ANNUAL REPORT

2015

Promoting the art and science of vision care through lifelong learning
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Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to report that 2015 was yet another record breaking year for our Academy! The Academy has continued its growth trajectory in many vital areas, including annual meeting attendance, membership, Diplomates, and manuscript submissions to *Optometry and Vision Science*.

Academy 2015 New Orleans was undoubtedly our most successful meeting to date. With a total 7,489 in attendance, including 4,368 optometrists and vision scientists, and 1,400 students, this was the largest meeting in Academy history. Attendees chose from 370 hours of continuing education and 542 Scientific Program presentations, explored more than 170 booths in the exhibit hall, and attended several memorable social events. This year’s meeting also made history with the first-ever Joint American Academy of Optometry and American Academy of Ophthalmology Symposium titled, “Amblyopia and Beyond: Current Evidence-Based Pediatric Eye Care.”

We admitted 240 new Fellows into our Academy at the Fellowship Banquet. In addition, a record 14 individuals were awarded Diplomate status by Academy Sections. We also received more than 170 new candidate applications at the annual meeting. To top it off, the Student Fellowship program admitted a record total of 512 new Student Fellows in 2015.

Our American Optometric Foundation (AOF) distributed $300,000 in scholarships, grants, and awards this year, received over $190,000 in donations and new commitments at the annual meeting, awarded 10 coveted Ezell fellowships, and welcomed five new Presidents Circle members and one new Presidents Circle Gold member. Additionally, a big round of thanks to the Alcon Foundation for hosting the October 8th World Sight Day Cycle for Sight 20/20 Challenge where attendees cycled for a total of 2,020 minutes triggering a $25,000 donation to the AOF. In addition, the Alcon Foundation generously sponsored a successful $25,000 matching gift campaign throughout the meeting.

*Optometry and Vision Science* (OVS) had yet another remarkable year with record manuscript submissions and high-ranking international impact factor. OVS transitioned to an online-only format effective January 1, 2016, and our publisher is currently planning improvements to the OVS website. Please join us in thanking Dr. Tony Adams for working tirelessly for many years as Editor-in-Chief of our journal, and without whom the journal would not be such a success. Welcome to Dr. Michael Twa as the new Editor-in-Chief effective January 1, 2016.

We profoundly appreciate the amazing Academy volunteers who work to ensure the success of the meeting program and our hard-working staff who work year round to make
Academy 2015 New Orleans featured the first ever Joint American Academy of Optometry and American Academy of Ophthalmology Symposium. This collaboration is the first effort by the two organizations to work together to better prepare and support their members in delivering the highest quality eye care.

This year’s symposium was titled, “Amblyopia and Beyond: Current Evidence-Based Pediatric Eye Care” and featured three optometrists and three ophthalmologists, all experts in the field of pediatric vision: Susan Cotter, OD, MS, FAAO, Bruce Moore, OD, FAAO, and Donald Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO, Mary Louise Collins, MD, Jonathan Holmes, MD, and Jean Ramsey, MD, MPH.

Using case reports as a springboard, session speakers explored the evidence base for amblyopia treatments, including the role of refractive correction, expected treatment effects, the best form of occlusion for different patient populations, the role of near activities, recidivism and residual amblyopia. The speakers also presented case reports to help illustrate the literature supporting the treatment of convergence insufficiency—including its prevalence, symptoms and treatments—and the results of the CITT randomized trial. The session wrapped up with a look at the results and clinical relevance of the IXT-2 Study, a randomized clinical trial of observation vs. occlusion therapy for intermittent exotropia.

The program was also presented at the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s annual meeting in Las Vegas in November.
Jazz artists crooned, beads and beignets abounded, and optometric lecturers gave it their all on the streets of New Orleans during the week of October, 7-10! The Academy’s 94th annual meeting attracted a record 7,489 attendees for four days of superior continuing education, networking and camaraderie, and clinically relevant scientific presentations.

Academy 2015 New Orleans was yet again a record year for the Academy with the largest meeting attendance to date! In addition, the Academy inducted 240 new Fellows into the Academy along with a record 14 new Diplomates.

During this year’s Plenary Session on “Ocular Melanomas: Past, Present and Future,” Dr. Carol Shields began by detailing the features of nevi, how to distinguish a nevus from a melanoma and the role of imaging. Next, Dr. Jerry Shields discussed the evolution of diagnosis and treatment, as well as the controversy over whether or not to treat a nevus before it begins to grow, and its impact on mortality. Drs. Carol and Jerry Shields are world-renowned experts on ocular cancer from the Wills Eye Hospital.

The annual Awards Ceremony drew a sizeable crowd as distinguished vision scientists were recognized for their cutting-edge work in the field. The Charles F. Prentice Medal recipient, Dr. Ralph Freeman, lectured on “Neural Organization of Binocular Vision.” The American Optometric Foundation’s Glenn A. Fry Award recipient, Dr. Joanne Wood, presented “Driving Towards a New Vision: Understanding the Role of Vision in Driving.”

The annual Fellowship Banquet concluded the annual meeting as the new Fellows and new Diplomates were recognized as they crossed the stage.

**Annual Meeting Registrants**

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**Lectures and Workshops Committee**

Neil Pence, Chair  
Gregory Nixon, Vice Chair  
Sarah Appel  
Marie Bodack  
Andrew Di Mattina  
Keshia Elder  
Patricia Henderson  
Brian Kawasaki  
Lyndon Wong
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY (FAAO) CLASS OF 2015!

Australia
Lauren N. Ayton
Lee Richard Baumwol
Cecilia Chao
Jennifer Anne Long
Vinod Maseedupally
Athira Rohit
Xiaojia Eric Wei

Austria
Rene Kreillechner

Canada
Palgi Arora
Raiju Jacob Babu
Stacey Chong
Angela Jennifer Di Marco
Caroline Faucher
Nalisha Kassam
Sung (Kelly) H. Lee
Glen Ong
Brandon Prete
Sandip Randhawa
Jessica Steen
Glenn D. Wicks

Eritrea
Rajendra Gyawali

Finland
Robert Andersson

India
Aditi Chinmay Deshpande
Kuldeep Raiizada
Prasad K. Sawant
Ukti A. Shah

Israel
Liat Gantz
Einat Shneor

Japan
Brooke Kibel

Portugal
Kishor Sapkota

Saudi Arabia
Ali Masmali

Singapore
Jacqueline Yu Min Chua

Switzerland
Elaine Brugnoli Minacci

Taiwan
John Ching-Jen Hsiao

UNITED STATES
Alabama
Anna F. Ablamowicz
Sarah Clark
Patricia Fulmer
Kwaku Antwi Osei
Anthony Richard Spina
Lauren Stirling

Arizona
Kendra Leigh Eck
Breanne M. Flores
Michael R. Kozlowski
Jamie N. Kuhn
Damitola Olushola Lajubutu
Anna Liza Olibarria Moore
Richard B. Runyon
Bianna H. Ryff
Kyle Ryff
Florence Yeh

