Message from the Chair

Note: Dr. Harue Marsden passed away on Thursday, February 2, 2017, after I wrote my column. There is a eulogy later in the newsletter that encourage all to read. She was a great friend, and for me personally, I will miss her because she always got me—from the start. For such a small person, she cut a huge path. Her booming laugh was singular, as was her commitment to her friends, her family, and her profession. She was the Program Chair for the next two years, and while we will soldier on to provide great symposia, but Harue’s loss cannot be measured in those terms. She was a conscious for our Section and our profession, and she will be deeply missed.

The 2016 Academy Meeting in Anaheim is in the books, and a great time was had by all. As usual, the Section started the meeting at our traditional Wednesday morning Orientation Breakfast. This “traditional” start to the Academy meeting was proceeded the Diplomate Preparatory Course on Tuesday. We have hosted this course for several years now, and it is going strong.

We had a great turn out for our two symposia centered on the topic of myopia control. On Wednesday morning, the Section jointly hosted with the Association for Research and Vision in Ophthalmology (ARVO) a symposium entitled, “Control vs.
Correction of Early Myopia: Has the ‘Standard of Care’ Changed?”

The Section followed the Symposium with the annual Section Awards and Schapero Memorial Lecture Session. This well-attended Session honored Professor Alan Tomlinson with the Founder’s Award and Dr. Art Pazornik with the Exemplary Service Award. Perry Rosenthal, MD then was honored by the Section when he was selected to give the Max Schapero Memorial Lecture. Following the Program, the Reception to Honor the Past Chairs and Award Winners was held at the Hilton Anaheim Hotel.

The practical examination was held on Thursday at the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshal B. Ketchum University. Many thanks to the faculty at SCCO.

On Friday, the Section Symposium was entitled “Myopia Control Utilizing Contact Lenses.” This session dovetailed with the Joint Session from Wednesday. Many different perspectives were presented during this thought-provoking session. Friday night was capped with our New Diplomate Reception. The Section welcomed three new Diplomates in 2016! Congratulations to Randy Charrier, Susan Kovacich and Aaron Zimmerman.

The meeting finished with our annual Section Business Meeting on Saturday morning. I want to thank all of the Section volunteers who made this past year’s meeting so successful. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the companies that sponsored the Section during 2016. We could not do what we do without your very generous support. Our 2016 sponsors are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

I encourage all Diplomates and Section members to join us in Chicago in 2017 for the American Academy of Optometry’s Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

Incoming Chair Clarke Newman acknowledges 2014-2016 Chair Loretta Szczotka-Flynn
New Diplomates Join the Section

Celebrating the completion of a journey of thought, examination and enrichment, three new Section Diplomates were recognized for their achievement in this process in Anaheim. Drs. Randy Charrier, Susan Kovacich and Aaron Zimmerman become the newest Diplomates of the Section. Here is a little bit about each one of them.

**Susan Kovacich**

Susan Kovacich received her BA in Biology and Spanish from Indiana University. Upon graduation from Indiana University School of Optometry, she completed a one-year hospital based residency at the John Cochran VAMC in St. Louis. After practicing for 10 years, Dr. Kovacich joined the IUSO faculty, and was promoted to Associate Clinical Professor in 2009. She is assigned to the Cornea and Contact Lens service and lectures on the local and national level on contact lens and anterior segment topics. She is currently the Association of Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE) Chair, and active in the AAO and NBEO. Dr. Kovacich lives in Bloomington with her husband and son, and enjoys travel and artistic pursuits during her “free time”.

**Aaron Zimmerman**

Aaron Zimmerman is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Optometry at The Ohio State University. He is the chief of the Student Health Optometry Service and teaches the advanced contact lens lab and a lasers, injections, and advanced procedures course. He has been involved in sports vision research and is a member of the Contact Lens Assessment in Youth study group which has been investigating risk factors for contact lens adverse events. He currently serves as the American Optometric Association representative on the ANSI Z87.1 committee. Along with his wife, Amanda, they are raising two young boys, Clayton (7) and Leo (4). He enjoys playing golf, bicycling, and any activity that he can play and spend time with his kids.

