normal and Abnormal
• Michael Crognale, PhD, Development of Color Vision
• Anne Fulton, MD, Development of Retinal Function in Retinopathy of Prematurity
• David Birch, PhD, Early-onset Inherited Retinal Degenerations
• Carol Westall, BScOptom, PhD, FAAO, Epilepsy in Infancy: Effect on Oculo-visual Development
• Maria Fronius, PhD, Amblyopia as a Model of Plasticity of the Visual System

the best CE
35 hours in 4 days
All CE, All the Time™

science you can use
Today’s Research,
Tomorrow’s Practice®

fun old & new friends
in San Francisco

Academy 2010 San Francisco
November 17-20, 2010

Cross the bridge to lifelong learning with the American Academy of Optometry!
As a member of American Academy of Optometry, you can now access a number of exciting electronic initiatives introduced to the Optometry & Vision Science website—www.optvissci.com—over the past few months. These new features expand the available content and make it easier for you to customize the site.

New optvissci.com Website
Optometry & Vision Science’s completely revamped website allows you to:

- Access all articles published in Optometry & Vision Science since 1989
- Create personal article collections and save search results
- Export tables and figures to PowerPoint, and articles to a citation manager
- E-mail articles to a colleague
- View lists of Most Viewed and Most E-Mailed articles
- Subscribe to the electronic table of contents
- Subscribe to an RSS feed of the Most Popular articles

An improved HTML view also makes it easier to read articles on screen, and improved search functionality allows you to customize search results by publication date and type of content.

Supplemental Digital Content
If an author supplies audio or video files with an article, a unique URL is assigned to each file and published within the article. When reading an article with supplemental content online, that content can be accessed simply by clicking the link. If reading the article in print, go online and access supplemental content by typing the URL into your browser.

Publish Ahead of Print
Articles are published at optvissci.com after final proofs are approved, with new articles posted every week. Publish Ahead of Print (PAP) articles are included in PubMed as soon as they are posted, and remain in the PAP section until selected for a print issue.

Easy Access for Members
All members who receive the print journal can access Optometry & Vision Science online easily from the American Academy of Optometry’s site. Simply navigate to the Optometry & Vision Science page at aaopt.org, click the “log in” link to activate the link to the online journal, and then browse the articles at optvissci.com. If you wish to create personal article collections or subscribe to electronic table of contents at optvissci.com, you can register to save your preferences.

Mobile Version
The new mobile/smartphone view enables you to easily access content on the Optometry & Vision Science website via your mobile device. With capabilities like Current Issue Browsing, Most Popular Articles, Featured Articles, and Full Text Search, you can find content quickly and easily from wherever you happen to be. Mobile view works with most smartphone platforms, including iPhone, Blackberry, Android, and PalmOS. Please remember to navigate your mobile browser to aaopt.org and login there first for full text access.

With these changes, there is always something new at optvissci.com. Visit the site often and take advantage of the ability to customize Optometry & Vision Science to meet your information needs.
Presidents Circle Welcomes New Members

In 1997, the American Optometric Foundation established the Presidents Circle. This unique designation given to recognize donors who contribute $10,000 or more continues to welcome new members. Please join as we welcome Stan and Lisa Peacock of Tallahassee, Florida. They add their names to the over 80 fellow philanthropists who support the mission of AOF by funding vision and eye health research.

Many, Many More Donate in Orlando!

The Foundation enjoyed a successful meeting in Orlando with Academy Fellows and other registrants contributing well over $100,000. Meeting attendees made donations with their Annual Meeting Registration. $59,000 in donations was received at the Foundation Booth in the Exhibit Hall. This was bolstered by a $25,000 match from Essilor. Over 20 lecturers donated their honoraria to the Foundation thus raising another $11,000. The Foundation’s Celebration Luncheon was attended by 250 supporters and honorees and five individuals or couples were recognized as new members of the Presidents Circle. Additionally, the Silent Auction raised $12,500.

2010 VISTAKON® Residency Awards Winners

The American Optometric Foundation (AOF) congratulates the winners of the 2010 Dr. Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Awards, the Dr. George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards and the Dr. Sheldon Wechsler Contact Lens Residency Awards. These awards are generously funded by VISTAKON®, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. and intended to promote post-graduate optometric clinical education by supporting residents who demonstrate talent and commitment in the fields of children’s vision and contact lenses. Each recipient receives $4,000 toward their graduate education, including a $750 travel fellowship to attend the Academy Meeting in San Francisco November 17-20.