Arkansas
Marcus Cooke

California
Naro Babaian
Judy Cao
Nancy Chan
Karen Chester
Kevin K. Chuang
Michael M. Duong
Jill Fajardo
Roya N. Habibi
Heather Jones
Sarah Kochik
Tarah N. Lee
Son V. Ly
Andrew Justin Mangum
Nancy A. McNamara
Heidi Miller
Charlie V. Ngo
Therese Anne Vy-Phuc
Nguyen
Mimi Phan
Allison Pierce
Austin Roorda
Anne Tasaki
Thien Tran
Vivien Tse
Caitlin E. Walsh
Jeremy Walz
Ethan Call Woodbury
Yu-Tai Wu
Jenny Xu
Helen Yang

Colorado
Bryce D. Brown
Jessica M. Colpitt
Tiffany Louise Gates
Lee Guo

Connecticut
Jonathan Hamilton

Delaware
Mariem A. Abdou
Lisa J. Draper

Florida
Sara Berke-Silva
Roxanne M. Buffano
Alan Michael Cantrell
Cory Matthew Collier
Sheryl Guillory
Jasleen Jhajj
Andrea Le
Christopher K. Mutai
Freyda A. Otalora
Jamie M. St. Martin
Jacqueline Westcott

Georgia
Mallory A. Cranmer
Nash Ditmetarog
Andrea Giardina
Katherine Randolph

Idaho
Ryan Charles Johnson
Jill Kronberg

Illinois
Maria T. Cucuras
Shelly Kim
Patrick Lee
Katherine B Lynch
Trisha Patel
Kerry A. Phelan
Jessilin Quint
Joshua Lee Robinson
Hillary Schweils
Robert J. Steinmetz
Kelli Theisen
Felicia J. Timmermann
Jane Marie Trimberger

Indiana
Juliana Grove

Iowa
Heidi Lynn Bell

Kentucky
Meaghan Horton
Diana Johns
Breynie Middleton
Andrea Kay Smith
Nikolaos Christos Zagorianos

Maryland
Noushin S. Ahmed
Corinne N. Casey
Andy Cheng
Saleha Munir
Gwendoline Songwe

Massachusetts
Rachel Currin
Anna Kirilova
Athanasios Panorgias
Emily Richard

Michigan
Adeline Bauer
Ryan J. Brown
Cynthia Brown
Sarah Hinkley
Alison Jenerou
Robert T. Kocembo
Anna Lammers
Stephanie Ramdass
Dannielle E. Tholl
Lyndsay Tomkins
Christopher Walsh

Minnesota
Hannah Hays
Brooke M. Messer
Kimberly Penix
Dane Peterson
Kendra C. Pollard

Mississippi
Jennifer Lynn Jones
Jim Williamson

Missouri
Erin Brooks
Joseph Castellano
Julia Anne Dombek
Lekha Mary Samuel

Nebraska
Joel David Quist
Laura M. Schindler

New Mexico
Jamie D. Dunn
My Tho Karin Tran
Grace L. Tsan

New York
Corinne Blum
Matthew David Bovenzi
Julia Canestraro
James M. Caruso
Jocelyn M. Cercone
Konstantin Fishilevich
John Gialousakis
Danielle Kalberer
Allison McLaughlin
Sharon Park
Kimberly Rosati
Shannon Santapaola
Suzanne Walter Sherman
Kevin Thomas Willeford
“Becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry is all about getting that “x-factor” as a professional optometrist. The Fellowship process encourages and guides you to put forth your best work under the guidance and evaluation of experts. Achieving Fellowship is not an end, but the beginning of new opportunities to grow and excel as an optometric professional.”

Ukti Shah, MOptom, FASCO, FAAO, of Mumbai, India

North Carolina
Roselyn Ahua
Grace Lea Y. Dumayas

Ohio
Michael-Vu Tran Do
Larry Allen Hookway
Erin Elizabeth Mosellen
Chantelle Mundy
James Omodio
Amanda Ransdell
Carly D. Rose

Oklahoma
Kelly Boucher
Dana M. Garber
Kelsey Grounds
Spencer Dennis Johnson
Bryan Mirone
Jaclyn Munson
David M. Simpson
Shannon Swayne

Oregon
Laura M. Armstrong
Caroline M. Ooley
Helena Lin Tzou

Pennsylvania
Luanne K. Chubb
James Deom
Kristen L. Epting
Gregory R. Jackson
Bisant Labib
Bhawanjot K. Minhas

Rhode Island
Rahul M. Gupta

South Carolina
Ashley D. McCain
Matthew L. Stolz

South Dakota
Jessie Marie Dinkel
Mitchel Ibach

Tennessee
Kristin K. Anderson
Alicia Groce
Karen Ann Kehein
Aaron M. Kerr
Reena Lepine
Tony W. Patterson
Nathan D. Rock

Texas
Baskar Arumugam
David Dinh
Thomas Vincent Duchardt
Melodi Eyvanaki Esmaili
Carrie Ho
Leah Ann Johnson
Pierce Kenworthy
Alicia Esther Lau
Maria Elena Magana
Elizabeth A. May
Elizabeth Peguese
Mike Stevens
Jenny Terrell
Julius W. Tiu-Lim

Vermont
Brooke Donaher

Virginia
Katherine Gillett
Alicia Kim
Christopher John Kuc
Jill Leisner
Adam J. Sweeney
Sara Varghail

Washington
Melanie Anspaugh
Connie C. Lee
Derek Allen McTyier
Rajiv N. Patel
Gleb Sukhovolskiy

Wisconsin
Carol Ann Sheker Main

Wyoming
Amy Elizabeth Aldrich

ADMITTANCE COMMITTEE
Wendy Moyle, National Chair
Megan Hunter, National Vice Chair

Subcommittee 1A – Clinical Candidates
Keith Cespon, Chair
Alan French
Tina Porzukowiak

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Michelle Chen
Maryke Neiber

Subcommittee 1C – Clinical Candidates
Ken Sorkin, Vice Chair
Jennifer Seino
Valerie Sharpe

Subcommittee 1D – Clinical Candidates
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William J. Denton
Katie Greiner

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Molly McGinty-Tauren
Julie Tyler

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Pattie Fries
Stacy Hinkemeyer

Subcommittee 2C – Clinical Candidates
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Randall McPherran
Kyle Smith

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Sarah Bortz
Traci Seng

Subcommittee 3B – Clinical Candidates
James Hoekel, Vice Chair
Angela Chen
Sara Weidmayer

Subcommittee 3C – Clinical Candidates
Gilbert Pierce, Vice Chair
Victoria Butcko
Jessica Potter

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Bob Buckingham, Chair
Treacy Adamo
Emily Sprague

Subcommittee 4B – Clinical Candidates
David Yang, Vice Chair
Mira Arcs
Brooke Smith

Subcommittee 4C – Clinical Candidates
Tawana Roberts, Vice Chair
Kelvin Tang
Danielle Weiler

Subcommittee 5A – International Candidates
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Derek MacDonald
Juan Vifuela

Subcommittee 5B – International Candidates
Michael Wyss, Vice Chair
Nicole Leong
Joseph Mittelman

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Kathrine Osborn Lorenz, Vice Chair
Christopher Putnam

Subcommittee 7 – Scientific Candidates
Carol Westall, Chair
Steve Burns, Vice Chair
Marjean Kulp
Manoj Venkiteshwar

President Brett Bence congratulates new Fellow Ukti Shah

President Brett Bence congratulates new Fellow Ukti Shah
The 2015 AAO-Essilor Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Optometry awardees. The Academy would like to thank the Brien Holden Vision Institute for their generous travel support so the recipients could travel to New Orleans from India to receive the award in person.
Academy 2015 New Orleans saw the largest group of students ever participating in the Student Fellowship program with over 700 participating and 512 fulfilling the requirements. A total of 1,400 students attended the meeting – a striking 40% increase over 2014.