**Randy Charrier**

Aside from his career in the United States Navy, Randy Charrier has lived in southeast Texas his whole life. As a naval officer, Randy served as Director of the Specialty Contact Lens Clinic at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, California. In his time at the Naval Medical Center, Randy routinely treated patients suffering from war injuries, traumatic brain injuries and corneal diseases. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his work with the residents. He served as voting member of the Naval Medical Center’s Executive Committee of the Medical Staff and was selected as Division Officer for the Optometry Department. He has also held Associate Professor or Instructor positions in optometry at Southern California College of Optometry, Pacific University, and currently at the University of Houston College of Optometry.
2016 Awards Presentation

One of the traditions of the Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technology Section is honoring very special individuals and their accomplishments within our field.

Dr. Alan Tomlinson

At the Section’s 2016 Awards program, Dr. Alan Tomlinson was recognized as our Founder’s Award recipient. The Founder’s Award is presented for outstanding contributions to the clinical art and science of contact lenses. During his career, Alan was acknowledged as an outstanding researcher, clinician, and teacher. He shared his extensive knowledge with eye care practitioners throughout the world by authoring over 150 journal publications. He published on diverse subjects including dry eye, tear film, contact lenses, acanthamoeba, visual function, and binocular vision.

Dr. Art Pazornik

Dr. Art Pazornik was the recipient of the Sections’ Exemplary Service Award which honors individuals for long-term unselfish dedication to the Section; a perfect description of Art’s continuing contributions. With his photographic skills, Art has tirelessly volunteered to capture the Section’s activities for many, many years.

Dr. Perry Rosenthal

Dr. Perry Rosenthal received the 2016 Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award, our Section’s highest honor. This award is in recognition of significant contributions to the field of cornea and contact lenses by virtue of publications, lectures or research. Dr. Rosenthal definitely meets and surpasses all of the award’s criteria. His prolific career in a multitude of areas related to cornea and contact lens includes lens design (especially scleral contact lenses), material development, and corneal pain management to name a few. Dr. Rosenthal delivered an enlightening and passionate lecture recounting his many outstanding contributions to the field of cornea and contact lenses.
Anaheim Symposia

Joint ARVO/AAO Symposium

The Section was pleased to be awarded the honor of a symposium which invited ARVO members to come alongside AAO members to present on a topic of interest at the Academy meeting.

Jeff Walline presented an overview of the current findings related to low-dose atropine as a method of myopia control, he also moderated the panel. Earl Smith gave a summation of the research indicating that myopic progression is something that is modifiable and needs to be addressed by the clinician. Padmaja Sankaridurg gave an overview of contact lenses used for myopia control. Special guest speaker Terri Young presented on the current state of research into genetic markers for myopia and myopic progression. There is a possibility that we may be able to test and see who is most likely to progress to higher myopia before it happens. David Berntsen presented on the findings related to spectacle lens design and myopia control.

Joint Academy Symposium

Our immediate past chair, Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, lead the second annual AAO2AAO symposium at the Anaheim meeting with over 1000 attendees in the audience. This initiative between the American Academy of Optometry and
American Academy of Ophthalmology includes a two hour symposium presented at each association’s annual meeting each year. This year’s topic was entitled “Corneal Infections and Contact Lens Wear: An Evidence-Based Approach to Navigating the Risks and Complications”. Her co-moderator was Elmer Tu, MD from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Fiona J. Stapleton MCOptom, PhD and Suzi Fleiszig, OD, PhD represented optometry while Tom Lietman MD and Debbie Jacobs MD represented ophthalmology as speakers. Collectively they presented epidemiology of contact lens infection and inflammation; the complex interaction of microbes, contact lenses and the corneal surface; diagnosis and management corneal infections; and differences in nomenclature among and between ophthalmologists and optometrists to improve communication among clinicians and researchers.

Section Symposium

The traditional section symposium followed the Wednesday ARVO-AAO joint symposium with a more practical application of the topic of myopia control. Specifically, the use and application of contact lenses in the field of myopia control was discussed.

