Well, Chicago is in the books. The Section had a great meeting. Long bus rides and eight inches of rain over the four days could not deter us! We had over fifty people at the Orientation Breakfast at 6:30 am! Before the buses were running; before the power was on in most of McCormick Place. Yes, they trickled in, but they came nonetheless.

We had strong attendance at the Section Diplomate Preparatory Course the day before. We had sixteen attendees enjoy great education provided by the Section Diplomates.

The Section Awards presentation feted Dr. Lynette Johns as the Section’s Founders Award Winner, and Dr. Suzi Fleiszig gave the Schapero Memorial Award Lecture. Her confocal microscopic examination of the cornea is absolutely amazing and informative.

Our Section Symposium was well-attended and very
well-received. The comments that I heard from attendees endorsed the case presentation format, and the subject matter on ocular surface disease. Thank you so much, Loretta, for picking up the ball and running with it after the untimely death of our dear friend and colleague, Harue Marsden.

Speaking of Harue, the heart-felt presentation of the Academy’s Eminent Service Award to Harue was accepted posthumously by her sister, Yuki. There was not a dry eye in the room. We will remember her fondly.

Thankfully, the skies parted for Friday night’s Diplomate Reception. This year, thanks to Louise Sclafani, we held the reception at the Chicago Yacht Club. I think everyone there thought it was the best reception yet. Next year, in San Antonio, if everything goes right (cross your fingers) we will hold the reception in a small adobe church once defended by some TExicans. I hope we can pull it off.

We honored our two new Diplomates—Marsha Malooley, OD, FAAO, is our new Clinical Diplomate and Graeme Young, PhD, FCOptom, FAAO, is our new Research Diplomate. Congratulations to both!

I want to thank everyone in the Section leadership for their tireless efforts to move our Diplomate Candidates forward, in planning and executing events, in planning symposia and preparatory courses. In short, making the Section a well-oiled machine that is the model for the other Sections.

See you all in San Antonio!
2017 Diplomates

[Louise Sclafani, OD - Diplomate Award Chair]

This year at the annual meeting in Chicago we had the pleasure of inducting two doctors into our esteemed group of Diplomates. The Awards Ceremony was held at the prestigious Chicago Yacht Club along the Lake Michigan Lakefront. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather as guests enjoyed an amazing Chicago Skyline, sat along the harbor to hear the musical charm of the sailboat rigging, enjoyed cocktails and a lavish buffet, and of course the signature shrimp cocktail! The diplomate process is arduous and it is only fitting that we enjoy the welcoming of a new colleague to our prestigious group. There are only 171 who have earned the status of Diplomate in the Section on CCLRT of the American Academy of Optometry. As a new year begins we wish our active candidates the fortitude to continue on and encourage new ones to begin. Please review the requirements as outlined in on our webpage http://www.aaopt.org/Fellows/Sections/CCLRT/Diplomate, reach out to us to mentor you and join us when we welcome new Diplomates in 2018 in San Antonio.

Marsha Malooley

Our new clinical Diplomate is Dr. Marsha Malooley, an Illinois native from Spring Valley and the Director of Optometric Services at Chicago Cornea Consultants. She received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and trained at the New England College of Optometry in Boston. Following graduation, she completed a residency at the Illinois College of Optometry specializing in corneal diseases and contact lenses.

Dr. Malooley is a fellow of the Scleral Lens Education Society and a member of both the Illinois Optometric Association and the American Optometric Association.
Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies of the American Academy of Optometry

Association. She serves as an adjunct Assistant Professor of Optometry of the Illinois College of Optometry in the Department of Community Based Education. She also enjoys lecturing and serves as a member of the Gas Permeable Lens Institute advisory committee.

Dr. Malooley currently resides in Elmhurst, Illinois with her husband Jeff, son Jordan, age 5, and daughter Gianna, age 3. In her spare time, she enjoys play golfing, volleyball, skiing, cooking, and spending time with her family.

Graeme Young

Our newest Research Diplomate is Dr. Graeme Young, CEO of Visioncare Research Ltd, and an honorary professor of Aston University, School of Life & Health Sciences. Visioncare Research is a UK-based contract research organisation (CRO) specialising in eyecare research and which has conducted over 400 clinical studies, nearly 100 of which have been multi-center studies in Europe and N. America. After graduating in optometry from City University, London, he spent six years in private practice in Jersey in the Channel Islands. He returned to England in order to study for a higher degree receiving a Masters degree and later a PhD for contact lens related research projects. Prior to forming Visioncare Research, Graeme worked for Hydron Europe as Director of clinical research and later for Allergan Optical as UK Director of R&D. He is a member of the International Society for Contact Lens Research (ISCLR), an ex-president of the British Contact Lens Association (BCLA) was a member of the recent TFOS International Workshop on Contact Lens Discomfort and is now a proud diplomate of the Academy’s Section on CCL&RT. He has published over 100 papers on contact lens related topics and lectured widely on the subject. His research interests include contact lens design and fitting and factors influencing contact lens success - and he is also a contact lens wearer. He enjoys cycling, skiing and sailing.
2017 Awards Presentations

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

The AAO Eminent Service Award

The Eminent Service Award honors those persons who have rendered extraordinary and/or distinguished long-term service to the Academy. It was first presented in 1960. Nominations can be made by any member of the Academy to the Chair of the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee then makes its recommendation to the Board of Directors. Harue Marsden, OD, MSEd, FAAO, was presented with this award posthumously at the awards program on behalf of the entire Academy family on Friday morning.