Student Membership in the Academy continued to grow steadily in 2015, marking a 20% increase in student membership over 2014. Part of this growth can be attributed to the involvement of many schools and colleges of optometry in the Academy’s 100% class enrollment discount program that offers a reduced membership fee. (When an entire class of optometry students become student members, they receive a discounted fee.) In 2015, 11 schools participated in the program:

- Indiana University, School of Optometry
- Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry
- University of Houston College of Optometry
- University of California Berkeley, School of Optometry
- University of Alabama Birmingham, School of Optometry
- University of Missouri St. Louis, College of Optometry
- Southern College of Optometry
- NOVA Southeastern University, College of Optometry
- The Ohio State University, College of Optometry
- Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry
- University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry

### 2015 STUDENT FELLOWS

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<td>Margaret Baumgartner</td>
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New England College of Optometry
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Julia Mockler
Thu Nguyen
Francesca Sefton
Denis Shiosman
Kayla Spangenberg
Mary Troyer
Katelyn Vilasi
Lenna Walker
Elizabeth Wassenaar
Steven Weifenbach
University of Alabama, Birmingham, School of Optometry
Jessica Anghi
Margaret Bailey
Sarah Berry
Spencer Boozer
Brit Borders
Julia Broome
Kelly Cleary
LaShaundra Dangerfield
Lori DeJamett
Jenaye DeRoche
Carey Dillard
Chris Easley
Lillian Forsell
Lindsey Gaskill
Iliana Ginsburg
Karen Gonzalez
Amy Henderson
Nettie Hines
James Andrew Ho
Ashley Iketani
Grace Kimrey
Thuy Le
Christopher Lee
Whitney Lowe
Shreya Mehta
Emily Nickell
Pritesh Patel
Sonya Patel
Samara Perryman
Ellen Previtt
Stephanie Ross
Lauren Shackelford
Jinun Shah
Yash Shah
Savannah Sheets
Erica Smith
Lauren Spencer
Betsy Stevenson
Molly Tipton
Megan Tomsk
Amy Vo
Emma Wilhite Scott
Lea Vaught
Sara Young

University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry
Paymaun Asnaashari
Kelly Cai
George Chen
Jeremy Cheung
Amber Egbert
Jup Grewal
Justine Hsieh
Lindsey Kuehl
Kristi Lew
Rebekah Lin
Jill Lobinger
Vivian Look
Stella Ma
Sharon Ng
Tiffany Nguyen
Jacqueline Pan
Benjamin Suz
Megan Tai
Krystle Villamayor
Yi Yi (Charlotte) Wang
Anna Xie
Tina Zeng

University of Houston, College of Optometry
Flor Arenales
Ashley Atencio
Catherine Baker
Pushpam Baweja
Kymber Blaschke
Nicole Cavazos
Desiree Chapa
Steven Chau
Angela Dantin
Leah Dantin
Nguyen Duong
Maria Dupre
Ellen Fandry
Sarah Galt
Sulki Han
Elisabeth Hotell
Anita Jacob
Sherine John
Katherine Johns
Ariel Johnson
Gabriela Leche
Meagan LeGrand
Matthew Lentsch
Elena Lischau
Michelle Ma
Kelsey Mach
Amanda Melendez
Monica Moshtaghi
Chi-Quang Nguyen
Lynda Nguyen
Vicki Nguyen
Cathy Nguyen
Kristina Nhan
Sara Nourani-Dargiri
Reena Patel
Tessa Plan
D’Laine Pulliam
Audrey Raley
Dana Rocha
Wazihia Samin
Marissa San Miguel
Jackie Seier
Sarah Shurbet
Kelsea Skidmore
Kevin Soong
Nancy Sorrell
Jennifer Thai
Denny Thomas
Alexandra Thornton
Grace Tran
Hue Tran
Alfredo Trejo
Poonah Vafaee
Ashley Varghese
Jennifer Vuong
Jizhao Yang
Kourosh Zakeri
Betty Zhang

University of Missouri, St. Louis, College of Optometry
Theresa Crowley
Thomas Lambert
Katie Loock

University of Montreal
Charles Albert
Maude Beauregard
Roxane Bonneau
Nikola Bouffard-St-Pierre
Julie Brassard
Diana Brindina
Olivia Caldareri
Julie Caron
Roxanne Cote-Castonguay
Claudie Dalzill
Keisha Etienne
Eliane Fazaa
Mylene Genest
Amanda Gerbasi
Caroline Greiss
Mariko Hamel
Vithusha Illanganathan
Selong Lacroix
Lili-Anh Le Minh
Mylene Leger
Eric Lortie-Milner
Maxime MacGregor
Maxime Paré
Emile Pretto
Djordje Radić
Catherine Rondeau
Camille Siqueira
Lorie St-Amour
Melissa Tom
Laurianne Trudeau
Ariana Venni
Michelle Zakem

University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry
Sehar Ali
Arianna Antufiez
Loren Bazan
Michael Bilalis
Francesca Cantu
Johannes Chen
Haesoul Choi
Parisa Foroutan
Carson Ge
Carly Gentry
Abigail Granera
Logan Granera
Allison Kendall
Andrew Kryder
Alpana Kumar
Christie Nguyen
Tam Nguyen
Lyssa Odette
Ashley Olivarez
Ankur Patel
Laura Rozada
Christopher Sek
Moriah Zuckerman

University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science
Ngoc Cao Khanh Jonathan Dinh
Karim Lykp
Wylie Tan
Jessica Yang

Western University of Health Sciences
Mahmoud Abdallah
Walter Au
Nancy Banh
Nargis Barkzai
Alexia Bounkhong
Emeline Chen
Johnson Co
Talin Davidian
Danielle Dramen
Kiira Harrison
Linh Ho
Bryan Kimura
Tanira Lindsay
Xi Liu
Fayiz Osman Mahgoub
Allison Nguyen
Sapna Patel
Kristen Phifer
Jasleen Singh
Katalina Yandell
Esther Yang

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Bruce Morgan, MCO-FSU
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Satya Verma, Salus
Darren Koenig, MCPHS
Matthew Lamp, PCUO
Tracy Nguyen, SUNY
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Raman Bhakri, SCCO
Gregory Nixon, OSU
Kaila Osmotherly, Arizona
Latricia Pack, NSUCO
Lindsay Sicks, ICo
Julie Rodman, NOVA
Mayra Rullan, IAUPR
Daniel Arnett Taylor, SCO
Tammy Than, UAB
Richard Trevino, RSO
Vikki Yu, UCBSO

fellow
STUDENT TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

Students and residents had the opportunity to attend any of the educational offerings and events at Academy 2015 New Orleans. A total of 155 students and residents received a $750 travel fellowship to help defray the cost of attending the meeting to present their paper or poster. Five students and residents also received a travel fellowship to attend the 2015 ARVO meeting in Denver, CO.

