Thank you for your Fellowship!

Advancing All Optometry—One Optometrist at a Time
“As both a new Fellow and young practitioner, membership in the Academy has been an enriching experience. As a recent graduate, the Fellow directory allowed me to locate fantastic local specialty ODs for referrals in my new practice area. And through meeting many esteemed Academy Fellows, I am acutely aware of the high caliber of practitioners that I have been permitted to join. Having been bestowed such an honor, it sets a high standard for me as a young clinician, investigator and best of all, academician.”

Marta C. Fabrykowski, OD, FAAO

Dr. Marta Fabrykowski (left) conversing with Dr. Laura Ashley Losing (center) and Dr. Melissa Bailey (right) after the 2012 Fellowship Banquet.
Dear Colleague and New Fellow,

On behalf of the Academy Board of Directors, I congratulate you on the accomplishment of achieving Fellowship in our American Academy of Optometry. We are honored to have you join our organization as a new Fellow and take this important professional step in your career. The opportunity for professional fulfillment in the Academy is extraordinary. With this introductory brochure, we are excited to provide you a comprehensive list of member benefits.

The Academy is founded on the premise of dissemination and sharing of knowledge. Of our many shared goals, providing every member the opportunity to find their “home” in the Academy is paramount. We have essential programs supporting vision research, clinical education, academic and administrative development, and others in support of our Fellows’ diverse professional interests.

I encourage you to actively use your Academy Fellowship to participate and contribute to several of the following:

- Mark your calendar for attending the Academy’s annual meeting
- Join an Academy Section and/or Special Interest Group (SIG)
- Contribute to clinical research by joining the Fellows Doing Research SIG
- Distinguish your career by becoming a Diplomate of a Section
- Volunteer to serve the Academy
- Enroll in a Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight® course at the annual meeting
- Become involved in an Academy Chapter
- Support optometric research with a donation to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation
- Submit a CE lecture/workshop proposal and scientific paper/poster abstract for peer-reviewed acceptance for a future Academy meeting

We welcome you to become acquainted with the membership area of our website to learn more about membership in your Academy.

Again, congratulations on achieving Fellowship. We wholeheartedly seek your involvement, your perspective, your stewardship, your friendship, and your commitment to advance patient care for the Academy and profession. When you attend our Academy annual meeting, please introduce yourself to us! We are your Board of Directors.

Warm regards,

Barbara Caffery, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, 2019 & 2020
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Did You Know?

41% of Fellows are in private practice

81% of Fellows examine patients

19% of Fellows are educators or vision scientists

12% of Fellows reside outside of the United States

Academy Fellows come from a wide range of backgrounds and work in a variety of settings including federal service, education, research, industry, and private practice. You have joined a group of notable individuals dedicated to continuous professional development and knowledge sharing for the common good of the profession. The Academy is also an organization where you can socialize and connect with your peers, make new contacts, and have fun!

Your Membership Benefits

Prestige

• Use of the “FAAO” distinction
• Ability to become a Diplomate in one of the Academy Sections
• Inclusion in the Academy’s online directory of Fellows

Annual Meeting Benefits

• Significantly discounted Academy meeting registration fees
• Ability to stay on top of the latest in scientific research
• The best in continuing education
• Access to nearly 200 exhibits
• Access to Academy Online featuring CE opportunities from past meetings

Publications

• *Optometry and Vision Science*, a monthly online journal containing papers on the clinical and basic science aspects of optometry and vision science.
• *Optometry and Vision Science Announces*, a monthly email preview of the upcoming issue
• Eye-Mail® Monthly, featuring important information for Academy members
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Professional Camaraderie
• An organization where you can network, learn from others, and share your own experiences
• Access to local chapters makes it easy to keep in touch through social functions and to learn between regular annual meetings
• Ability to join one or more of the Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) devoted to various areas of focus

Join Our Social Media Community!

Twitter (@aaopt)
Follow the Academy on Twitter (@aaopt) for up-to-the-minute information on all things related to the Academy and the Academy’s annual meeting.

Facebook
Visit www.facebook.com/AAOPT to like the Academy’s page—a great place to stay connected to your colleagues and get up to date information on the annual meeting.

Academy LinkedIn Group
To join, search for “American Academy of Optometry” in the Groups section. The Academy’s group page is the perfect place for networking with peers, making new connections, and contributing to discussions related to optometry, vision science, and clinical practice.

“Being a part of the culture of excellence in clinical care, research and education, the Academy’s mission has provided the greatest influence in my career. Further, being a part of the volunteer structure has been inspiring and rewarding, and it results in lasting friendships.”

Joan M. Exford, OD, FAAO
Diplomate, Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies

Dr. Joan Exford (left) pictured with the late Dr. Irvin Borish (right) at Academy 2008 Anaheim.
Academy Website

Are you taking advantage of all of your member benefits? The Academy website allows you to:

- Access Academy Online featuring recordings from past Academy meetings and online education options. COPE testing fees apply for CE credit.
- Access and search previous issues of *Optometry and Vision Science* online as well as an online optometric journal library.
- Check your progress toward meeting the Maintenance of Fellowship requirements.
- Make easy online dues payments.
- Stay up to date with current Academy news.
- Find contact information for Academy Committees, Chapters, Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
- Find contact information for Academy Fellows through the Fellow Directory.
- Read about past and upcoming annual meetings, register for meetings and discover activities at the meeting location.
- Learn about becoming a Diplomate in one of the Academy’s Sections.
Opportunities for Involvement

Sections and Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
Academy Sections and SIGs provide a forum for member discussions, professional enhancement and recognition. In addition, these groups provide the Academy with important contributions from various fields of study or practice.

