Section Officers

- Chair*: Cris Schnider, OD, MBA, FAAO
- Vice Chair*: Jeff Krohn, OD, FAAO
- Secretary*/Treasurer*: Rob Davis, OD, FAAO
- Immediate Past-Chair*: Clarke Newman, OD, FAAO

Standing Committees:

- Program Chair*: Louise Sclafani, OD, FAAO
- Diplomate Award Chair Sue Gromacki, OD, MS, FAAO
- Case Reports: Karen Yeung, OD, FAAO
- Exam-Cornea & Ant. Seg: Rick Weisbarth, OD, FAAO
- Exam-Application CL & RT: Renée Reeder, OD, FAAO
- Exam-Practical: Bill Tullo, OD, FAAO
- Exam-Oral: Danielle: Robertson, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Research: Kathyn Dumbleton, PhD, MCOptom, FAAO
- Refractive Technologies: Phillip Brunson, OD, FAAO
- Speakers Bureau Chair: Kelvin Tang, OD, FAAO
- Resident Recruitment Chair: Susan Kovacich, OD, FAAO
- Diplomate Renewal Chair: Dave Roncone, OD, FAAO
- Member Benefits: Randy Sakamoto, OD, FAAO
- Diplomate Recruitment: Randy Charrier, OD, FAAO
- Historian: Aaron Zimmerman, OD, MS, FAAO
- Special Advisor: Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, OD, PhD, FAAO

*Executive Committee

Message from the Chair

I hope you all enjoyed San Antonio – another great effort by the Academy, and some amazing Section activities as well. Our reception at the Alamo was the envy of the academy! Not only was the venue spectacular, but we welcomed three outstanding new Diplomates. Congratulations to Julie DeKinder, faculty member at UMSL, Daniel Fuller, faculty member at SCO, and the home town girl, Melanie Frogozo, in practice in beautiful San Antonio. Every addition to our Diplomate family adds benefit to our Section, and to the patients we serve.

I am so honored to be chairing this Section for the 2019-2020 biennium. It has been a rich and rewarding journey to get here, and I’m even more excited that 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of our Section, and my 25th anniversary as a Diplomate! I am proud to follow in the footsteps of the many greats who have chaired this Section – many of whom have been mentors and inspiration for my career. And I have to call out Clarke Newman, our Immediate Past Chair, and thank him for his tremendous efforts in leading the Section for the past 2 years. Clarke is passionate, energetic, engaged, and one of the best parliamentarians I’ve ever met. I will continue to call on him as I navigate my term as Chair. And I am looking forward to working with fellow officers Jeff Krohn, our Vice Chair and Rob Davis, our secretary/treasurer, as well as Louise Sclafani,
Friends in San Antonio

Program Chair, and Susan Gromacki, our Diplomate Award Chair, who round out the executive committee. And to all those who have raised their hand to serve as leaders in the Section – THANK YOU! I look forward to working with you. Finally, I am declaring these 2 years to be the beginning or a “reinvention” of our Section, and a commitment by leadership to working to create ways to better serve our membership – both Diplomates and candidates – in their quest to provide the best care in the area of contact lenses, cornea, and refractive technologies. Stay tuned – and please, raise your hand if you’d like to be a part of the journey!

Interview with Our Chair: Cris Schnider, OD, MBA, FAAO

What have you done after graduating from Optometry School?

This is complicated! I did my 4th year at SUNY, even though I was a Pacific Grad (‘82), and stayed in NYC for 3 years. Worked in private practice doing VT at Jeff Cooper's Manhattan office, did contact lenses in retail locations on weekends, and was at SUNY as faculty. I did research in ocular disease & special testing with Jerry Sherman, Contact Lens research with Maury Poster and Binocular Vision research with Ken Ciuffreda. Then met Brien Holden at ARVO in 1985 & moved to Australia in August ‘85 to run the RGP Extended Wear studies at CCLRU (now BHVI). Returned to Pacific University to head up contact lens clinical, didactic & research programs in January 1989, where I also had a private practice seeing specialty contact lens patients. In 1996 I joined Menicon USA running Clinical & Professional Education programs & moved to Vistakon (now J&J Vision) in 1999. Spent 2007-2010 in Japan for J&J Vision Care running Professional Education team. Now Global Director of Professional Education at JJV, working on vision care [CLs] and Surgical [Cataract, Refractive & Ocular Surface] Professional Education content development.
Why did you want to become a Diplomate?
I was 'encouraged' by Joe Barr & Ed Bennett - 2 of my amazing mentors.

