Unexpected. Unforgettable. Unique. Just a few words that describe sunny San Antonio, Texas – the host city of the Academy’s 2018 annual meeting taking place November 7-10. The location lends itself to creating a meeting with a convenient, walkable and campus-like feel, with the headquarters hotel adjacent to both the Henry B. González Convention Center and the famous River Walk offering miles of restaurants, shops, and entertainment locales.

Continued on page 2

This newsletter has been made possible by a generous grant from
This year’s meeting will once again feature over 200 hours of CE in a variety of formats including lectures, workshops, symposia, and scientific papers and posters. The meeting will also feature an expansive exhibit hall with over 150 companies and new and innovative opportunities for attendees to learn from our corporate partners about the latest products, services and technology available in the profession.

Another not-to-be-missed event is the fourth joint symposium of the Academy and the American Academy of Ophthalmology titled, “Advances in Ocular Imaging.” Ocular imaging has become a major part of eye care. Practitioners must learn the interpretation of ever-changing images and decide how much weight to put into these findings as they diagnose and treat disease. This symposium will update you on the anterior segment, retinal and glaucoma applications of ocular imaging and their clinical implications.

Thursday morning, the science continues with Hot Topics presentations in various areas of eye and vision research and the Monroe J. Hirsch Research Symposium titled, “Vision Restoration for Retinal Degenerative Disease.” The goal of restoring vision in patients with retinal degenerative disease is within reach. The 2018 Hirsch Symposium will bring together three leading researchers to highlight different approaches to save or restore sight in patients with degenerative disease: gene replacement therapy, stem cell repair, and optogenetics to restore vision in severely damaged retinas. Speakers will include Drs. Sheila Nirenburg, Tom Reh, and Byron Lam.

During the Ezell Fellows Present symposium, three investigators at different stages of their careers who received the Foundation’s Ezell Fellowships early in their career will present their research. The symposium this year is titled, “Contact Lens Discomfort: More Than (Where the Lens) Meets the Eye.” Contact lens discomfort (CLD) is a common cause for cessation of lens wear, and accordingly not only a struggle for patients, but also care providers, researchers, and lens manufacturers. This session will discuss factors related to the contact lens material and overall design, the ocular surface, and attributes and characteristics other than the contact lens and ocular surface which impact patient-reported CLD. Updates on new research, treatments, and possible future directions will be provided. Speakers are Drs. Maria Markoulli, Lakshman Subbaraman, and Pete Kollbaum.

If you are wondering how you can participate in this year’s meeting in San Antonio, it’s not too late! The submission window for the Scientific Program’s paper and poster presentations will be open May 1-31. For guidelines to submit, please visit the Academy website. Registration and housing open on May 21, 2018. For more information, visit www.aaopt.org/2018, and keep an eye out for the Program Preview in April!
Contracted Hotels

**Grand Hyatt San Antonio**
*(Headquarters Hotel)*
600 E. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double: $239/night

**San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk**
889 E. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double: $239/night

**San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter**
101 Bowie Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double: $229/night

**Hilton Palacio del Rio**
200 S. Alamo Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double: $215/night

**Hotel Contessa**
306 W. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single and Double: $189/night
Triple and Quad: $209/night

**LaQuinta San Antonio Riverwalk**
*(Student Hotel)*
303 Blum St., San Antonio, TX 78205
Single/Double/Triple/Quad: $185/night

**The Westin Riverwalk San Antonio**
*(City Side)*
420 W. Market Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Single/Double: $229/night
*(River Side)* Single/Double: $239/night

*Note that this is a government per diem rate hotel, and as such the rate can change as of October 1, 2018. The rate listed above is based on per diem rates approved through September 30, 2018. Meeting attendees must show Government ID to receive the special per diem rate. Please note that while the Academy works to secure as many government rate rooms as possible, there are only a limited number available at this rate.

**The Menger Hotel (Government Hotel)**
204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX 78205
Per Diem Rate for Single/Double: $120/night

**Meeting attendees must show current Student ID at check-in to receive the contracted group rate.**

Beyond the Classroom: Academy Exhibits

The exhibit hall at Academy 2018 San Antonio will be your one-stop access to the tools you need to take your practice to the next level.

With over 150 companies joining us to showcase the latest innovative products and services, you’ll have no trouble discovering ways to better serve your patients. Take advantage of valuable networking opportunities and face time with potential employers or future business partners. You’ll have access to see hands-on demonstrations outside of the classroom with the latest optometric technology and learn about helpful practice management solutions from industry experts.

The exhibit hall will open with our annual Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening from 4 to 7:30 PM. The hall will be open Thursday from 11 AM to 6 PM and Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM, offering many opportunities to stop by and see what’s new. There will also be a special Student Focus Hour on Thursday morning from 10 to 11 AM allowing students to network with companies as well as have the chance to win exciting prizes. Extended learning opportunities will also be offered again at our Vision Theater. Plan to visit between educational sessions to look around and enjoy several food and beverage events, including a free lunch on Thursday and Friday.

Look for more information about Academy exhibits in the coming months at www.aaopt.org/2018/exhibits.
Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG Symposium: The Future of Optometry: Performance Based Reimbursement

The Academic Medical Center Optometrists Special Interest Group annual symposium will feature Dr. Richard Hom who will discuss the future of performance-based optometry reimbursement. How to avoid an audit and protect yourself from professional liability issues will also be presented.

Anterior Segment Section Symposium: Biologic Therapy: Applications in Anterior Segment Disease

Biotherapeutics (or biologics), the fastest-growing sector in the pharmaceutical industry, are transforming medicine. These agents are instrumental in the management of autoimmune disorders and certain cancers, but also have multiple and increasing applications in eye care. This course provides an orientation to this class of medications, a discussion of the most commonly prescribed agents in medicine, and applications in ocular disease with a particular emphasis on disorders of the anterior segment.