Frank W. Weymouth Student Travel Fellowship
Natalie Diaz
Trent Gaasch

Irvin M. Borish Student Travel Fellowship
Edmund Arthur, OD
Ana Rita Tuna

Brazelton Low Vision Student Travel Fellowship
Sean Rowan

Edward I. Goodlaw Student Travel Fellowship
Kelsea Vance, OD

N. Rex Ghormley Student Travel Fellowship
Jakaria Mostafa

American Academy of Optometry Student Travel Fellowship
Marisa Ciamacca
Matthew Lentsch
Bridget McMurray
Michael Stahl, MS
Erin Rueff, OD, MS

Funded by an educational grant from The Vision Care Institute™, LLC
Anna Ablamowicz, OD
Alyce Alven
Kim Duong
Tina Gao, B. Optom (Hons)
Celia Gong
Rajendra Gyawali
Lacey Haines
Alyssa Harris
Gareth Hastings, MPH, B.Optom
Kirby Johnston
Vivek Labhishetty, BSc Optometry, MSc
Kelly Moore, BS
Tamara Oechslin, OD, MS, FAAO
Danielle Orr
Emmanuel Owusu, OD, MOptom, MSc
Cameron Postnikoff, MASC
Kaitlyn Sapoznik, OD

Denis Shlosman
John Till
Douglas Widmer, OD
Jun Zhang

New Jersey Chapter Student Travel Fellowships
Rebecca Deffler
Natalie Nguyen
Theresa Radtke
Alan Tsai
Mary Wu

Florida Chapter Student Travel Fellowships
Jessica Darby
Adriana Escobar
Christopher Hamilton
Emily Korszen

Scleral Lens Society Student Travel Fellowship
Jamie Kuzniar

Elmer H. Eger Memorial Student Travel Fellowship
Alyssa Willig, OD

Michael G. Harris Student Travel Fellowship Award for Leadership
Hunter Chapman

Robert D. Newcomb Student Travel Fellowship Award for Leadership
Bonnie-Kim Hang

Funded by an educational grant from Essilor
Batoul Abuharb
Ryan Ambrose
Evan Andrews
Kelly Ann Cleary
David Ardakani
Amanda Beaudry
Sarah Cook
Roxanne Cote-Castonguay
Avani Dave
Catherine Dee
Roma Desai
Evan Dunn
Brittany Foerg
Trevor Fosso

“I am extremely thankful to Dr. Robert D. Newcomb for providing my travel grant to the Academy meeting. My weeklong experience was full of top-notch education and incredible networking opportunities. I am very excited to make the American Academy of Optometry the forefront of my continuing education in the years to come.”

Bonnie-Kim Hang, AAO-AOSA National Liaison, UAB School of Optometry, Class of 2016
The 2015 Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Resident Travel Fellowship recipients at the Cooper Vision booth in the exhibit hall.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Resident Travel Fellowships
Generously sponsored by Cooper Vision

Nurit Ariel Bor, OD
Stephanie Britton, OD
Amy Burke, OD
Stefanie Chan, OD
Elaine Chen, OD
Michelle Chun, OD
Daniel Deligio, OD
Nicholas Gidosh, OD
Abigail Graeff, OD
Anita Gulmini, OD
Abby Gillogly Harsch, OD
Colton Heinrich, OD
Roxana Tahinh Hemmati, OD
Andrew Kornaus, OD
Carl Kramer, OD
Anna-Kaye Logan, OD
Elise Lord, OD
Michael Brayden Lundquist, OD
Michelle Man, OD
Shane McDonald, OD
Caitlin Morrison, OD
Sheila Morrison, OD
Stacy Zubkowski, OD

ARVO 2015 Student Travel Fellowship
Generously supported by an educational grant from The Vision Care Institute™, LLC

Srilatha Vantipalli, BSOptom
Chau-Minh Phan, MSc
Hendrik Walther, MSc
Jillian Meadows, OD, MS, FAAO
Stephanie Marie Marten-Ellis

The 2015 Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Resident Travel Fellowship recipients at the Cooper Vision booth in the exhibit hall.
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Brett G. Bence, President
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Lewis N. Reich

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Heidi Wagner
Richard Weisbarth

Residents Day Program
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Julie DeKinder
Amy L. Grimes
Kimberly A. Lambrechts
Deana Lum

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Maureen Dimont, Development Director
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Sarah Kidd, Executive Assistant
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Jennifer Rubin, Administrative Assistant, Programs
Betty Taylor, Exhibits Manager
Helen Viksnins, Senior Director, Programs
Kurt Zadnik, Managing Editor, Optometry and Vision Science

2015 ACADEMY VOLUNTEERS & STAFF
The exhibit hall at Academy 2015 New Orleans was alive and bustling as over 170 companies shared the latest in technology and services with meeting attendees.

The exhibit hall gives meeting attendees an opportunity to experience and test the newest products and learn about services provided, while also contributing to the financial health of the Academy. Thank you to all Academy 2015 New Orleans sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support.
Once again Optometry and Vision Science (OVS) has seen a dynamic change in its activities in 2015:

• A record number of manuscript submissions (up from a record breaking number in successive years since 2011) and held an acceptance rate of approximately 38%
• The journal has a high international impact factor in reflective citations
• OVS and Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins (LWW), publisher, conducted a membership survey in Feb/March of 2015 which lead to the decision to go to an online-only format effective January 2016
• The Academy board approved Associate Editor, Michael Twa, OD, PhD, FAAO to begin as Editor-in-Chief effective January 2016
• Addition of two OVS Board members, Andrew Mick, OD, MS, FAAO (2014-2016) and Algis Vingrys, OD, PhD, FAAO (2015-2017)
• An outstanding September 2015 feature theme issue: *Dry Eye Disease*
• A second successive online-only OVS Supplement focused on Clinical Care (April 2015)
• Continued increased and enriched online clinical content: “Clinical Communications,” including video clips and free full color opportunities for authors and “Clinical Pearls” (Dr. Larry Alexander, OVS Clinical Editor)
• Continued a strong international public media campaign and a monthly Editor-selected article for a medical writer (LWW) press release to 5,000 international media outlets
• Continued to offer an immediate open access Feature Article (Editor’s choice) each month
• Made free and public access the “Clinical Pearls” to any clinician in the world
• Highlighted the free “open access” availability for OVS Announces, editorials, guest editorials, In the News/New Products, and Book Reviews led by two OVS Book Review Editors (Drs. Manh and Rabin)
• Issued two calls for papers for two exciting 2016 feature theme issues, “Contact Lens Comfort” and “Vision and Eye Changes with Head Trauma”
• Conducted an OVS Workshop for Reviewers at Academy 2015 New Orleans
• Completed the 11th successive year of a CE course at the Academy titled,”OVS Presents: Dry Eye Disease”

Optometry and Vision Science thanks all who contributed to its success in 2015. First and foremost we appreciate our authors, but we also recognize the tremendous contributions made by reviewers, Topical Editors and the Managing Editor. They invariably strengthen manuscripts and provide critical input on publication priorities. As a result, your Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editor and Managing Editor each saw and acted upon over 2,300 manuscripts from more than 650 initial submissions in 2015.
Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice®, the Academy’s adage, was abundantly on display at Academy 2015 New Orleans. This year’s meeting continued to provide attendees with numerous informative symposia, ground-breaking paper presentations, and lively poster sessions that make the Academy meeting unique.