How long have you been a Diplomate?
Since 1995.

What has been some of the membership benefits you have enjoyed through the years?
Hanging out with people smarter than I am! I learn so much and it helps me keep current even though I haven’t practiced clinically for nearly 20 years. I also know I can refer patients to diplomate around the world & know they’ll be well cared for.

What does a Diplomate in the Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies mean?
A person who puts patients first and values lifelong learning and wants to practice at the highest level of our specialty.

Why would someone want to become a Diplomate in the Cornea Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies Section?
Learning, challenge & self-satisfaction & referral network. Going through the Diplomate process creates a better version of you clinically than before. The process forces you to learn cornea, contact lenses and refractive technologies from a group of doctors that are honestly available to help with the understanding.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not involved with optometry?
Being with my very tolerant husband, Mal & my 2 cats & travel, reading/cooking/crafting & enjoying the outdoors in the majestic Pacific Northwest.

Where do you call home?
I consider myself an Oregonian, but our home is now just across the border in Southwest Washington state.
2018 Diplomates

Susan Gromacki, OD, MS, FAAO - Diplomate Award Chair

We had the pleasure of inducting three new Diplomates into our esteemed group this past November in San Antonio. The Diplomate Award Reception was held at none other than the Alamo (thank you, Clarke!), which provided a tremendously beautiful setting, both inside and out, for our most-deserving honorees.

There are currently only 147 individuals who have earned the status of Diplomate in the CCLRT of the American Academy of Optometry. It is an arduous process, but well worth it for the knowledge gained and relationships made. As a new year begins we encourage all of our active candidates to continue to progress and all new candidates to begin. Please review the Diplomate Candidate Guide and let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to welcoming more Diplomates into the Section at Academy 2019 Orlando!

We would like to recognize our class of 2018:

Julie DeKinder, OD, FAAO

Dr. DeKinder earned the Clinical Diplomate, Contact Lens Track. She is Director of Academic and Residency Programs at University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry. She also serves as Chief of Contact Lens Services and coordinator of the cornea and contact lens residency. She completed a Cornea and Contact Residency at the UMSL in 2005, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and the Scleral Lens Education Society, and a member of both the American Optometric and Missouri Optometric Associations. She serves as a member of the Residents Day Program Committee for the American Academy of Optometry, a member of the ACOE Council and Chair of the ACOE Residency Committee. She currently services as Vice-Chair for the Association Optometric Contact Lens Educators (AOCLE).
Dan Fuller, OD, FAAO, FSLS

Dr. Fuller is a 2018 recipient of the CCLRT Diplomate, Contact Lens Clinical Track. He received his BS degree in 1980 from Purdue University and Doctor of Optometry degree in 1984 from The Ohio State University College of Optometry. He began his career in a hospital-based setting in the US Navy, serving for eight years. He spent 17 years in private practice as owner of a multi-site, solo practice emphasizing medical eye, and specialty contact lens services. His career in academia began in 1987. He holds the rank of Professor, is the Chief, Cornea Contact Lens Service, and founding supervisor of the Cornea Contact Lens Refractive Surgery residency at The Eye Center, Southern College of Optometry. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and the Scleral Lens Education Society and has held multiple chairs of leadership serving local, state and national organizations.

Melanie Frogozo, OD, FAAO

Dr. Frogozo was awarded her Diplomate in the CCLRT Contact Lens Clinical Track. She completed a residency in cornea and contact lenses at the University of Houston College of Optometry. She served on the faculty at the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. She is currently the owner of Alamo Eye Care and the director of the Contact Lens Institute of San Antonio located in San Antonio, Texas. She is also a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and the Scleral Lens Education Society, and a member of the Contact Lens Section of the American Optometric Association and the Texas Optometric Association. In addition, Dr. Frogozo is a regular columnist for Contact Lens Spectrum.
2018 Awards Presentations

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

*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. Jerry Legerton, OD, FAAO, was presented with the Founders’ Award at the Section Awards meeting.