Binocular Vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry Section Symposium: Lasker Amblyopia Initiative - Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, and Where We’re Going

This symposium will feature speakers involved in the Lasker/IRRF Initiative: Amblyopia – Challenges and Opportunities. The speakers will discuss recent progress on amblyopia research, the scientific hurdles that have been overcome, and what major questions now confront the field.

Comprehensive Eye Care Section Symposium: Hot Topics in Comprehensive Eye Care

This symposium seeks to explore current and relevant ophthalmic technologies, techniques and clinical advances in comprehensive eye care. Topics will be pertinent to all eye care providers with attention to anterior segment disease, contact lenses, ocular prosthetics, posterior segment disease, electrophysiology, neuro-ophthalmic disease, pediatrics, and vision rehabilitation. The symposium aims to address how the comprehensive eye care provider can improve patient care to prevent vision loss and blindness.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Symposium: The U.S. Military Approach to Treating Corneal and Ocular Surface Disease and Refractive Surgery in the Armed Forces

San Antonio has been home to a consistent U.S. military presence for nearly 300 years. It’s why it’s called Military City USA®. It’s also home to the Department of Defense’s largest medical center at Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston. The Section on CCLRT has invited the nation’s top cornea and contact lens military specialists and surgeons to present how cornea and ocular surface disease and refractive surgery is practiced in their hands and on our armed forces.

Fellows Doing Research SIG Symposium: The Importance of Observational Research in Optometry: Overview and Examples from the FDR SIG

This symposium teaches practitioners about observational research, why it’s important and how it can add to their practice. It will give an overview and follow real life examples from several FDR studies.

Glaucoma Section Symposium: Overcoming Aggressive Glaucomas

Although Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG) is the most common cause of irreversible blindness worldwide, there are many more sinister forms of the disease which can result in rapid blindness and loss of function. This symposium will highlight those conditions and reinforce the necessity of accurate diagnosis and management by the primary care optometrist.

Joint Low Vision Section and Vision in Aging SIG Symposium: Not Just Another Driving Symposium: How Automated Vehicles and Advanced Driver Assistance Technologies Might Benefit Our Aging Patients

Eye care providers often face the challenge of advising patients to stop driving when they can no longer meet their state licensing requirements. Although older adults face a multitude of visual and non-visual reasons to stop or limit driving, there are many options on the horizon to safely assist or meet their transportation needs. This symposium will discuss an interdisciplinary approach, including future prospects for automated vehicles (AV) and implementation of advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), to help manage drivers in an aging society.

Low Vision Section Symposium: Is This Real? A Look at Non-organic Vision Loss and Conversion Disorder

This symposium will review the phenomenon of non-organic vision loss in the context of the broader
topic of conversion disorder (aka functional neurologic symptom disorder). Characteristics of the conditions will be discussed, as well as diagnosis, clinical management and a review of the literature.

Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: The Lawrence Gray Symposium: Neuro-ophthalmic Pitfalls, Presentations, and Life-Saving Tips

This symposium gives you tips and helpful hints that you can immediately apply to your practice. You will learn about common neuro-ophthalmic pitfalls, assessment and management of adult diplopia/strabismus, and important triaging decisions. This symposium will not only increase your comfort level with neuro-ophthalmic disorders, but will give you useful tips that can be used to save your patients’ vision and their lives!

Nutrition, Disease Prevention & Wellness SIG Symposium: Omega-3 Fatty Acids in Eye & Systemic Health

This symposium will consider emerging research into the importance of omega-3 fatty acids in the prevention and amelioration of three public health epidemics: cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer’s disease, and age-related macular degeneration, presented by experts in each of these areas.

Optometric Education Section Symposium and Workshop: Creating, Implementing and Sustaining a Culture of Interprofessional Education (IPE) in Schools and Colleges of Optometry

In 1997, the Center for Advancement of Inter-professional Education (CAIPE) defined inter-professional education as occasions when students from two or more professions in health and social care learn together during all or part of their professional training with the object of cultivating collaborative practice. In the ensuing 20 years, educational institutions in the health professions have initiated and/or rededicated efforts in interprofessional education (IPE). IPE is a vitally important and contemporary issue for schools and colleges of optometry. In this symposium, members of the 2017 – 2018 Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Committee of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry will share their strategies, experiences, and recommendations for effectively incorporating interprofessional education into optometric curricula. Members of the campus community from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio will share their perspectives on IPE from the important standpoints of students and administration.

The subsequent workshop (no CE) will discuss, illustrate, and provide examples of toolkits and resources to develop, implement, and sustain models of interprofessional education and collaborative practice in optometry.

Public Health & Environmental Vision Section Symposium: Telemedicine: The Good, the Bad and the Law

This symposium will explore telemedicine’s impact on the practice of optometry. Topics will include opportunities to improve and expand care, ways to adapt to an increasing online society, the threat to traditional modes of practice, the potential for substandard care and associated complications, as well as the ethical, privacy and legal aspects of telemedicine. An overview of telemedicine law and regulatory issues in the United States, including recent trends in public policy, will be presented as well as the public health implications.

Retina SIG Symposium: Retinal 911: Urgencies, Emergencies and Retinal Repair

The first part of this symposium will explore retinal urgencies and emergencies. A litany of retinal conditions that must be handled expediently in order to avoid catastrophic vision loss or visual morbidity will be reviewed, triage instructions with timeliness emphasized and medical treatment and medical followup will be discussed. The second part delves into new advances in retinal tear and retinal detachment (RD) repair. All new techniques for tear and RD repair will be reviewed with emphasis on new advances including scleral buckles, pneumatic retinopexy, 27G needle vitrectomies, laser retinopexy, cryotherapy, perfluorocarbon C3F8 injection, air/gas tamponade, etc.