Dr. Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Awards
Erin C. Jenewein, OD, MS
NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry
Vivian M. W. Wong, OD
Southern California College of Optometry

Dr. George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards
Sara N. Gaib, OD
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry
Shannon Zollinger, OD
The Ohio State University College of Optometry

Dr. Sheldon Wechsler Contact Lens Residency Awards
Natalie Corey, OD
Indiana University at Bloomington, School of Optometry
Anna M. Sleeper, OD
New England College of Optometry

In 1997, the American Optometric Foundation established the Presidents Circle. This unique designation given to recognize donors who contribute $10,000 or more continues to welcome new members. Please join as we welcome Stan and Lisa Peacock of Tallahassee, Florida. They add their names to the over 80 fellow philanthropists who support the mission of AOF by funding vision and eye health research.

Many, Many More Donate in Orlando!

The Foundation enjoyed a successful meeting in Orlando with Academy Fellows and other registrants contributing well over $100,000. Meeting attendees made donations with their Annual Meeting Registration. $59,000 in donations was received at the Foundation Booth in the Exhibit Hall. This was bolstered by a $25,000 match from Essilor. Over 20 lecturers donated their honoraria to the Foundation thus raising another $11,000. The Foundation’s Celebration Luncheon was attended by 250 supporters and honorees and five individuals or couples were recognized as new members of the Presidents Circle. Additionally, the Silent Auction raised $12,500.

2010 VISTAKON® Residency Awards Winners

The American Optometric Foundation (AOF) congratulates the winners of the 2010 Dr. Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Awards, the Dr. George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards and the Dr. Sheldon Wechsler Contact Lens Residency Awards. These awards are generously funded by VISTAKON®, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. and intended to promote post-graduate optometric clinical education by supporting residents who demonstrate talent and commitment in the fields of children’s vision and contact lenses. Each recipient receives $4,000 toward their graduate education, including a $750 travel fellowship to attend the Academy Meeting in San Francisco November 17-20.

Dr. Terrance Ingraham Pediatric Optometry Residency Awards
Erin C. Jenewein, OD, MS
NOVA Southeastern University College of Optometry
Vivian M. W. Wong, OD
Southern California College of Optometry

Dr. George W. Mertz Contact Lens Residency Awards
Sara N. Gaib, OD
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry
Shannon Zollinger, OD
The Ohio State University College of Optometry

Dr. Sheldon Wechsler Contact Lens Residency Awards
Natalie Corey, OD
Indiana University at Bloomington, School of Optometry
Anna M. Sleeper, OD
New England College of Optometry
Michael Harris Steps Up... Again

The Foundation has received a $240,000 commitment to establish the Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellowship. This award will provide support for an optometrist pursuing graduate work in education, public policy, public health, or related areas. Michael has a history of leadership and philanthropy, further demonstrated by this magnificent gift. The Foundation will award the first Harris Ezell in 2010.

Gold Status...

AOF would also like to thank David and Alyse Kirschen on achieving Presidents Circle Gold status by making a second, $10,000 pledge to the Foundation’s Flom Fund.

Colleen Riley joins AOF Board

Colleen Riley, OD, MS, FAAO, Vice President, Professional Development for VISTAKON, Division of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., joined the American Optometric Foundation’s Board of Directors in November. Dr. Riley has 17 years of experience as a practicing optometrist, academic instructor and clinical research strategist in corporate and clinical settings. An Indiana University School of Optometry alumna, Colleen is an Academy Fellow, a Diplomate in the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies and an accomplished speaker and author. In 2007, she was selected as one of the top 20 Most Influential Women in the Optical Industry.

Merton C. Flom (1926 – 2010)

Merton Clyde Flom, OD, PhD, FAAO, passed away in March. Mert received his optometry degree and a PhD in vision science from University of California, Berkeley. A former Academy President, Ezell Fellow, and an academic leader of our profession in every sense, his passion for training, research, and leadership led the Flom family in 2006 to make significant lead pledges to establish an Ezell Fellowship with an emphasis on leadership, with an emphasis on participation in courses and an internship, with the goal of reaching the $200,000 to endow the Fellowship. The first award named in Mert’s honor was presented last year, at Academy Orlando, to Bradley Dougherty, OD, MS, of the Ohio State University. We invite all Academy Fellows, former students, clinicians, patients and friends who were touched by Mert’s influence and passion to support the fund by making a pledge or a one-time gift in his memory.

