Public Health and Environmental Vision Section Business Meeting 2016


2. PH/EV Diplomate Prep Course: Many thanks to the various speakers but especially Karl Citek our Diplomate Course Committee Chair. We will be using feedback from this year’s course to modify the curriculum for coming years. Your feedback would be appreciated.

3. Elections: None this year. Fred Soto will be taking over as the Program Chair next year. Jeff Weaver will be the new Diplomate Chair, Debbie Hettler will be the new Section Chair and Karl Citek will continue on as the Vice Chair of Education. The Section moved to ensure that the label on Karl’s position is the official label that allows a comped registration.

4. Diplomate Chair’s Report
   a. The Diplomate Chair: Dr. Hettler did outstanding recruiting work this year resulting in five candidates taking the written exam. This resulted in four candidates proceeding to the oral interview stage (Leasher, Sparrow, Kocembo, and Contreras). In addition we have two candidates (Cohn, Hom) who will be defending their paper tomorrow. [Addendum to Minutes: All four candidates were deemed ready to proceed to candidate stage from the oral interviews. Each of the papers were deemed to be close but in need of some additional work. Our hope is that these two candidates will make changes working with new Mentors (Cohn: B. Hatch, Stelmack, Hoppe; Hom: S. Hatch) for a successful conclusion next year.]

5. Diplomate Renewal
   a. 2020 will be the renewal year for all before 2015. Be sure to stay involved and tally your points.

6. Peters Award Lecture
   a. The 3rd Annual Peters Award Lecture was awarded to Kovin Naidoo, the new CEO of the Brien Holden Vision Institute. His inspiring lecture on the importance of tackling the epidemic of myopia was outstanding.
   b. Peters Award Committee Chair Bob Newcomb will be stepping down. The Section moved to set the number of people in this committee to five. Current members Stelmack, Kleinstein, and Whitener will be joined by new members McAlister and Grover.
   c. A reminder the AOF’s fund for the Peters Award is still accepting donations.

7. Program Chair Report on this year’s symposium(s)
   a. The NASEM Report Symposium was very well received. Academy President Brett Bence was in attendance to kick off the event. Attendance was 54 which was less than hoped given the significance of the event, unfortunately scheduling put this Symposium up against the AAO/AAOpt Symposium and some other highlighted events.
   b. We had several excellent Symposium topics suggested for next year’s Symposium. Two were determined to be the most advantageous: Surveillance (pulling folks from CDC and the local Chicago area in follow up to the NASEM report. A second topic is Myopia Control looking at the public health implications of myopia both in the US and overseas.
8. NASEM Report Action Plan for AAOpt. A motion was made and carried to put together a small committee of 5-7 folks to write a proposed action plan for the Academy in response to the NASEM report. Volunteers so far for this group are Jackson, Block, Kocembo, Wang-Harris. Membership is not closed.

9. A Diplomate Examination Development Committee was proposed by New Diplomate Chair Jeff Weaver. He acknowledged the efforts of Debbie Hettler for improving the written examination, but suggested that we should make further upgrades to quality. He proposed appointment of an Exam Development Committee, on which the following Diplomates have agreed to serve: Karl Citek, Greg Good, Kevin Jackson, Howard McAlister.

10. The leadership and accomplishments of outgoing Section Chair Kevin Jackson were recognized and he was awarded a plaque to commemorate his term of service.

11. The meeting ended with a tribute to founding Diplomate Norm Haffner who passed away this year. Members of the section shared some section history with tales of the larger than life Dr. Haffner.