The Monroe J. Hirsch Symposium on Thursday morning, planned by the Academy’s Research Committee, was titled, “Research Matters: How Research Changed Practice.” It focused on key target areas that drive laboratory based research and the establishment of diagnostic methodologies to test for and monitor therapeutic and post-operative responses. Speakers at the symposium included Drs. Lucia Sobrin, Matthew Petroll, and Andrew Lee.

Concurrent to the Hirsch Symposium, the Scientific Program Committee featured some of the most thought-provoking research in three “Hot Topic” paper sessions. These one-hour programs addressed the latest experimental discoveries in the areas of glaucoma, ocular surface disease, and altered visual perception. These were just three of the 19 total scientific paper sessions available to attendees during the meeting. This year’s program marked the return of hybrid “Super Sessions” that combined paper and poster presentations on topics including scleral lenses, refractive error and school performance, and dry eye pathophysiology and treatment. During these hybrid sessions, authors had the opportunity to give one
The Academy Board of Directors and the Scientific Program Committee gave special recognition to Julie Mocko-Strand, a PhD candidate at the University of Houston. Her paper titled, “Relationships between neural and vascular parameters in a rat model of oxygen induced retinopathy; Effects of high dose vitamin A treatment” was identified as the best student presentation of the 2015 Scientific Program.

The ARVO/AAO Joint Symposium, co-sponsored by the Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Section, on Wednesday afternoon centered on major scientific breakthroughs that support the clinical observations that neural plasticity continues beyond early childhood and even into adulthood. Drs. Tawna Roberts, R. Douglas Fields, Benjamin Thompson, Tara Alvarez, and Michael Earley were featured. On Friday morning another trademark program was held, the “Ezell Fellows Present” Symposium. At this event, prior fellowship recipients shared their latest research on the topic of traumatic brain injury. Dr. Kristine Dalton began the session with an overview of concussions and traumatic brain injury that included updates on the diagnosis, management, long-term sequelae, and prognoses for recovery to the visual system. Dr. Andrew Hartwick followed with a talk focused on photophobia and the role of intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells.

The poster sessions at the annual meeting are key for the Scientific Program. Authors had the opportunity to interact with attendees on two separate days, including the popular Thursday evening session. On Friday the poster hall was again accessible for the entire day allowing a second set of authors to present their work to an interested audience. Over the course of two days, over 350 posters were presented. As has been one of the longstanding benefits of Scientific Program content, continuing education credit was issued in fifteen-minute increments.

The Academy is dedicated to continuing its support of research, facilitating collaboration, and providing a mechanism for the sharing of knowledge and outcomes. The exceptional scientific programs, combined with a high-quality continuing education program, are what make the Academy’s annual meeting distinctive and valuable for all who attend.

**Scientific Program Committee**
Andrew Mick, *Chair*
Suresh Viswanathan, *Vice Chair*
David Berntsen
Andrew Hartwick
Charlotte Joslin
Rachel Redfern
Michael Sullivan-Mee
Sruthi Srinivasan
Erik Weissberg

**Research Committee**
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Kathryn Richdale, *Vice Chair*
Anthony J. Adams
S. Barry Eiden
Joseph A. Bonanno
Laura J. Frishman
Elise Harb
Thomas W. Raasch
Danielle Robertson
Lakshman N. Subbaraman

The Academy Board of Directors and the Scientific Program Committee gave special recognition to Julie Mocko-Strand, a PhD candidate at the University of Houston. Her paper titled, “Relationships between neural and vascular parameters in a rat model of oxygen induced retinopathy; Effects of high dose vitamin A treatment” was identified as the best student presentation of the 2015 Scientific Program.
The American Academy of Optometry has long been a leader in charting the future for the optometric profession by “Advancing All Optometry, One Optometrist at a Time.” Interest in the Academy, both in terms of record setting annual meeting attendance and the benefits of Fellowship to those in the profession has never been stronger. Over the last 5 years, Fellowship in the Academy has grown by roughly 3% per year, with 2015 being no exception as Fellowship in the Academy continued to grow at a healthy rate. The Membership Committee continues to promote awareness so that all who might benefit from and contribute to the Academy are able to embark upon the process of Fellowship.

In addition to the growth in Fellowship, the Academy is seeing even greater interest among current students in the schools and college of optometry, with a 400% increase in student membership over the last 5 years. With student membership almost at the level of current Fellows, it is our hope that these students that these students learn to appreciate the excitement of the Academy and dedication to lifelong learning early in their optometric experience. If you interact with students in an optometric program, take the opportunity to explain how Fellowship has impacted your career and encourage them to follow in your footsteps.

Over the last several years the Membership Committee has been encouraging current residents to see that Fellowship is an extension of what they began during their residencies, and inviting those non-Fellows who regularly attend the annual meeting to consider Fellowship. Much of the growth in Fellowship over the last several years is from these efforts, particularly with residents and those in branches of service to the US government. We will continue to focus on these groups as they are the future leaders of our profession and belong in the Academy.

In addition to these efforts, the Membership Committee this year added a new focus on international optometry. We see the growth in optometry worldwide as an opportunity to add diversity to the Academy. These leaders in the profession from other parts of the world can only strengthen our organization and give us a broader view of who we are.

As you interact with other optometrists, optometric residents, and optometric students, whether near, far, or abroad, we encourage you to help foster awareness among those who seek to practice at the highest level by encouraging them to become Fellows of the the American Academy of Optometry, the premier optometric organization in the world.

Jason G. Jedlicka, OD, FAAO
Chair, Membership Committee
Diplomate, Cornea and Contact Lenses

Fellowship Growth
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWS

Active Fellows by State and Country (as of December 31, 2015)

Alabama ....................73
Alaska .......................14
Arizona ....................115
Arkansas ....................15
California ..................611
Colorado ...................83
Connecticut ................37
Delaware ....................11
Florida .....................323
Georgia .....................73
Guam ..........................1
Hawaii .......................26
Idaho .........................18
Illinois ......................195
Indiana .....................92
Iowa .........................31
Kansas ......................35
Kentucky ....................32
Louisiana ...................12
Maine .......................19
Maryland ...................93
Massachusetts ..............164
Michigan ...................126
Minnesota ...................66
Mississippi ..................11
Missouri ....................77
Montana ......................11
Nebraska ....................25
Nevada ......................32
New Hampshire .............23
New Jersey ..................90
New Mexico ..................32
New York ...................282
North Carolina ..............123
North Dakota ................7
Ohio .........................195
Oklahoma ....................74
Oregon .......................74
Pennsylvania ...............171
Puerto Rico ...................8
Rhode Island ................19
South Carolina ..............39
South Dakota ................14
Tennessee ...................95
Texas .........................306
US Military ..................20
Utah .........................20
Vermont ......................8
Virginia .....................89
Washington DC ..............7
Washington ..................104

West Virginia ..............18
Wisconsin ...................45
Wyoming .....................12

United States ..............4,296
Other Countries ...........598

GRAND TOTAL .............4,894
Fellows must successfully complete rigorous written requirements before they take and pass an oral examination to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO). Fellows are practitioners, vision scientists, and educators in vision science; they work in various capacities including the federal government. 240 Fellows inducted in 2015 included representatives from 14 countries and 38 U.S. states.