Vision Science SIG Symposium: New Approaches for Early Diagnosis of Vision Threatening Disease

This symposium will highlight novel findings and emerging techniques which enhance detection, diagnosis and management of ocular conditions and diseases impacting the anterior segment, retina and optic nerve. Topics include refractive surgical procedures for keratoconus, presbyopia and high myopia, the impact of iridotomy placement on visual performance, OCT angiography, emerging electrophysiological techniques, and central nervous system mediation for preservation of function in glaucoma and other neurodegenerative disorders.
Call for Board of Directors Nominations

This is an election year for the Academy Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is working to develop the slate of candidates for the next Board of Directors election at Academy 2018 San Antonio. They are seeking your help with names of potential candidates who are Fellows of the Academy and have, in your opinion, the experience and demonstrated leadership abilities to be considered for the Academy Board.

If you are an Academy Fellow and you know of Fellows willing and able to serve the Academy in this leadership capacity, please submit the name(s) by April 3, 2018 to Bonnie Rizzo at BonnieR@aaoptom.org.

The Nominating Committee will review the names submitted and will contact individuals to determine their interest in serving on the Board. Your assistance in this matter is of vital importance to the Academy as it moves forward in providing leadership to the profession in the areas of education and research.

The Academy Diplomate: My Journey

Ernie Bowling, OD, MS, FAAO, Diplomate, Comprehensive Eye Care

I had been in a solo private practice in rural northwest Georgia for several years. Being the only optometrist in the area, there was not much interaction with other ODs. I felt I was on top of my game, but how could I be sure? How was I doing clinically compared to my peers? I decided to pursue an Academy Fellowship, and upon completion I immediately applied for the Diplomate in the Primary Care Section. I felt that Section best mirrored what I was doing in practice.

The process was extremely tough. Writing all those case reports was a chore, but like everything in life it got easier with practice. My Diplomate exams were in San Diego, and I was jet lagged, mentally exhausted, and at an emotional ebb. The written exam was thorough, the oral exam was challenging, and afterwards I almost surrendered. I told the Section chair, the late Dr. Doug Hopkins (a truly great man), of my intentions. He talked me off the cliff. “See how the practical goes tomorrow,” he offered.

The practical was an entirely different matter. I aced that sucker! I mean, it was what I do every day. I came out of the process with a renewed sense of confidence, certain in my knowledge I could handle any clinical conundrum which came my way.

With maturity (read: age) comes keen hindsight. I will always hold completing the Diplomate was the apex of my professional life and the perfect choice I made in my career. It was difficult; it was maddeningly frustrating at times; it was draining; but it unconditionally made me a better clinician. The question I had asked myself years earlier had been answered.

There exists a Diplomate program for any Academy Fellow who wants to undertake the challenge. The Diplomate program is a marathon, not a sprint. Humility is a definite asset – check your ego at the beginning of the process. Likewise, there are many reasons one can craft to attempt the challenge, but for me it was strictly personal. I did it for my patients – and for me. Like iron sharpens iron, I wanted to be a better clinician. I like to think that particular mission was accomplished.

One other unforeseen benefit of the process: I’ve come to know some of the finest people I’ve ever met. I look forward to seeing them each meeting, and we have had some incredible times together. I would never have gotten to know these doctors – these friends - without the Diplomate, and my life is the better for it because of them.

2018 Diplomate Preparatory Courses

Nearly every Academy Section will offer a Diplomate Preparatory Course at Academy 2018 San Antonio (additional fees may apply). Look for more information at aaopt.org/2018.
Introducing Academy Online:
Available March 2018

Are you missing Academy 2017 Chicago? Looking to earn CE credits online? Interested in ways to experience the Academy year round?

The American Academy of Optometry is pleased to announce that our brand new online learning platform, Academy Online, will soon be available!

Academy Online is your all-access pass to the quality optometric education the Academy meeting is known for – all at your leisure and on your device of choice. The easy-to-use platform offers past session recordings, webinars, virtual posters, and much more in a convenient, on-demand format.

Up to 17 hours of COPE-approved distance learning CE credits will be also available ($25 test fee applies). You will also have access to view educational sessions from annual meetings several years back, including the 2016 Plenary Session, “Today’s Research, Tomorrow's Practice®: Current State of Health Care and Research,” featuring renowned author and speaker Malcolm Gladwell.

As an Academy member you will have complimentary access to the new platform. Check www.aaopt.org this March for more information about accessing Academy Online!

Let the Nominating Begin

It's time to send in nominations for the Academy 2018 San Antonio awards program. We encourage Fellows to nominate colleagues who have made significant contributions to optometry, and who deserve to be recognized and honored for their achievements.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2018. Full information about the various awards can be found on the Academy’s website at http://bit.ly/aaawards. Nominations consist of a nomination letter, a seconding letter and the curriculum vitae of the individual being nominated. Please email these materials to Helen Viksnins at HelenV@aaoptom.org. The Awards Committee will select the nominees from all submissions.

Be sure to identify the specific major accomplishments of the nominee in the opening paragraph so that the Awards Committee will be apprised of their primary contributions from the beginning of the nomination package. In particular, those accomplishments that are most directly related to the specific award should be emphasized.

Also, please remember that candidates who did not receive the awards in the previous few years can be re-nominated. This is not just a one-time, one-year process. Existing letters and curriculum vitae information from the prior year can be used again, or a new set of letters and curriculum vitae material can be submitted to indicate recent progress. The Awards Committee will contact the primary nominee to determine which option they would like to select, and a complete package will be prepared for the candidate.