During his 26 years in the private practice of optometry he specialized in low vision and contact lenses and served as the managing partner of a seven doctor multi-specialty practice in San Diego.

Equipped with extensive clinical experience and two post-doctoral Masters degrees (MBA and MS), he offers a wealth of knowledge in clinical science, research design, visual function; human behavior, personnel management and team-building; and strategic planning, business development and marketing.

Dr. Legerton has authored more than 70 published articles and lectured on 6 continents. Jerry Legerton is an inventor on 52 issued US patents and 69 published applications for contact lenses, refractive surgery, refractive error regulation, and diagnostic instruments. He is a co-founder of SynergEyes, the global leader of the high oxygen permeable hybrid contact lenses and co-inventor of Paragon CRT, the global leader in Corneal Refractive Therapy contact lenses. Contact lenses from his patents are registered in more than 45 countries and enabled eye care practitioners to earn more than $1 billion in fees for services and lenses in the last 15 years.

He is co-founder of Innovega Inc., the developer of contact lens enabled wearable displays, VICOH, LLC, the developer of novel custom soft contact lenses, and Myolite, Inc., the developer of technology to prevent the development of myopia. He remains active in product development of contact lens enabled wearable electronic displays, humanitarian eyewear, and devices for early detection of ocular disease.
The Max Schapero Memorial Lecture - Helen Swarbrick, PhD, FAAO

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 Helen Swarbrick gained her optometric qualifications at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, completing a Diploma in Optometry in 1974 and an MSc in Psychology in 1978. Following eight years in private optometric practice in New Zealand and England, Professor Swarbrick settled in Australia, taking up a position as Research Optometrist at the Cornea and Contact Lens Research Unit, School of Optometry, University of New South Wales. In 1991 she received her PhD degree for a thesis on the topic of rigid gas-permeable contact lens adherence during overnight lens wear. In 1995 Professor Swarbrick was appointed to the School of Optometry and Vision Science, UNSW, with responsibility for contact lens education at the School, and was granted the honor of Professor. Professor Swarbrick’s current primary research interest is the corneal response to orthokeratology (or corneal refractive therapy) for the correction of refractive errors. In 2004, at the Second Global Orthokeratology Symposium (GOS) in Toronto, Professor Swarbrick was awarded the Rodger Kame Memorial Award in recognition of her efforts, innovation and research in the field of orthokeratology and corneal reshaping. In 2011 Professor Swarbrick was the Alan Bott Memorial Award at the New Zealand Optometric Vision Research Foundation. Professor Swarbrick was awarded the Don Noack Award presented by the Orthokeratology Society of Oceania and the Kenneth W. Bell Award by the International Cornea and Contact Lens Congress for her outstanding contributions to corneal and contact lens research and education.

Professor Swarbrick has received three consecutive research grants from the Australian Research Council (2004, 2007 and 2010), based on the significant findings of research in orthokeratology that she has published and presented at international meetings, to conduct further studies in different aspects of orthokeratology. The recent ARC Linkage Grant was designated to develop a greater understanding of the visual optics of orthokeratology.

The Glenn A. Fry Lecture Award - Fiona Stapleton, MCOptom, PhD, FAAO

The award is given annually to a distinguished scientist or clinician scientist in recognition of the quality, significance, impact, and relevance to optometry of his or her current research contributions.
Fiona has conducted important life-long research in the field of contact lens infection, specifically corneal infection. Professor Stapleton graduated in Optometry from the University of Cardiff, Wales and was awarded her PhD from City University and Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Her research areas include the epidemiology of lens-related disease, ocular microbiology, bacterial resistance, contact lens care systems, and ocular defense mechanisms. She holds numerous memberships and executive affiliations with optometric and scientific organizations, is a regular reviewer for a range of journals, belongs to the international editorial board of four journals, has over 225 peer-reviewed publications, has contributed 19 chapters to textbooks and published a book on the diagnosis and management of anterior segment disease.