### Membership Categories by Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>370</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>707</td>
<td>707</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Geographic Distribution of Fellows

- United States, 4,296 (87.8%)
- Canada, 194 (4%)
- United Kingdom, 74 (1.5%)
- Australia, 91 (1.9%)
- Other, 239 (4.9%)

### Fellows’ Professional Settings

- Private Practice, 1,965 (41%)
- Federal Service, 696 (15%)
- Optometric Educator, 674 (14%)
- Multi-Disciplinary, 532 (11%)
- Retired, 238 (5%)
- Scientist/Researcher, 273 (6%)
- Other, 375 (8%)

### Fellows Who See Patients

- Yes, 4,294 (88%)
- No, 600 (12%)
This year, the Academy added one new state chapter, the South Carolina Chapter.

Arizona Chapter
In 2015, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry had two successful meetings hosted by Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry which provided a total of 12 hours of COPE approved CE. Alcon (spring) and Academy Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, & Refractive Technologies (fall) sponsored the events. The diverse CE program featured our members lecturing on a variety of topics ranging from anterior segment pathology, contact lenses, neuro-imaging, TBI, ocular trauma, and glaucoma as well as Grand Rounds presentations featuring interesting case reports.

At the fall meeting, the Chapter had the inaugural presentation of our travel grant recipients. The Chapter provided two $250 grants: one to a 4th year Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry student and one to an optometrist enrolled in a residency program in the state of Arizona in order to help defray the cost of traveling to Academy 2015 New Orleans. This year’s student winner was Kelly Ly and the resident winner was Dr. Adriana Medina who practices at the Chinle Indian Health Services Facility.

Illinois Chapter
The Illinois State Chapter continues to honor the legacy of Dr. Alfred Rosenbloom by hosting Rosenboom Rounds continuing education events. In April Dr. Neil Hodur presented “Advances in Clinical Care through Optics” and provided a thorough update on how new developments in the optical industry have integrated into clinical care through spectacle and contact lenses. This lecture was sponsored by the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO) and was one of the last of many presented by Dr. Hodur at ICO, as he recently retired after 40+ years in education. In November Chicago Glaucoma Consultants hosted an event where Dr. Adam Breunig gave an update on MIGS and Dr. Ronald Carr presented an audience-based “When to Refer” case series. The Chapter’s annual business meeting and reception were held at Academy 2015 New Orleans where the Chapter presented three student travel fellowships to ICO students Megan Meyer, Harminder Singh and Olivia Steinberg.

Student Chapters
David Berntsen, UH
Linda Marks, UMSL
Kristine Dalton, WATERLOO
Aurora Denial, NECO
Andrew McLeod, NECO
Amy Dinardo, MCO-FSU
Lynn Hong Trieu, Salus
Satya Verma, Salus
Darren Koenig, MCPHS
Susan Kovacich, IU
Matthew Lampa, PUCO
Tracy Nguyen, SUNY
Bennett McAllister, WESTERN
Raman Bhakhri, SCCO
Gregory Nixon, OSU
Kaila Osmotherly, Arizona
Latricia Pack, NSUCO
Lindsay Sicks, ICO
Julie Rodman, NOVA
Mayra Rullán, IAUPR
Daniel Arnett Taylor, SCO
Tammy Than, UAB
Richard Trevino, RSO
Vikki Yu, UCBSO

International Chapters
Great Britain
Quebec
South Africa

United States Chapters
Arizona
California
Florida
Hawaii
Heart of America
Illinois
Indiana
Minnesota
New England
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Northeastern Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Virginia

Student Chapters
Illinois College of Optometry
Indiana University School of Optometry
Inter-American University of Puerto Rico
MCPHS University
Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State
Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry
New England College of Optometry
Northeastern State University College of Optometry
Nova Southeastern College of Optometry
The Ohio State University College of Optometry
Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
Pacific University College of Optometry
Rosenberg School of Optometry
Marshall B. Ketchum University, Southern California College of Optometry
Southern College of Optometry
SUNY College of Optometry
University of Alabama School of Optometry
University of California, Berkeley, College of Optometry
University of Houston College of Optometry
University of Missouri – St. Louis, College of Optometry
University of Montreal
Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry

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Gregory S. Wolfe, Vice Chair
G. Richard Bennett, Pennsylvania
Etty Bitton, Canada - Quebec
Clark Chang, New Jersey
Raymond Chu, California
Nicholas Colatrella, Minnesota
Jennifer Colavito, New York
Carla Engelke, Arizona
Frank Eperjesi, Great Britain
Victor Finнемore, New England
J. Peter Gierow, Europe
Michael Greenberg, NE Ohio
Charles Heacock, Florida
James Hoekel, Heart of America
Susan Kovacich, Indiana
Dennis Kwabara, Hawaii
Christopher Lievens, Tennessee
Jarett Mazzarella, North Carolina
Joseph Reichert, Oklahoma
Marietje Richter, South Africa
Gay Tokumaru, Virginia
Tony Van Alistine, South Carolina
Lisa Young, Illinois

Student Chapters
David Berntsen, UH
Linda Marks, UMSL
Kristine Dalton, WATERLOO
Aurora Denial, NECO
Andrew McLeod, NECO
Amy Dinardo, MCO-FSU
Lynn Hong Trieu, Salus
Satya Verma, Salus
Darren Koenig, MCPHS
Susan Kovacich, IU
Matthew Lampa, PUCO
Tracy Nguyen, SUNY
Bennett McAllister, WESTERN
Raman Bhakhri, SCCO
Gregory Nixon, OSU
Kaila Osmotherly, Arizona
Latricia Pack, NSUCO
Lindsay Sicks, ICO
Julie Rodman, NOVA
Mayra Rullán, IAUPR
Daniel Arnett Taylor, SCO
Tammy Than, UAB
Richard Trevino, RSO
Vikki Yu, UCBSO
New Jersey Chapter

The New Jersey Chapter continued to garner an unprecedented level of support and recognition from the optometric community in New Jersey. This year, the chapter provided 31 hours of CE in response to rising educational requests, which culminated in the largest attendance record in the history of the chapter.

In addition, the chapter maintained its commitment to enhance optometric education by funding student participation at Academy 2015 New Orleans, as well as offering scholarship assistance to both Salus and SUNY ($10,000 each). With the donation ceremony taking place on November 18, 2015, the chapter has made a cumulative endowment contribution in the amount of $166,000 to Salus University.