The Founders Award

This award is in memory of, and in honor of, those Academy Fellows who founded the Contact Lens Section of the American Academy of Optometry. The award is to be presented to an individual, group, or company who has made an outstanding contribution to the clinical aspect of the art or science of contact lens fitting. Lynette Johns, OD, was presented with the Founders Award at the Section Awards meeting.

Here are some words from one of her mentors, Dr. Ron Watanabe, who introduced her at the program.

“During the 20 years I have known Lynette, she stands out as one of the most knowledgeable, skilled, compassionate, and generous colleagues I have known during my 40 years as an Optometrist. Her number one priority has
always been to relieve the pain and suffering of patients with advanced ocular surface disease and corneal disease. In order to accomplish this goal, Lynette has not only used her clinical skills to care personally for her patients but has generously and unselfishly shared her clinical skills and experience in order to train vision practitioners all over the world in the fitting, follow up and benefits of Scleral GP Contact Lenses. The quality of life has been improved for so many people as a result of Lynette’s good works. She has also served as a wonderful instructor and role model to optometry students everywhere.”

The Max Schapero Memorial Lecture - Dr. Suzanne Fleiszig

Suzanne Fleiszig, OD, PhD, FAAO, received the 2017 Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award, our Section’s highest honor. Here is how Dr. Kathy Dumbleton introduced her at the program.

“The Max Schapero Award is presented to a “clinician, researcher or scholar who has made a significant contribution to the cornea and contact lens field by virtue of his or her publications, lectures, or research efforts.” Professor Suzi Fleiszig exemplifies all of these characteristics.

Suzi’s academic journey started in Melbourne, Australia. Here she completed her optometry degree in 1983 and then subsequently her postgraduate training. During this time she developed a fervent interest in the pathogenesis of contact lens related infection while working under the supervision of the 2003 Max Schapero Award winner, Professor Nathan Efron.

After her PhD, Suzi completed a post-doc in the Division of Infectious Disease, at Harvard Medical School and this is where she met the love of her life, David Evans. Suzi and David moved to California in 1994 and Suzi was appointed as an Assistant Professor at the School of Optometry at the University of California, Berkeley.

Her exceptional career has flourished during her years in Berkeley and she is now Professor of Optometry and Vision Science, Infectious Diseases & Immunity, and Microbiology at Berkeley and the Berkeley UCSF joint Medical Program.

Suzi is highly respected within both the ophthalmology and microbiology research communities and has been referred to, by some of her colleagues and admirers, as the “International Queen of Pseudomonas Research.”

Suzi is indeed an exceptional academic having published over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and holds several patents. She also continues to take an active role in both clinical and didactic teaching and administration and has served on countless university committees and several National Institutes of Health and other Federal Agency panels and study sections. Suzi has supervised at least 13 graduate students and 20 postdoctoral fellows. Congratulations, Suzi!”
This year’s symposium had a “hometown” feel as the presenters shared a connection to our host city of Chicago! Ocular surface disease with or without corneal irregularity is challenging to treat both optically and physiologically. This expert “all-Chicago” panel presented challenging cases and treatment approaches including medical, surgical, and contact lens management of corneal disease. The multidisciplinary approach to management of these patients was evident as AAO Diplomates and Fellows along with internationally recognized corneal surgeons presented cases, detailing the underlying disease process, systemic manifestation in
eye disease as well as the medical, surgical and contact lens treatment approaches utilized.

Specific disease processes covered include Herpetic Corneal Disease, Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Rheumatoid arthritis with ocular complications.

**Resident Travel Grants**

Through the generous support of CooperVision, 26 cornea and contact lens residents received travel fellowships to this year’s Academy meeting in Chicago. Twenty-one different programs were represented.

Residents submitted applications discussing the importance of fellowship and were also required to interview a diplomate. In addition, many of this year’s recipients had posters and residents day presentations. The residents were invited to all section functions and many attended our symposium and diplomate reception. Residents received their awards at the CooperVision booth on Thursday morning. Representatives from CooperVision and the Section on CCLRT were on hand to congratulate them. Representing the CCLRT section were myself and Section Chair Clarke Newman - submitted by Renée Reeder.

**Between Meetings - For all:**

*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 bottom of last page) - please contact the Chair - Clarke Newman at: cdnewman@earthlink.net
**Survey On The Way**

Feedback on the programs, operations, organization and effective functioning of the Section will be solicited from YOU - the members of the Section. Watch for communication requesting you to take part in a short survey before the end of the year. If you have any feedback regarding what should be “asked” of the membership, please let me know at: jeffreykrohn@mac.com

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**For all Diplomate Candidates:**

*Case Reports - From Susan Gromacki, OD, MS, FAAO*

It was nice meeting many of you in Chicago. Keep the case reports coming! Please do not send them via the AAO website, as it is not set up yet for the reviewers. So please continue to send them to me, in Microsoft Word, to sgromacki3@hotmail.com. Also, please read [and adhere to!] the Case Reports section in the Candidate’s guide [available on the AAO website], paying close attention to:

1. **Case patients must have been followed for a minimum of 6 months**

2. **Format, including all tests that need to be performed**

3. **Format of cover page, including which case report requirement ("category") you are intending to fulfill.**

4. **Note that you must specify the category for published paper submissions and that it must have been published in a refereed journal.**

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**For all Diplomates:**

*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](http://www.aaopt.org/fellows/diplomate_renewal)
Mission Statement

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