April release of AOF annual report

Look for a copy of the American Optometric Foundation annual report to arrive in the mail during the month of April.

Along with reviewing the status of the Foundation, take in the pictures and stories covering the special events of the past year. Discover highlights of the best and brightest educators and researchers representing the future of optometry.

Check out the new & improved AOF website at www.aaopt.org/aof!

Essilor Honors Mike Daley

Essilor honored long-time leader and industry stand-out Mike Daley by endowing an Ezell Fellowship. Mike was surprised at the Annual Meeting by his Essilor colleagues and recognized at the Silent Auction. The $240,000 pledge will be completed over four years with the first Fellowship to be awarded in 2011.

AMERICAN
OPTOMETRIC
FOUNDATION

The Torch is a publication of the American Optometric Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Optometry, which develops and provides financial support for optometric research and education in vision and eye health.

American Optometric Foundation
6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 506
Rockville, MD 20852 USA
Phone: 301-984-4734
Fax: 301-984-4737

Mark Bullimore, MCOptom, PhD
FAAO
Development Director

Tracy Kitts
Foundation Coordinator
California Optometric Association Establishes Low Vision Rehabilitation Section

Sacramento, CA, February 24, 2010 – The California Optometric Association (COA) recently hosted the inaugural meeting for its Low Vision Rehabilitation Section (LVRS) on January 29, 2010, at the Ontario Airport Marriott in Ontario, CA. The meeting was held during the association’s annual House of Delegates.

Established in 2009, the purpose of LVRS is to improve the quality of low vision rehabilitation services provided to the public and to promote the professional development of COA member optometrists, thereby furthering the mission of the association. The Section currently has 39 members.

During the meeting, members of LVRS elected their coordinating council, all Academy Fellows:

• Chair – Gary Asano, OD, FAAO, adjunct clinical faculty at the Southern California College of Optometry and staff optometrist for more than 25 years at the Center for the Partially Sighted in Culver City, CA
• Vice-Chair – Cindy Wang, OD, FAAO, who practices in South Pasadena, CA
• Secretary/Treasurer – Catherine Heyman, OD, FAAO, FOCD, assistant professor and coordinator of the Blind Children’s Learning Center for the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, CA

“It is an honor to have been elected chair of LVRS,” Dr. Asano says. “This is the very first optometric Section of COA and the culmination of four years of hard work by many people. I look forward to working with the other members of our coordinating council and LVRS members.”

Quebec Chapter of the AAO

The Quebec chapter was officially established by the American Academy of Optometry Board of Directors in June 2009. The first official meeting of this chapter will be held spring 2010 and its bylaws will be approved by its members. It is expected that over 25 Fellows will participate in the chapter activities.

They welcomed two new Fellows at Academy 2009 Orlando: Peter Karwatsky, MSc, OD, and Valerie Berubé, OD, who also completed a primary care residency in Pennsylvania. More than 60 Quebec optometrists and students were at Academy 2009 Orlando, the largest representation ever of this chapter.

The chapter’s agenda includes the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the École d’optométrie de l’Université de Montréal in May 2010. This milestone makes the EOU the oldest school of optometry, affiliated to a university in North America. Quebec members are proud of this achievement and will celebrate this event.

Academy Diplomates Serve in Haiti

CAPT Mike Radoiu, OD, FAAO, Diplomate (Primary Care Section) and CDR Kevin Jackson, OD, FAAO, Diplomate (Public Health and Environmental Vision Section) recently served aboard the hospital ship USNS Comfort in support of Operation Unified Response- Haiti. Both are Navy Optometrists and Medical Service Corps Officers who were called up for the disaster relief operation. Dr. Radoiu is a drilling reservist who lives and practices in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. Dr. Jackson is on active duty and is currently a Director at Naval Health Clinic Annapolis.