North Carolina Chapter

This year was a time of growth for the North Carolina Chapter. On May 2nd, the Chapter held its 3rd annual Roger Cummings Resident Symposium at the W. G. “Bill” Hefner VAMC, in Salisbury NC. The symposium consisted of eight resident grand round cases, including six residents from the Salisbury VAMC, one resident from Womack Army Medical Center, and one resident from the Greenville, SC VAMC. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Joseph Shovlin who lectured on “Corneal Infections from A-Z.” The first annual “RED EYE” Award was presented to Dr. Meghann Hamidiani from the Salisbury VAMC for the best resident lecture chosen by attendees at the event.

On September 12th, the Chapter held their Summer Lecture Symposium at the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) Testing Center, in Charlotte, NC. The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Clarke Newman, OD, FFAO who lectured to the audience on amniotic membranes and autologous serum. Dr. Kristine Loo and Dr. Ryan Corte presented a Grand Round Lecture Series to the group on various anterior and posterior segment cases. The year ended with its final lecture series on December 5th, in Durham, NC. The event included Dr. Michael Peters, who spoke on sports-related concussions. Dr. Aaron Tarbett lectured to the audience on traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress syndrome. The symposium concluded with Dr. Jeffrey Walline from Ohio State University who discussed myopia control.

The Chapter’s future goals include continuing to encourage doctors throughout the state to seek Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry, to provide high quality continuing education to all optometrists throughout our region, and to promote and expand our events to geographically enable all Fellows throughout our state the easily attend event(s).

Tennessee Chapter

The Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry awarded four $150 travel grants to Southern College of Optometry students to help defray the cost of attending Academy 2015 New Orleans. Based upon the results of an essay competition, Jennifer Wilcox, Trenton Gaasch, Clinton Prestwich, and Andrew Neighbors were selected to receive the grants.

Southern College of Optometry fourth-year student Andrew Neighbors (left) receives a $150 check from Dr. Daniel Taylor, Vice President of the Tennessee Chapter, at Academy 2015 New Orleans.
The Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are groups of Fellows who wish to gather and communicate about specific areas of interest within optometry and vision science. One of the primary goals of the Sections and SIGs is to create programs for the annual meeting, including these symposia presented at Academy 2015 New Orleans:

The **Glaucoma Section** presented “Evidence Based Decision Making in the Management of the Open Angle Suspect.”

The **Low Vision Section** presented “Update on the Preferred Retinal Locus: What Have We Learned about Visual Function and the Development of the Pseudofovea in the Context of Macular Disease?”

The **Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG** presented the 2015 Lawrence G. Gray Memorial Symposium: Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders.

The **Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIG** presented “The Role of Carotenoids in Visual Performance and Cognition.”

The **Optometric Education Section** presented “Teaching in the Clinic: Methods of Efficient Education” and “Optometric Educator Section: Hands-On Session.”

The **Comprehensive Eye Care Section** presented “Innovative Optometry: Light, Technology, Telemedicine and the Future.”

The **Public Health & Environmental Vision Section** presented “Global Health and Emerging Diseases 2015.”

The **Retina SIG** presented “Diabetes: A Comprehensive Team Approach.”

The **Vision in Aging SIG** partnered with the Public Health and Environmental Vision Section and presented “Aging in the International Year of Light.”

The **Vision Science Section** partnered with the Low Vision Section to present “New Approaches to Rehabilitation of Visual Field Loss after Brain Damage.”

### Section Officers

**Anterior Segment Section**
- Christina Wilmer, Chair
- Walter Whitley, Vice Chair
- Aaron Bronner, Program Chair
- A. Mika Moy, Diplomate Chair

**Binocular Vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section**
- Carmen Barnhardt, Chair
- John Tassinari, Vice-Chair
- Tawna Roberts, Program Chair
- Marie Bodack, Diplomate Chair

**Comprehensive Eye Care Section**
- Michael Radoiu, Chair
- Ernest Bowling, Vice Chair
- Tina Porzukowiak, Program Chair
- Tara Brown, Diplomate Chair

**Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies**
- Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, Chair
- Clarke Newman, Vice Chair
- Jeffrey Krohn, Program Chair
- Harue Marsden, Diplomate Chair

**Glaucoma Section**
- Lisa Young, Chair
- Lauren Ristin, Vice Chair
- Andrew John Rixon, Program Chair
- Michael Sullivan-Mee, Diplomate Chair

**Low Vision Section**
- David Lewerenz, Chair
- Dawn DeCarlo, Vice-Chair
- Nicole Ross, Program Chair
- Melissa Chun, Diplomate Chair

**Optometric Education Section**
- Meredith Whiteside, Chair
- Michael Giese, Vice-Chair
- Vikki Yu, Program Chair
- Marlee Spafford, Diplomate Chair

**Public Health & Environmental Vision Section**
- Kevin Jackson, Chair
- Jeffrey Weaver, Program Chair
- Debbie Hettler, Diplomate Chair

**Retina SIG**
- Steven Ferrucci, Chair

**SIG Officers**

**Academic Medical Center Optometrists (AMCO) SIG**
- Patti Fries, Chair

**Fellows Doing Research SIG**
- Robin Chalmers, Chair
- Wendy Harrison, Vice Chair

**Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG**
- Leonard Messner, Chair
- Joseph Sowka, Program Chair

**Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIG**
- Kimberly Reed, Chair
- A. Paul Chous, Vice Chair

**Vision in Aging SIG**
- Mark Swanson, Chair
2015 NEW DIPLOMATES

Anterior Segment
Aaron W. Bronner of Kennewick, WA
Nicholas Colatrella of Sartell, MN

Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry
Catherine A. Chiarelli of Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Ronald Gall of Oakville, Ontario, Canada
Ann L. Webber of Balmoral, Australia

Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies
Renee J. Garofalo of Fort Worth, TX
Fiona J. Stapleton of Sydney, Australia
Javier R. Vinuela of Tremp, Lleida, Spain

Low Vision
Ana M. Perez of Houston, TX
Swati C. Modi of Houston, TX
Ava K. Bittner of Davie, FL

Optometric Education
Nancy B. Carlson of Cambridge, MA

Public Health and Environmental Vision
Karl Citek of Forest Grove, OR

Vision Science
Alex R. Bowers of Boston, MA

319 Fellows, approximately 6.5% of Academy Fellows, have attained the distinction of being a Diplomate. Some of the benefits of becoming a Diplomate of a Section are:

- Professional growth and goal achievement
- Recognition of extensive skill in their research or practice area
- Participation in a referral network of highly qualified colleagues
- Camaraderie and fellowship with leaders in the field

“I knew immediately after finishing my Fellowship process that I would go on to pursue the Diplomate process. Being primarily interested in anterior segment disease, I chose the Anterior Segment Section Diplomate track to pursue. While looking over the requirements can make it seem like an extremely daunting process, I found it to be as enriching and low stress as something like this could be. Additionally, each step of the process has yielded increased clinical competency. Obviously writing case reports with their focused scope can be very educational. Despite managing all of the cases I wrote about, I learned so much during the write-ups that I can say without question, my management now would be different than prior to writing the case reports. Testing, though more stressful than case report composition, was also beneficial. As case reports generally have a narrow subject focus, the broader scope of the written and oral tests forced me to expand my knowledge beyond just my cases to all of anterior segment disease and again, has resulted in increased clinical competence. While the ceremony and recognition of being (along with Nick Colatrella) the first Diplomate in our section were nice, the primary rewards of the process have been those I was hoping to achieve in the first place: helping me become a better clinician and to better serve my patients.”