Dr. Eli Peli (right) receiving the 2017 Charles F. Prentice Medal from Dr. Joe Shovlin, Academy President (left).
Member Spotlight: Donald Mutti

How did you first become involved with the Academy?

My first experience as a volunteer was serving on the Communications Committee. I was asked to be on it by somebody who knew somebody who knew me. That’s the Academy for you. Lifelong learning is a core value but the networking is where the fun is. I got to meet Academy stalwarts like Irv Bennett and Bob Koetting. The chair, Peter Bergenske, still gives me great advice, like on emceeing the banquet. “Don, remember: You are not a comedian.” If you go to the annual meeting often enough you will develop career-long friendships.

Tell us a little about your background. What was your main focus of study?

I got hooked on myopia research as a third-year student when I felt I didn’t have good enough answers for the string of law students with myopia progression who just wanted to know why. My classmate, Karla Zadnik, and I along with our advisor, Tony Adams, did a project on law students for our senior thesis that eventually turned into a PhD with Tony and 30 years of research to figure out “why.” We did the CLEERE study with the best group of collaborators one could ever hope to find. I hope it stands the test of time.

What are you working on now?

One of the most important results to come out of the CLEERE study is longitudinal evidence that emmetropic children who spend more time outdoors have a lower risk of becoming myopic in the future. Interestingly, the same benefit does not apply to myopic children. More time outdoors does not affect their progression rate. My research focus now is trying to figure out what is so good about being outside and why are children with myopia unable to benefit.

What is the most interesting study or project you’ve had the opportunity to work on?

I love what I’m doing now but it’s hard to beat the CLEERE study. Spending your work day for months on end trapped in a trailer with great colleagues eating cookies, watching A Goofy Movie over 100 times, listening to kids saying the darndest things all while measuring lag, the AC/A ratio, and capturing Purkinje images was pretty much research heaven.

Do you have any advice for students looking to get into the research field?

Embrace your curiosity. Find a problem you really want to solve. Pick a mentor who believes in you. Go to the Academy annual meeting.

Research Funding Opportunities

The Academy is pleased to offer the following funding opportunities to support cutting-edge optometric research. Please contact Helen Viksnins at HelenV@aaoptom.org with questions.

Clinical Research Award

Nearly half of Academy Fellows are in private practice, and 87% are engaged in direct patient care. Academy Fellows are keenly aware of the unmet needs of their patients and limits to current diagnosis and treatment options. The Clinical Research Award is provided to assist Fellows in conducting a research project that addresses a relevant clinical question and has the potential to positively impact patient care in optometry. Letters of intent are due April 13, 2018. For details about the award please visit http://bit.ly/2018cra.

Career Development Award

It has been recognized for some time that young investigators, including optometric investigators, take many years after the inception of their careers before successfully acquiring Federal research funding. In fact, the mean age of first time National Institutes of Health (NIH) grantees is over 40 years of age. In a continued effort to positively influence and reduce the age at which early stage optometric researchers attain large scale federal support, the Academy will administer the Career Development Award again this year. For details about the award please visit http://bit.ly/2018cda.
Fellowship Anniversaries

Class of 1968, 50 Years!

Dr. Robert J. Barbas, Chicago, IL
Dr. Wayne M. Cannon, Columbia, SC
Dr. Dennis Chinn, Fresno, CA
Dr. Anthony P. Cullen, Waterlo, Canada
Dr. Sami G. El Hage, Houston, TX
Dr. Matthew J. Garston, Cambridge, MA
Dr. Alexander J. Graham, Murrysville, PA
Dr. Morton K. Greenspoon, Calabasas, CA
Dr. Michael G. Harris, Pleasant Hill, CA
Dr. Richard J. Hazlett, Lakeland, TN
Dr. Patricia J. Hill, Marshall, MI
Dr. Rodney L. Hock, Evergreen, CO
Dr. Harry D. Inns, Brantford, Canada
Dr. Clemens H. Jacques, Saint Louis, MO
Dr. Alan W. Johnston, Ivanhoe East, Australia
Dr. Gary L. Liberman, Vallejo, CA
Dr. Jerry A. McLean, New York, NY
Dr. Julian D. Newman, Tampa, FL
Dr. John D. Pennington, Mukilteo, WA
Dr. Robert A. Poksay, Sewell, NJ
Dr. John W. Richards, Liberty, MO
Dr. Ralph Swartz, Toronto, Canada
Dr. George C. Woo, Hong Kong

Class of 1978, 40 Years!

Dr. Roger L. Boltz, Houston, TX
Dr. Robert S. Brownson, Grand Junction, CO
Dr. Lester Caplan, Baltimore, MD
Dr. Anthony A. Cavallerano, Boston, MA
Dr. Daniel W. Doberneck, Lewistown, PA
Dr. Burt W. Dubow, Saint Cloud, MN
Dr. Donald J. Egan, Pikeville, KY
Dr. Jimmy H. Elam, Germantown, TN
Dr. Murray Fingeret, Hewlett, NY
Dr. Mark J. Forgues Jr, Worcester, MA
Dr. Louis A. Frank, Framingham, MA
Dr. Richard Franz, Laguna Beach, CA
Dr. Neil B. Gaimard, Munster, IN
Dr. John J. Gardner, Hickory Hills, IL
Dr. Thomas D. Gilbert, Dublin, OH
Dr. Brian S. Goldberg, Montreal, Canada
Dr. Ralph Goldenberg, Ferndown, United Kingdom
Dr. Gregory L. Goodrich, Sea Bright, NJ
Dr. Harold Goren, Taunton, MA
Dr. David A. Goss, Indianapolis, IN
Dr. David J. Halsey, Wheatland, WY
Dr. Ronald A. Hensen, Chino, CA
Dr. John P. Herman, Plymouth, MA
Dr. Larry J. Housley, Fort Collins, CO
Dr. James P. Johnson, Maple Ridge, Canada
Dr. Curtis W. Keswick, San Jose, CA
Dr. Arnold P. LaGraff, Athens, OH
Dr. John W. Lahr, San Diego, CA
Dr. Ian Lane, Volente, TX

Class of 1993, 25 Years!