In the late afternoon of Tuesday, January 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale devastated the Haitian city of Port au Prince. In a moment, the temblor brought life in the capital to a standstill. It left 1.2 million of the city’s population homeless, hospitals and governmental institutions shattered and countless dead, dying or badly injured in its wake.

Haiti was totally unprepared for the quake. Haiti had a friable infrastructure and drastically insufficient contingency resources to deal with the disaster. The call for outside help was immediate with the United Nations, several Non-Governmental Organizations and the US military responding within hours to days of the disaster.

While various Army and Air Force support units secured the International Airport and established assessment teams on the ground, the Navy’s USNS Comfort sailed from Baltimore harbor with the intent of anchoring off the Haitian coast to establish a fully capable tertiary care hospital to treat the most complex injured casualties. The Comfort is a converted oil tanker designed to provide comprehensive medical care in time of war and disaster. It has both seaborne and aero-evacuation capabilities, resources to support a deep and customizable team of medical specialists, and state of the art equipment to perform its mission. The ship has a dedicated eye care department made up of optometrists, ophthalmologists, eye technicians and opticians. The department features several eye lanes, surgical suites and a lens fabrication unit. The use of optometrists in humanitarian operations has long been an integral and highly successful part of the military medical mission.

As the two optometrists on board the Comfort, CAPT Radoiu and CDR Jackson were originally tasked with providing eye care for victims of the earthquake. However, during the initial emergency stage of the relief operation, CAPT Radoiu worked in the casualty receiving (CASREC) area as both a triage officer and translator while CDR Jackson worked as the consulting eye care provider. The Optometry team collaborated closely with the ship’s two ophthalmologists who were busy performing emergency ophthalmic surgery. After two weeks of steady casualty care, the flow of patients slowed down sufficiently to allow both Drs. Radoiu and Jackson to revert back to their original roles of performing bedside ophthalmic consultations and visual evaluations on all of the Haitian nationals admitted to the various ship’s wards. Over the course of the mission over 1,000 patients were seen on board ship. Although the devastating effects of the earthquake irrevocably claimed the ocular health of many, many more left the ship able to see better than they arrived with their newly issued spectacles.

While the value of eye and vision care in a controlled humanitarian operation on land has long been established, this mission did point out the added value of having doctors of optometry on board ship during a humanitarian disaster. The key to success in these missions lies in the medical team’s ability to remain flexible, tap into individual team member’s cross-training and integrate these skills into the overall mission.
Based on feedback from student and faculty liaisons at Academy 2009 Orlando, the American Academy of Optometry is excited to announce a new fee structure for student dues. Starting this year, all optometry or vision science graduate students can receive Academy membership for their entire student career and residency for a one-time fee of $30! There’s certainly never been a better time to join as a student. The benefits are more valuable the sooner you join in your career, so to download an application visit the AAO website today at http://www.aaopt.org. The program is not retroactive so those who were student members in 2009, you need to pay your 2010 dues and you will be covered until you graduate. Additionally, if you are accepted into a residency program, your residency year is also covered.

What does my $30 get me, you ask? Well, for starters you’ll receive up to five years worth of reduced annual meeting registration fees, access to Optometry and Vision Science, the AAO Newsletter, and Eye-Mail® Monthly. The Academy annual meeting includes the best optometric continuing education and offers courses on the latest in optometry and vision science research, as well as activities specifically for students. But wait - there’s more... As a student member each year, you also get the chance to apply for student travel fellowships to attend the Academy’s Annual meeting. This year, the meeting will be held in San Francisco, California, on November 17-20. As always, there will be plenty of CE to attend and lots of networking time with colleagues!

As a reminder to fourth year students, we are continuing our “Conversion of Students to Candidates” program this year. If you want to start your career off in the right direction and you are committed to maintaining and enhancing excellence in optometric practice, then the Academy is the right place for you to be involved. This spring at your school, there will likely be a presentation given by your AAO Faculty Liaison in order to learn about this program and what it takes to become a Fellow. There is a financial incentive to applying to be a Candidate early, as more recent graduates pay lower registration fees. Additionally, as a paid fourth year AAO student member applying for Candidacy in the year of your graduation, you will receive a waiver of the $60 application fee for Fellowship as well as your first year of membership dues.

For more information on any of the above, please feel free to visit our website at http://www.aaopt.org/students/ or email me with any questions at lsicks@eyedoc.ico.edu.