Aaron Bronner, OD, FAAO, Diplomate, Anterior Segment
FUNDING THE FUTURE OF OPTOMETRY

The American Optometric Foundation (AOF) is the Academy’s philanthropic arm. By funding the future of optometry through its scholarship and awards programs, the AOF gives exceptional students a chance to continue their education and propel the field of optometric science forward. The annual Academy meeting provides the AOF with a forum in which the AOF Board, staff and program recipients can connect with donors on a personal level. It is the focal point for the largest fundraising drive of the year. With your support, the AOF received more than $190,000 in contributions and pledges at Academy 2015 New Orleans. With assets exceeding $6 million and an endowment of more than $4.2 million, the AOF hopes to provide more than $450,000 in fellowships, scholarships and grants in 2016. This is your investment in the future leadership of optometry.

American Optometric Foundation Board of Directors (2015-2016)
David Kirschen, President
Judith Clay, President-Elect
Wendy Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer
Kathy Dumbleton, Immediate Past President
Melissa Bailey, Board Member
Dori Carlson, Board Member
Susan Eger, Board Member
Pete Kollbaum, Board Member
Richard Madonna, Board Member
Jason Nichols, Board Member
Jeffrey Walline, Board Member
Lois Schoenbrun, Executive Director, ex-officio

AOF Staff
Maureen Dimont, Development Director
Tracy Kitts, Foundation Coordinator

Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. has been a longstanding supporter of the AOF for the past 20 years, contributing a total of $1.98 million. The Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care, J. Pat Cummings Scholarship, Innovation in Education Grants, and Terrance N. Ingraham Pediatric Optometry, George Mertz and Sheldon Wechsler Contact Lens Residency Awards were presented to 51 total recipients in 2015. Educational funding from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. supports the AOF grants, educational support and scholarship awards.

VSP Global® and the AOF 2015 Practice Excellence Scholarships
VSP Global® and the AOF presented 46 recipients with this year’s Practice Excellence Scholarships; awarding $174,000 amongst top-performing fourth-year optometry students in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada. The scholarships and travel grants to attend Academy 2015 New Orleans were funded through the VSP Global Eyes of Hope® Global Charitable Fund in collaboration with FYidoctors in Canada. Two students from each school or college of optometry were selected by nomination of their individual institutions to receive the scholarship.

VSP Recipients
Ezell Fellowships

The Alcon Foundation Ezell Fellow
Julie Mocko-Strand, BS
University of Houston, College of Optometry

American Academy of Optometry Ezell Fellow
Taras C. Litvin, OD, FAAO
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry

AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, & Refractive Technologies Ezell Fellow
William Ngo, OD, BSc, FAAO
University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science

American Optometric Foundation Ezell Club
Gerald E. Lowther Ezell Fellow
Stephanie Cox, OD, FAAO
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry

Irvin M. Borish - Essilor Ezell Fellow
Kavitha Ratnam, BS
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry

Mike Daley - Essilor Ezell Fellow
Renfeng Xu, MD, MS
Indiana University, School of Optometry

Merton C. Flom Leadership Ezell Fellow
Jillian F. Meadows, OD, MS, FAAO
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry

Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellow
Thao N. Yeh, OD, MPH, FAAO
University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry

Optometric Glaucoma Society Ezell Fellow
Lakshmi Priya Rajagopalan, BS
University of Houston, College of Optometry

John N. Schoen Ezell Fellow
Cristina Llerena Law, OD, FAAO
State University of New York, College of Optometry

The Alcon Foundation Cycle for Sight 20/20 Challenge and Matching Grant
At Academy 2015 New Orleans, the Alcon Foundation partnered with the AOF to co-host the Cycle for Sight 20/20 Challenge. When Academy attendees participating in stationary biking reached 2,020 minutes of cumulative riding, the Alcon Foundation made a $25,000 donation to the AOF to fund optometric education and research. An additional contribution of $25,000 in matching funds was given for any donations made directly by attendees to the AOF during Academy 2015. The support of the Alcon Foundation has, and will continue to have, far-reaching impact on the optometric profession and patient care.

AOF Scholarship, Grant and Fellowship Recipients

2015 Allergan Foundation Research Grant
Nicole Carnt, PhD, B Optom, FAAO
Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney

2015 Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) Research Fellowship
Jillian F. Meadows, OD, MS, FAAO
University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry

2015 Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., Innovation in Education Grants
Brian K. Foutch, OD, PhD, FAAO, Richard C. Trevino, OD, FAAO, and Maria Lourdes Alarcón Fortepiani, MD, PhD
University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry

2015 Nadine M. Furtado, OD, MSc, FAAO
University of Waterloo, School of Optometry and Vision Science

2015 Antoinette M. Molinari Memorial Scholarship
Jenny Tran
Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry

The AOF administered additional private endowment and industry-sponsored awards to an additional 110 deserving students, residents and faculty in 2015. For a complete list of recipients visit our website at: www.aaopt.org/AOF/Programs
The American Academy of Optometry and Affiliate

**Consolidated Statement of Activities For the Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS**

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**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR**

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## American Optometric Foundation, Inc.  

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## Consolidated Totals

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## Changes in Net Assets

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## Financials

### Annual Report

- **$1,751,238**
- **$4,027,155**
- **$201,620**
- **$5,980,013**
- **$7,663,245**
- **$4,621,920**
- **$473,334**
- **$12,758,499**
CORPORATE SPONSORS

The American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Foundation thank their generous corporate partners for their support of 2015 activities.

VISIONARY ($350,000+)
Alcon
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.

PATRON ($200,000 - $349,999)
Allergan
Bausch + Lomb
Shire
VSP Global

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CooperVision

CONTRIBUTOR ($50,000 - $99,999)
Essilor

SUPPORTER ($15,000 - $49,999)
Optometric Management
Optos
Primary Care Optometry News (PCON)
Review of Optometry

FRIEND (UP TO $14,999)
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American Academy of Optometry: Florida Chapter
American Optometric Student Association
Art Optical
Bio-Tissue
Brien Holden Vision Institute
CareCredit
Coburn Technologies
Eschenbach
Essilor Contact Lenses
First Vision Media Group, Inc.
Good-Lite
Haag-Streit
Luxottica
Marco
Oculus
Optometry Times
PentaVision
Review of Cornea and Contact Lenses
Scleral Lens Education Society
SpecialEyes
Veatch Ophthalmic Instruments
Vision Expo
Zeavision
The Academy meeting is traveling to Southern California to offer attendees plenty of sun, fun and exceptional cutting-edge CE! Join us in Anaheim for four days of superb speakers, clinically-relevant sessions, an exceptional exhibit hall, fascinating papers and posters and unforgettable social events.

For more information, visit www.aaopt.org.