Dr. Deanna S. Alexander, Fort Collins, CO
Dr. Carol L. Alexander, Fullerton, CA
Dr. Robert W. Anderson, Lufkin, TX
Dr. Charles H. Bailey, Paradise, CA
Dr. Rex A. Ballinger, Cocksieville, MD
Dr. Marguerite E. Ball-Thomas, Winter Park, FL
Dr. Eulogio Besada, Hollywood, FL
Dr. L. Gregory Besler, Overland Park, KS
Dr. Gregory T. Bodrie, Sagamore, MA
Dr. Michael D. Brown, Huntsville, AL
Dr. Richard M. Calderon, Natick, MA
Dr. Robert C. Capone, Roslindale, MA
Dr. Henry J. Carter, Lafayette, LA
Dr. A. John Carter, Richland, WA
Dr. Mary Pat Chelsky, Grand Rapids, MI
Dr. John TC Chu, Rochester, WA
Dr. David A. Cockrell, Stillwater, OK
Dr. Nancy J. Coletta, Worcester, MA
Dr. Barbara K. Crutchfield, Lexington, KY
Mr. Ian P. Davies, Berkshire, United Kingdom
Dr. Robert B. DiMartino, Boston, MA
Dr. Kathryn A. Dumbleton, Berkeley, CA
Dr. Steven D. Eggert, Plymouth, WI
Dr. Graham B. Erickson, Forest Grove, OR
Prof. Bruce JW Evans, London, United Kingdom
Dr. William J. Finkle, Greenwich Village, CO
Prof. Arthur Ho, Sydney, Australia
Dr. Ray Anthony Hutchinson, Encinitas, CA
Dr. Pauline F. Ilsen, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Joyce E. Jordahl Nash, Hudson, FL
Dr. Harvey A. Kader, Aurora, Canada
Dr. Evan N. Kaplan, Bronx, NY
Dr. Jeanne F. Klopfeinstein, Manhattan, KS
Dr. Myron (Mike) B. Kreidler, Olympia, WA
Dr. Clifford A. Lee, San Francisco, CA
Dr. Brian L. LeStrange, Valrico, FL
Dr. Richard G. Lindsay, East Melbourne, Australia
Dr. Mercedes Motameni, Culver City, CA
Dr. Lee S. Pepinsky, Louisville, KY
Dr. Alan W. Reichow, Cedar Falls, IA
Dr. Mark S. Riaboy, Rowlett, TX
Dr. Monique P. Root, Urbardale, IA
Dr. Jay S. Rosen, Fort Myers, FL
Dr. Jean-Yves Roy, Sherbrooke, Canada
Dr. Andrew J. Sacco, Vestal, NY
Dr. Susan P. Schuettenberg, Pelham, NY
Prof. John Siderov, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Dr. Donald K. Steensma, Port Hueneme, CA
Dr. Robert L. Sullivan, Gastonia, NC
Dr. Katherine K. Takaki, Anaheim, CA
Dr. Randy Taketa, Santa Monica, CA
Dr. Barbara J. Tarbell, Hillsborough, NJ
Dr. Kelly H. Thomann, Montrose, NY
Dr. Byron E. Thomas, Ellensburg, WA
Dr. Lise K. Tong, Lafayette, CA
Dr. William J. Tullo, Princeton, NJ
Dr. Michael D. Twa, Birmingham, AL
Dr. David T. Wakabayashi, Irvine, CA
Dr. Carol A. Westall, Toronto, Canada
Dr. Stephen G. Whittaker, Southampton, PA
Dr. Helen R. Wilson, Lone Tree, CO
Dr. Timothy A. Wingert, San Antonio, TX
Dr. Michael E. Young, Monument, CO
First, I would like to thank all students, professors, clinicians, vision scientists, opticians, and the diverse community of the Academy for making it to the meeting in Chicago this past fall. I would also like to congratulate those who obtained their respective honors at the meeting, and the people who helped put it all together. The Academy again reached record-breaking attendance, inducted a significant number of Fellows and Student Fellows, provided great CE with world-class lecturers, and continued to impress upon the optometric community the promotion of art and science of vision care. I would like to encourage everyone to come to the great state of Texas and attend Academy 2018 San Antonio.

For future residents and doctors, I highly advocate that you invest in yourself by becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO). Making this investment will not only provide you with a continued passion for education for life, but also a confidence/swagger that enables you to provide the best patient care possible. Plus, if you graduate in 2018 and submit your application by the end of the year, the Academy will waive your 1st year of dues and fees!

The American Academy of Optometry provides its members with excellent resources such as the Optometry and Vision Science Journal, that will share knowledge in current evidence-based medicine, a network of comrades from across the globe in diverse/expanding areas, and a commitment to advancing the profession of optometry.

I would like to thank the Academy for letting me be the 2017 liaison, allowing me to provide inspiration, advice, professionalism, and a desire to continue to be a part of this great community. I hope to see everyone in San Antonio!

2017 Best Student Scientific Program Presentation

The Academy Board of Directors and the Scientific Program Committee gave special recognition to Laura Pardon, a PhD student at the University of Houston College of Optometry, at Academy 2017 Chicago. Dr. Pardon’s presentation titled, “Quantification and Localization of Peripapillary Vascular Changes in Optic Disc Edema Using Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography,” was identified as the best student presentation of the 2017 Scientific Program. The presentation was co-authored by Han Cheng, Jorge Mendoza, Rosa Tang, Laura Frishman and Nimesh Patel.