Sections
• Anterior Segment Section
• Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Section
• Comprehensive Eye Care Section
• Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies
• Glaucoma Section
• Low Vision Section
• Optometric Education Section
• Public Health & Environmental Vision Section

Read more about the Academy’s Sections at http://www.aaopt.org/Fellows/Sections.
**Become a Diplomate**

Becoming a Diplomate provides an avenue for distinction achieved by doctors of optometry who strive to attain a level of excellence beyond the regular Academy Fellowship program. It signifies expertise and dedication to a particular area of study. Only 6.1% of Academy Fellows have achieved this distinction. Some of the benefits of becoming a Diplomate 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

**SIGs**

- Academic Medical Center Optometrists (AMCO)
- Fellows Doing Research
- Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry
- Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness
- Retina
- Vision in Aging
- Vision Science

To learn more about the Academy’s Sections or SIGs, visit http://www.aaopt.org/membership/sections-sigs.
Chapter Information

The Academy has 22 chapters across the United States and abroad that allow you to stay connected to your Academy colleagues between annual meetings. Current Academy chapters are:

- Arizona
- California
- Florida
- Great Britain
- Hawaii
- Heart of America
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maine
- Minnesota
- New England
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Northeastern Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Quebec (Canada)
- South Africa
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia

Please contact the president of your local chapter for more information on joining. Contact information can be found at http://www.aaopt.org/membership/us-and-international-chapters. If you are interested in starting a new chapter in your area, contact Jenny Brown at JennyB@aaoptom.org.

Volunteerism

The Academy’s volunteer structure is comprised of over 200 enthusiastic Fellows who serve in a variety of roles from the Board of Directors to the various committees that oversee aspects such as communications, education, admittance and exhibits. If you are interested in getting more involved, notify the Board of Directors or leadership of the particular group you are interested in. Please note that most volunteer positions are appointed, with the exception of the Board of Directors which is determined by election.
Annual Meeting

The Academy strives to provide the highest quality continuing education and access to the most current vision science research. These efforts culminate in the Academy’s annual meeting, which includes nearly 300 hours of lectures and workshops, symposia, and scientific paper and poster presentations over 4 days. The Academy’s annual meeting provides a diverse array of groundbreaking research in optometry and vision science and relevant education on the latest practices. The annual meeting also features an extensive exhibit hall, with nearly 200 booths displaying a variety of optometric products and services and providing plenty of networking opportunities.

Scientific Program

The Academy’s Scientific Program offers scientists, educators, and clinicians the opportunity to exchange the latest information in optometry and vision science in two formats: research paper presentations and scientific posters. Abstracts are usually accepted between May 1st and May 31st of each year.

Lectures and Workshops

The Academy’s annual meeting has long been considered the pinnacle of optometric continuing education. It is a place where vision scientists, educators

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<td>Lectures and Workshops Submission Window</td>
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<td>Annual Awards Nomination Deadline</td>
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<td>Scientific Program Submission Window</td>
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and clinicians worldwide gather in the spirit of enhancing patient care and advancing the profession. The Academy encourages submissions for lectures, workshops, and grand rounds case abstracts during the submission window of January 1st – 31st of each year.

**Nominate Colleagues for Academy Awards**

Fellows are encouraged to nominate colleagues for the Academy’s Annual Awards Program. During this program, individuals are honored and recognized for their achievements and contributions to optometry and vision science. Nominations are due by April 1st each year. Please contact Helen Viksnins at HelenV@aaoptom.org for more information.

**Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF)**

Fellows of the Academy are required to renew their Fellowship status by acquiring 15 points every 10 year period after earning Fellowship. Points are awarded in many ways such as by attending the Academy meeting (3 points), attending CE at the Academy meeting (1 point/2 hrs of CE), and lecturing at the Academy meeting (2 points/presentation). Please visit www.aaopt.org/fellows/mof to review the requirements and to check your MOF status.

**Future Academy Meetings**

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<th>Academy</th>
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<tr>
<td>2019 Orlando</td>
<td>October 23-26, 2019</td>
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<td>2020 Nashville</td>
<td>October 7-10, 2020</td>
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<td>2021 Boston</td>
<td>November 3-6, 2021</td>
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<td>2022 San Diego</td>
<td>October 26-29, 2022</td>
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“The American Academy of Optometry is, hands down, my favorite professional organization. It has been absolutely central to my professional life. Friendships in the Academy are among those I treasure most and the Academy’s nurturing of curiosity about the eye, vision and patient care provides a stimulating place to rub shoulders with those who place life-long learning at the center of their professional interests. The American Academy of Optometry has had an extraordinary impact on my career and my friendships; I look forward to celebrating 50 years as a Fellow this year (2013). The Academy proudly guards its integrity- a very special entity!”

**Anthony J. Adams, OD, PhD, FAAO**

Dr. Anthony Adams accepting the Life Fellowship Award at Academy 2016 Anaheim.
“I value being an Academy Fellow because of what it stands for. That is, it represents the highest standards of our profession and encourages us to reach those goals and aspirations that elevate us collectively. It is also the camaraderie that exists among Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry. Finally, it is the opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded colleagues who aspire to elevating their abilities — be they scientists, optometrists, educators, or researchers — and that is a great group of people to be associated with.”