Helen Swarbrick reviewed different lens designs and their impact on myopia control as well as complications reported with overnight orthokeratology. Padmaja Sankaridurg presented practical prescribing tips when using currently available contact lens designs and gave some insight into lenses still in development. Pauline Cho reviewed considerations in the use of contact lenses for myopia control in a pediatric population. Don Mutti discussed the implications of different wearing times/schedules as well as other environmental influences on myopia control methods. Rob Davis finished the panel presentation with a discussion on the considerations within a clinic “culture” when myopia is “controlled” versus “corrected.” Thank you to all for participating and attending!
Twenty-Seven Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies residents from nineteen schools and colleges of optometry were the recipients of a travel grant to attend the Academy meeting in Anaheim through the generosity of CooperVision. CCLRT residents had to go through an application process that included writing about the importance and value of Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry, as well as speaking to a current section member. Mark Andre and Rose Britton from CooperVision were on hand to personally congratulate each award winner during the presentation in the exhibit hall. Representing the CCLRT section were Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, Clarke Newman, and Kelvin Tang.

Note on Format

Because this is a newsletter to be shared among “family” - professional designations, degrees and titles have been left off. We apologize for any discomfort that may cause and hope it will be understood that this is being done as a way of promoting the emotional, social and relational side of our section - which, the editor believes, is the goal of the newsletter.

Thanks to the 2016 Event Sponsors
Great Loss to Optometry and the Section

Harue Marsden - 1960-2017

Our CCLRT Section family has one less shining star with the loss of Dr Harue Marsden after a long battle with cancer. Her ability to always be optimistic was just one of the many gifts she gave us. She served in many leadership roles within our Section, but most recently was our Diplomate Award Chair. Her ability to motivate candidates was exemplary. Many in the process sought her guidance to make the process as valuable as the goal. Harue mentored candidates by encouraging their timely case report submission and adequate examination preparation. With her inspiration, many achieved Diplomate status and publicly acknowledged her support as critical to their success. She held many other leadership roles within our Section and always had a passionate voice for candidates.

Mentoring was easy for Harue since her love of optometry began as an active student leader. Her professional career was exclusively at the Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University. She began with the Contact Lens Service and rose to professor status and associate dean for clinical education. She became president of her local optometric society, president of the California Optometric Association, and president elect of the Great Western Council of Optometry. She became skilled at advocating the political issues facing optometry and beloved by her students and colleagues for always thinking their victories were hers also.

Acknowledgement of Dr Marsden leadership skill was also recognized by our Academy. She was instrumental in organizing and teaching the Leadership Courses to aspiring leaders at our Annual meetings and assisting “Fellows doing Research” Special Interest Group. Her unmistakable laugh, contagious smile and willingness to help were character traits few mastered as well as Harue.

Our Section’s mission statement reflects how Harue lived her life, fought her cancer and advocated for excellence: Fostering professional growth and advocating excellence in patient care through leadership in education and research. She will be missed, never equaled and always loved for making us better.

Glenda Secor  Past Chair C, CL & RT Section
Up Next

Diplomate Renewal Points

It is always best to get in your Diplomate Renewal Point totals RIGHT AFTER the Academy meeting.

Dave Roncone is our Diplomate Renewal Committee Chair, Contact him at this email if you need a point tally “form”: davidproncone@hotmail.com. Points will soon be entered into your personal account through the Academy website - watch for that announcement. For now, you can see what “counts” for Diplomate renewal here:  http://www.aaopt.org/fellows/diplomate_renewal

Chicago

Mark your calendars for October 11-14th 2017 for the Academy meeting in Chicago, Illinois!

Leadership Planning

It is customary for the new Executive Committee of the Section, along with other committee members and chairs, to set aside time in the Spring for planning and “blue-sky” discussions about how the section can best fulfill its role within the profession.

Should you have ideas, concerns or thoughts about our Section and how it can best be impactful in its mission (see below) - please contact the Chair - Clarke Newman at:  cdnewman@earthlink.net

Diplomate Candidates

We will focus on YOU in the next edition! If you have questions or concerns about where you are in the Diplomate Candidate Process, please contact the Diplomae Award Chair - Louise Sclafani at: lsclafan@bsd.uchicago.edu

Newsletter Ideas

If you have feedback regarding this newsletter that will improve the editions that will follow, please let me know at: jeffreykrohn@mac.com

Remembering Harue

On a personal note, Harue was a classmate of mine (although she sat considerably closer to the front) and I consider it an honor to have known her for so many wonderful years. - J.K.

This link provides more details on Harue’s contributions to the profession:

CLICK HERE

Please consider supporting the memorial scholarship fund set up in Harue’s name:

CLICK HERE

Mission Statement

Fostering professional growth and advocating excellence in patient care through leadership in education and research.