"I am grateful to receive the Best Student Scientific Presentation and have my research recognized by leaders in our field. This recognition gives me a sense that my work as a graduate student is worthwhile and has the potential to make a difference and further our collective knowledge in the area of optic nerve pathology."

Laura Pardon, OD, MS, FAAO
Scenes from Academy 2017 Chicago

(1 to r) The FDR SIG conducts a research study in the exhibit hall; New Fellow Grace Liao poses with her square on the “Walk of Fame”; Nigerian optometrists enjoy the meeting.

Over 2,000 attendees at the Plenary Session “Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice: The Eye as a Mirror of the Brain.”

(1 to r) Attendees enjoy the bustling exhibit hall; Optometry students pose at the Academy membership booth photo wall.
The Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF) process was envisioned as one way to ensure that Academy Fellows stay engaged and committed to lifelong learning. Members who became Fellows in 2010 or after are required to earn 15 MOF points over a 10-year period. To date, about 1,000 Fellows have already renewed their Fellowship status through this process!

Points can be earned in a variety of ways, including presenting and/or attending CE at the annual Academy meeting, publishing in an approved journal, or serving on an Academy committee. In fact, MOF can be renewed by simply attending the annual meeting on even a biennial basis! A full explanation can be found by visiting http://www.aaopt.org/fellows/mof. On the left side of the page is a link where you can view your individual progress towards MOF renewal.

Using Triggers to Improve Clinical Skills

Glenda Secor, OD, FAAO, Chair, Communications Committee

I have been an Academy Fellow and Diplomate of the Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technology Section for many years. I am often asked why the Academy has been important to me as a clinician. I was blessed to have inspiring mentors early in my career who were active in the Academy. Their encouragement and support helped me achieve and exceed my goals. To say my clinical skills have been enhanced by my Academy experience is shared by many colleagues. But the only one that really counts is my patients’ experience as a result of my preparation.

We all know that lifelong learning should be a mantra for everyone. One of my wiser, octogenarian patients reinforced this when she shared “you’re old when you stop learning.” I know my skills have never been better and my knowledge has never been as robust as it is now. I am always amazed at the wisdom our colleagues are so willing to share when I am stumped by a clinical case. Having lifelong friendships within the Academy has given me a valuable resource of experts who are just a phone call away. The networking opportunities are a direct result of attending annual meetings, volunteering and meeting the experts I admire.

My personal favorite patients are still contact lens wearers who have everything from simple, spherical prescription needs to complex corneal disease. I often tell them this is the “art” of contact lenses…finding a solution which meets their needs and exceeds their expectations. I have found that simply listening to patients’ past experience and hearing what they really want from contact lenses is critical to a successful experience. Meeting their expectations, not mine, makes lifelong patients. They refer their family and friends which grows your contact lens practice and ultimately your revenue.

Because our contact lens tool box has never been better, we have options for virtually every patient in our practice. Asking “Are you interested in contact lenses today?” creates interest and gives you an opportunity to educate patients that new options are available. Success with contact lenses depends on all stakeholders understanding the importance of their role. Patients will be more compliant with your recommendations when they understand why you are prescribing a particular lens and modality. In addition to solving their refractive needs, solving their physiological issues enhances the experience and helps assure success. Addressing lid hygiene issues, understanding their refractive needs and having enthusiasm about the process yields success.

Good communication skills are critical at every level of our personal and professional life. It’s as much about hearing and understanding as it is about speaking.
Invite a Friend to the Party

Andrew D. Pucker, OD, PhD, FAAO, Chair, Membership Committee

Did you know that the Academy has surpassed 5,000 Fellows? Or that the Academy has Fellows from over 40 different countries? Over the past several years the Membership Committee has set a number of initiatives to keep both of these numbers strong and growing, a feat that we cannot fully accomplish without your help.

Do you remember why you became a Fellow? I often think back about why I became a Fellow, and I likewise continually reevaluate why I champion becoming a Fellow through my work with the Membership Committee. I, like many Fellows, pursued Fellowship because my academic mentors were all Fellows and I wanted to be a part of the organization they loved. I have continued my participation in the Academy because I have found it to be a wonderful place to present my research, meet old and new friends, and obtain the high-quality continuing education needed to make myself a better optometrist, researcher, and educator.

I have also grown by giving back to the Academy through serving on its Membership Committee, which has given me an outlet to help others understand the many benefits offered by the Academy.

So how can you too help the Academy grow? The simple answer is that you can start by giving back to the Academy. Of course, one way to give back is to volunteer with a committee, Special Interest Group, or Section, though I have something much simpler in mind. One of the best ways to give back to the Academy is to simply inspire one more hardworking optometrist who has the desire to be on the cutting edge of the profession to learn more about the Academy.

You could send them to our website, invite them to the annual meeting, or you could tell them about why you are a Fellow or why you are planning to become a Fellow. Simply put – your task is to pique just one person’s interest and refer them to the Membership Committee. We can take care of the rest.

Optometry in Orlando:
A First Look at 2019

The Academy is pleased to announce a joint education meeting in 2019 with the World Council of Optometry (WCO). We will be co-hosting the 3rd World Congress of Optometry in conjunction with the Academy meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida at the Orange County Convention Center. The meeting will feature joint CE tracks and will take place October 23-28, 2019. Thousands of optometrists, optometry students and other eye care professionals from around the world will have access to first-class education with discussions and lectures led by distinguished speakers and world-renowned optometrists.

The Academy’s 98th annual meeting will feature a wide array of clinically relevant CE courses and cutting-edge research in the clinical and vision sciences. Attendees will have the option to choose from over 250 hours of lectures and workshops, Section and SIG Symposia, hundreds of scientific papers and posters, and several memorable social events. Attendees will also have access to learn about the latest optometric products and services in the exhibit hall.

