



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

**Binocular Vision,
Perception, and Pediatric
Optometry Section**

Background of the Section

History

The Section originated in the late 1960s. The clinical Diplomate program was started in 1971 with Drs. Nathan Flax, William Ludlam, and Harold Solan comprising the first examination committee. The first Diplomates that year were Drs. Richard Kavner and Allen Cohen. After there were seven Diplomates, the first committee was dissolved and its members went through the Diplomate process as well.

The research Diplomate program began in the late 1990s under the direction of Drs. Ken Ciuffreda, Clifton Schor, and Earl Smith. This option allows non-clinicians who perform research in binocular vision and pediatrics to become Diplomates by means of their research contribution. Approved candidates must submit a substantial paper as well as undergo an oral examination.

In 1999, the Candidates Guide was revised to include the option of a Pediatric Optometry (PO) track in the Clinical Diplomate program (in addition to the longstanding Binocular Vision and Perception [BVP] track). This new option was developed at the request of a group of AAO Fellows who specialized in the care of infants and preschool children, for whom traditional vision therapy and visual information processing evaluations were less applicable. Developing this new option prevented the Section from splitting into two smaller groups. Although both tracks have many requirements in common, the PO track contains some case report topics, written examination questions, and practical examination patients that differ from the BVP track. Several recent Diplomates have completed the process via this track.

In 2000, Drs. Elizabeth Caloroso and Merton Flom were designated Honorary Diplomates, for their many contributions to the field of binocular vision.

At the 2012 Annual American Academy of Optometry meeting the BVPPO Section held a Diplomate Preparation Course that was well received. As a result, the section has seen a surge in Diplomate applications.

As of 2012, there are 26 active Clinical Diplomates and 2 Research Diplomates. The section also has 7 Emeritus Diplomates.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section is to foster and conduct clinical, education, and research activities in binocular vision, visual information processing and pediatric optometry.

Goals and Objectives

- Serve as a primary resource for the Academy for symposia, papers, posters, courses, information and research regarding the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions, and to advise the Board of Directors on policy in these areas.
- Encourage inquiry and research into the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by providing a forum of practitioners and scientists known as the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section where new advances in the field may be presented, questioned and defended.
- Promote, advance and enhance the identity of optometry as a profession providing these services.
- Encourage Academy Fellows to increase their competence in the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by recognizing as Diplomates those who demonstrate a broad base of knowledge and expertise in these conditions.
- Develop a large body of Clinical and Research Diplomates to further the clinical, educational, and research activities and goals of the Section.

White Papers

- Vision, Learning, and Dyslexia (A Joint Organizational Policy Statement of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association)
- Vision Therapy: Information for Health Care and Other Allied Professionals (A Joint Organizational Policy Statement of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association)
- Optometric Care of the Patient with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI): For Eye Care Practitioners and the Lay Public (A Joint Organizational Policy Statement of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Association)