American Academy of Optometry
Public Health and Environmental Vision Section

2017 Henry B. Peters Award
Henry Buckland Peters, OD, MA, FAAO (1916–2000)
Background

- Henry was born November 2, 1916, to Thomas H. and Eleanor (ne’e Hough) Peters in Oakland, California
- Bachelor of Arts/Doctor of Optometry degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1938
- Master of Public Health degree from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1939
- Oakland practice optometry with his father in 1946.

Professional Appointments

- Assistant Clinical Professor at the School of Optometry at the University of California at Berkeley from 1947 until his full-time appointment as Assistant Dean and Associate Professor at the school in 1962
- Primary research effort “The Orinda Study (1959) paved the way for school-based vision screening
- Founding Dean of the School of Optometry at the Medical Center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (1st with a Medical Center)
- Professor of Public Health, Senior Scholar for several departments, and as founding Executive Director of the UAB Research Foundation.
Accomplishments

• Great strides in the cooperation between optometry and other disciplines
• Worked extensively with the Veteran’s Administration
• Board of Directors of the National Health Council from 1969 to 1983 and, in 1978, he was the first optometrist to be elected president of the organization
• First recipient of the Carel C. Koch Medal for Interprofessional Relations in 1974
• Published nearly 100 professional research articles, papers, and editorials

Member of

• Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
• National Board of Examiners in Optometry
• American Medical Association
• American Physical Therapy Association
• California and Alabama Optometric Associations
• American Optometric Association
• American Optometric Association
“Dr. Henry B. Peters will be remembered as having a profound influence upon the optometric profession in the 20th century. He was truly a man of vision and leadership who saw optometrists as primary health care providers. A grateful profession will sorely miss his intellect, humor, and wisdom.”
Public Health and Environmental Vision Section Peters Award-timeline

- October 2008 Fund suggested to AAO Board of Directors
- January 2009 approved once $25,000 reached
- February 2010 Dr. Newcomb and section contacted AOF to assist section with fundraising
- May 2010 AOF established funding to support nationally or internationally known speaker at the section meeting
- January, 2014 $25,000 goal was reached after Dr. Whitener sent out personal appeals
- 2017 AOF changed its name to American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF)
Previous Award Winners

• The award annually recognizes an individual who has made exemplary contributions to public health and/or environmental vision over many years.

• Alden Norman Haffner - 2014
• Les Caplan - 2015
• Kovin Naidoo - 2016
2017 Award Committee

- Robert Kleinstein - chair
- Wm. Howard McAlister
- Joan Stelmack
- John Whitener
- Lori Grover

THANK YOU!!!!!
Dr. Jeffrey Walline

• American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) Board of Directors
• American Academy of Optometry Board of Directors
• Chair of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee
• Associate Dean for Research at The Ohio State University College of Optometry.