The 3rd World Congress will showcase the latest advances in vision sciences, research in optometry, optics and contact lens cutting-edge technology, recognizing the United States as a world benchmark in vision sciences. As in past World Congresses, the 3rd World Congress of Optometry will serve as a global platform where practitioners, students, researchers and educators will share expertise and engage in the development of the future of the profession.

More information about this meeting will be available in the coming months at www.worldcongressofoptometry.org and www.aaopt.org.
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Florida Chapter

The next Chapter meeting will be April 20-21, 2018. Featured speakers will include Drs. Brad Sutton, Jeff Perotti, Albert Woods, Todd Peabody and John McClane. Six hours of COPE approved CE/TQ in Ocular Disease and Pharmacology will be offered, along with eight hours of non-transcript quality CE. There will be a golf tournament on Friday from 10 AM to 3 PM. Plan a weekend and enjoy the comfortable accommodations of Mission Inn. Contact Art Young for registration at eyeguy4123@msn.com.

Nova Southeastern Student Chapter

Nova Southeastern University had excellent attendance at Academy 2017 Chicago. Six of our students obtained their Student Fellowship and proudly represented our student body. Two of our students, Amy Vinogradov and Brian Roberts, were the recipients of Student Travel Grants generously sponsored by the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry. In addition, Ava Bittner, OD, PhD, FAAO, was recognized as the 2017 Fredric Rosemore Low Vision Grant Recipient. We are very proud of our college’s achievements and look forward to Academy 2018 San Antonio!

Kentucky College of Optometry Student Chapter

The Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO) enjoyed another first in October: attending its first Academy meeting in Chicago. The school sent 20 students to the meeting, all of whom completed the requirements to become Student Fellows. One student, Andrea Sandifer, represented the KYCO Chapter by presenting a poster during the meeting. Another student, Jen Krueger, represented the chapter by participating in “Bottoms Up IOP” research, where participants in the study had their intraocular pressure checked while upside down on an inversion table. Two students, Nicole Flowers and Jacob Webster, were recipients of the AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grants. Students enjoyed attending many CE courses, a student networking luncheon, and browsing the exhibit hall. KYCO students were winners of the Alcon Foundation’s “Cycle for Sight 20/20 Challenge,” where meeting attendees were encouraged to ride stationary bikes to help reach the challenge goal of riding 2,020 minutes, which triggered a $25,000 donation to the AAOF from the Alcon Foundation. The KYCO chapter won the challenge with a collective total of over 9 hours of riding time.

University of Montreal Student Chapter

As personal advocates for the Academy, the University of Montreal (UM) student chapter strives to encourage its students to attend the annual meeting. We have learned firsthand that attending the Academy meeting is not only an amazing learning opportunity to advance our optometry knowledge, but also a chance to network and connect with other likeminded professionals and students. However, the costs involved to attend the meeting are an obstacle for many Canadian students. In order to help UM’s students offset the travel costs, our student chapter put together a very successful fundraiser by selling optometry-related t-shirts (a nice optometry themed “word cloud” that we designed). To maximize sales, the fundraiser was held at our very own continuing education conference here in Quebec, which all 1,400 optometrists in the province attended. We were very grateful for the support received and, together with the AAOF’s Student Giving Matching Travel Grants, we are proud to say that we can send students to Academy 2018 San Antonio with travel fellowships. We will be sure to continue the sales of these t-shirts in order to financially support as many students as we can, because we believe in what the Academy meeting has to offer its future optometrists!

University of Alabama at Birmingham Student Chapter

The UAB student chapter recently held a successful Evening of Education Fundraiser (CE night) with 21 doctors in attendance which led to $800 in donations. This profit, in addition to the Spring car magnet sale funds, will contribute toward the AAOF’s Student Giving Matching Travel Grant. On April 20th we are planning a pinning ceremony for the 10 students who completed their Student Fellowship at Academy 2017 Chicago.
Profession Leaders Focus on the Future of Optometry

Representatives from the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the American Optometric Association (AOA), the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO) have formed the Inter-Organizational Communication and Cooperation Committee (IOCCC). The IOCCC meets once or twice a year as a forum for the leadership of these organizations to discuss strategic issues affecting the entire profession.

During a recent meeting in September 2017 the group discussed issues ranging from the proposed changes in veterans’ eye care, to the latest statistics about applicants to optometry schools, to approval by both the AAO and ASCO boards of directors of a plan to establish sub-specializations in optometry.

The most recent IOCCC meeting was held in February 2018, in Charlotte, North Carolina at the ARBO and NBEO’s headquarters.

Now Available!

FAAO and Diplomate Patient Information Brochures and Posters

Do your patients know what it means to have an optometrist who is a Fellow or Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry? Let them know with these new patient information resources.

Brochures are 4 pages, 4.25” wide x 5.5” tall (or a double sided 8.5” x 11” page folded in half)

Information Brochures and Posters

Register for the online store today at http://bit.ly/aaoptom
President’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

The AAOF is fulfilling its mission thanks to the generous charitable contributions of our many supporters including registrants, sponsors, donors, awardees, and volunteers. During Academy 2017 Chicago, the Foundation raised more than $255,000 in donations and new pledges.

The AAOF provided over 80 travel grants to Academy 2017 Chicago, including 18 as a result of the student giving initiative, the AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grants. Throughout the past year, more than $450,000 was presented in fellowships, scholarships, grants, and residency educational awards.