The Past Chairs Reception:
San Antonio – CCLRT Section Symposium

Program Chair – Louise Sclafani, OD, FAAO

This year the Section sponsored a program entitled “The U.S. Military Approach to Treating Corneal and Ocular Surface Disease and Refractive Surgery in the Armed Forces.” The session was eloquently moderated by Diplomate Dr. Loretta Szczotka-Flynn and presented by Drs. Gary Legault, Anthony J. Johnson, Kelly Olson, and Richard Townley. We have carried on the tradition of presenting both the optometric and ophthalmic perspective, however being in San Antonio, we wanted to share the military view. This program truly embodied all branches of the Armed Services as well as our Section. It was truly enlightening to learn about both the management of those who have suffered from combat injuries, but also how these doctors are trying to raise the bar and provide supervision for those who are protecting our nation. There was great interest in learning about the latest military technology and the unique situations these heroes encounter. Those in the audience were truly impressed and we’d like to thank all of those involved in the service to our nation. We welcome ideas for future programs. Please contact louisesclafani@yahoo.com.

Resident Travel Grants

Through the generous support of CooperVision, cornea and contact lens residents received travel fellowships to this year's Academy meeting in San Antonio. 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 Section were Dr. Renee Reeder and Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Clarke Newman.
For all Diplomate Candidates:  
*Case Reports - From Karen Yeung, OD, FAAO*

Call for all case reports!

If Sue Gromacki has contacted you, you know who you are. It's much easier to spread them out over the course of the year than to rush at the end of the 5th year of the process. So please continue to send them to me, in Microsoft Word. Also, please read [and adhere to!] the Case Reports section in the Candidate's guide, 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 referred journal.

You can email them to me at impyeyes99@yahoo.com. Please feel to reach out to me if you have any questions.

For all Diplomates: Diplomate Renewal Points  
*Dave Roncone, OD, FAAO, Diplomate Renewal Committee Chair*

The end of our 5 year renewal cycle (2016-2020) is December 31, 2020. Diplomates are responsible for submitting 25 points, each 5 year cycle, to maintain membership in the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies. Please complete the Diplomate Renewal Form yearly and submit your points, to Dave Roncone, Diplomate Renewal Committee Chair, at davidproncone@hotmail.com. In the future, the Section’s goal is for members to enter their points in their personal account through the Academy website. More information will be available on this shortly.

Members with Emeritus Status are exempt from turning in points each five year cycle. Members with Emeritus status must meet 2 requirements:

- Age equal to, or greater than 70 years
- Fellowship status for 30 years

Members who meet both requirements above should email Dave Roncone to be placed in Emeritus status.
Leadership Planning

This year the council will have an interactive, “blue-sky” meeting in Dallas as we begin a multi-year project to renovate our Section. Just as technology rapidly changes to meet the demands of scientific and social changes, the Section leadership has requested a call to “Reinvent” to meet the needs of our Section members.

- Revitalize communication with members, diplomates, profession-at-large - create goals.
- Take inventory of current Diplomate process and evaluate the process to be relevant for today’s vision care specialist.
- Brainstorm session to construct programming and education opportunities for the membership.
- Engage new and old Section officers to discuss ways to improve the committee structure.

Should you have ideas for our Section and how it can best serve our mission - please contact the Chair, Cris Schnider at drcrisfaao@gmail.com.

Recycle Your Contact Lens and Package

Last week I looked outside my window and saw a plastic ring around a bird’s neck. Just like Robin Williams in the movie “HAPPY FEET” reminds us through the characterization of Lovelace the importance of recycling plastic to protect animal life. The Section on Cornea, Contact Lens and Refractive Technologies members’ role is to communicate to our patients the science and consumer impact from the use of contact lenses. Similar to the “NO-WATER” campaign, the “Plastic Recycle” campaign reminds us the impact of plastic waste from contact lenses and solutions to our environment. All major manufacturers (Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, Johnson and Johnson, and Menicon) worldwide have realized the implications of plastic waste and have developed programs to recycle and protect marine and land animals from the dangers of plastic. Remind your patients not to discard their contact lenses in the sink or toilet. This is how plastic gets into our waterways that can destroy marine life. Join the movement and recycle contact lenses and all blister packs and solution containers to Terracycle. Learn more...
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Fostering professional growth and advocating excellence in patient care through leadership in education and research.