The Foundation received $130,000 in new President’s Circle pledges during Academy 2017 Chicago, demonstrating the extreme generosity of the many individuals and sponsors who continue to support our mission. Representing those who pledge or gift $10,000 or more, the AAOF President’s Circle now has seven giving levels: Circle, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Founder’s, Pioneer, and Visionary, that together include over 175 individual and corporate donor commitments.

I would like to invite you to invest further in the future of optometry. Please consider joining the President’s Circle in the coming year. It would be wonderful to be able to celebrate the addition of many more President’s Circle members at Academy 2018 San Antonio.

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation is proud to be the Academy’s Foundation — your Foundation — and we continue to take great pride in its growth and the successes of the exceptional individuals who we have supported. Contributions to the Foundation are continuing to advance optometry’s future.

Sincerely,

David G. Kirschen, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, AAOF

Jill and George Mertz Fellowship

The AAOF has extended the deadline for applying for the Jill and George Mertz Fellowship to March 30, 2018. The Jill and George Mertz Fellowship is designed to assist faculty who have recently completed optometric or vision science training or someone in the middle of a successful career. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/2ALaXAj.

Visit Us Online

We encourage you to visit our website at www.aaopt.org/aaof to learn more about our organization and stay apprised of the many programs we administer.

Like our page on Facebook, www.facebook.com/AmericanAcademyofOptometryFoundation to receive important updates related to AAOF’s programs.
2018-2019 Ezell Club Fellowship Honoree, Earl L. Smith, III

In 2014, the American Academy of Optometry Foundation began a tradition of honoring a former Ezell Fellow by naming an Ezell Club Fellowship in their name for that given year. The 2018-2019 Ezell Club Fellowship is named for Earl L. Smith, III, OD, PhD, FAAO. This fellowship will be recognized at Academy 2018 San Antonio.

Professor Smith is a former Ezell Fellow and a member of the Ezell Club. He received his OD (1972) and PhD (1978) from the University of Houston and subsequently joined the faculty of the University of Houston College of Optometry. During his tenure at UH, he has served as the Chair of the Basic Sciences Department, the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, the Dean of the College of Optometry, and as the Chief Health Officer of the University of Houston. Professor Smith currently holds the Greeman-Petty Professorship in Vision Development and is serving his second term as the Dean of the College of Optometry. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a past President of the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (1999-2001).

If you would like to make a donation in honor of Dr. Smith, please visit the AAOF website at http://bit.ly/2E7K73m or contact the Foundation at 321-319-4870.

Inaugural Korb-Exford Dry Eye Career Development Grant

At Academy 2010 San Francisco, the Foundation received a generous $25,000 donation from Drs. Donald Korb and Joan Exford to establish a research and leadership fund in the area of dry eye. The Korb-Exford Dry Eye Career Development Grant is designed to support an individual to further their knowledge in the broad area of dry eye.

Congratulations to the inaugural grant recipient, Srihari Narayanan, OD, PhD, FAAO, Professor of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry. His project is titled “Meibomian Gland Dysfunction Management to Relieve Contact Lens Discomfort,” and will investigate if lid margin debridement will result in betterment of contact lens discomfort (intolerance) caused by Meibomian gland dysfunction. The next submission window opens May 1, 2018. For more information or to donate to the Dry Eye Fund, visit: http://bit.ly/2BZAMZE.

AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grant

The Foundation is pleased to announce that the Student Giving Matching Travel Grants window is now open and closes on June 15, 2018. Students are challenged to raise $750, either through gifts by fellow students or a variety of fundraising activities. The AAOF will then match that amount so the AAO student chapter can award two travel fellowships to Academy 2018 San Antonio. Groups should work in consultation with their institution’s AAO Faculty Student Chapter Liaison. For more information, visit: http://bit.ly/2DYE5la.
Allergan Research Grant Recipients

The AAOF, in partnership with the Allergan Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2017-2018 recipient of the Allergan Research Grant. Congratulations to Rose Y. Reins, PhD, Assistant Professor at The Ocular Surface Institute, University of Houston College of Optometry. She has been awarded a $60,000 grant for her project, “Evaluation of Vitamin D Treatment for Dry Eye-induced Ocular Surface Inflammation.” Rachel Redfern, OD, PhD, FAAO, Assistant Professor at The Ocular Surface Institute, University of Houston College of Optometry, is the co-investigator on this project.

Allergan Research Grant recipients Rose Y. Reins, PhD (left) and Rachel Redfern, OD, PhD, FAAO (right).

Newest President’s Circle Members

The AAOF is deeply grateful for the ongoing commitment from this special group of donors. The President’s Circle was established in 1997 to recognize donors who contribute total gifts of $10,000 or more through either a pledge, one-time gift, or over time. The AAOF President’s Circle now has seven giving levels: Circle, Gold, Platinum, Diamond, Founder’s Pioneer, and Visionary, that together include over 175 individual and corporate donor commitments. The Foundation recognizes the newest President’s Circle members and those who increased their giving to a higher level (July 15, 2017 - January 31, 2018).

President’s Circle Diamond
Bert C. and Lydia M. Corwin

President’s Circle Platinum
Mark A. Bullimore and Beverly Williams Amico
Howard Purcell

President’s Circle Gold
Stephen and Doris Sze Chun
Gilbert Pierce
Christina Schnider and Mal Patton

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Jeffrey Cooper
Thomas Vincent Duchardt
Good-Lite
Charlotte E. Joslin-Ulanski and Larry J. Ulanski, II
Millicent L. Knight
Jessica H. Matthew
Marla L. Moon
Nicole Marie Putnam
Robert P. Rustein
Mitchell M. Scheiman
Satya B. Verma
Timothy and Catherine Wiebe

If you are interested in becoming a member of the prestigious President’s Circle, please contact Maureen Dimont, Director, Development at MaureenD@aaoptom.org or 321-319-4871.

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