The American Academy of Optometry and the World Council of Optometry (WCO) are excited to welcome you to the City Beautiful for Academy 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry, taking place October 23-27, 2019. For those of you who attended Academy 2009 Orlando, please take note that the meeting will take place in a much more ideal location – the Orange County Convention Center is adjacent to International Drive and a wealth of dining, entertainment and world-class attraction options.

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This year’s meeting will once again feature over 400 hours of CE, and an extra day of CE has been added on Sunday, October 27. CE will be offered 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 hear from our corporate partners about the latest products, services and technology available in the profession.

This year’s Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice® Plenary Session will be held from 10 AM – 12 Noon on Wednesday, October 23. The headlining event will discuss the World Health Organization’s World Report on Vision to be released in summer 2019. The speakers will summarize the results of the report and highlight its importance to optometry around the world, as well as in North America.

Thursday morning, the science continues with the Monroe J. Hirsch Research Symposium and the Hot Topics presentations selected by the Academy’s Scientific Program Committee in various areas of eye and vision research.

Join us for Ezell Fellows Present, a symposium where three investigators at different stages of their careers, who were supported early through a Foundation Ezell Fellowship, present their research. This year’s symposium will focus on public health and epidemiology.

The WCO is pleased to bring the global world of optometry together to provide opportunities for education, collaboration and networking during this joint meeting. The WCO 3rd World Congress will bring a few special events including their 3rd President’s Forum, the Global Summit on Optometric Education and the WCO General Assembly.

The President’s Forum takes place from 8 AM – 12 Noon on Saturday, October 26. This invitation-only event provides a platform for the highest level of decision makers and key partners of profession to come together to discuss the current development of optometry and the desired impact that it envisages in the broader health agenda across the world. The theme of the 3rd President’s Forum will be “Optometry’s Role in Addressing the Changing Face of Technology, Public Health and Clinical Care.” With the World Health Organization emphasizing the importance of universal health coverage and competencies, the focus of the forum will be to discuss how optometry can play a larger role with the changing face of health care.

You won’t want to miss the Global Summit on Optometric Education from 8 AM – 12 Noon on Sunday, October 27. The Summit will be an interactive session to provide educators from optometric educational programs from around the globe the opportunity to share education philosophies and teaching methods, discuss challenges facing institutions, network, prospects for potential collaboration in academic and research areas, and provide mechanisms for exchange of manpower. The Summit is organized by the WCO in partnership with the Academy and the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry. Faculty and administrators of optometry programs from across the globe are invited to attend and contribute to this critical discussion.

Held at the end of the Congress, the WCO Annual General Assembly will be held from 5 PM – 7 PM on Sunday, October 27. The new WCO President will be inaugurated and the committee chairs and new board will be introduced. WCO Country Members are invited to discuss and vote on issues regarding the organization and reports of previous and future activities are presented. All WCO members and

The City Beautiful
interested parties are invited to attend.

If you are wondering how you can participate in this year’s program in Orlando, 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 or 3rd World Congress websites.

Registration and housing open on May 6, 2019. For more information, visit www.aaopt.org/2019 or www.worldcongressofoptometry.org and keep an eye out for the Program Preview in April!

Contracted Hotels

Hyatt Regency Orlando (Headquarters Hotel)*
9801 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Single and Double: $255

Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Single and Double: $210

Rosen Centre Hotel
9840 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Single and Double: $220
Triple and Quadruple: $240

Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando
9000 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32819
Single/Double/Triple/Quadruple: $115

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld® (Government Hotel)**
10100 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
Single and Double: $189
Single and Double: $152 (GPD Rate)

SpringHill Suites Orlando at SeaWorld®
10801 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
Single and Double: $179

Fairfield Inn & Suites Orlando at SeaWorld®
10815 International Drive
Orlando, FL 32821
Single and Double: $174

*Additional $5 discounted resort fee per room, per night applicable at the Hyatt Regency Orlando Headquarters Hotel.

**Note that this is a government per diem rate hotel, and as such the rate can change as of October 1, 2019. The rate listed above is based on per diem rates approved through September 30, 2019. 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.

Exhibit Sales Now Open!

The Academy meeting is known around the world for being one for all eyecare practitioners, scientists, educators, administrators and students who want to learn about the latest groundbreaking clinical and scientific vision care research. Don’t miss your opportunity to exhibit at Academy 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry! The exhibit hall offers face-to-face and unparalled opportunities to be present among other leaders in the eye care industry, in addition to showcasing your products and services to the vision science community. Optometry’s most anticipated event will sell out in advance, don’t miss this one! Learn more about booking your space in the exhibit hall at www.aaopt.org/2019/exhibits.
Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG Symposium: Whoops! An Evaluation of Cases That Might Not Have Gone the Way You Wanted

The objectives of this symposium are to identify adverse outcomes associated with medical error, to modify behavior and judgment based on previous experiences, and to prevent repetition of errors leading to complications. Conferences are non-punitive and focus on the goal of patient care. They are particularly important for identifying system issues (e.g., outdated policies, changes in patient identification procedures, arithmetic errors, etc.) that affect patient care.

Anterior Segment Section Symposium: Rosacea, Ocular Rosacea, and MGD: A Review and New Treatments

The ocular manifestations of rosacea and MGD share many characteristics. This course will review the similarities in pathophysiology and treatments including new procedural treatments such as IPL, Lipiflow, iLux, and TearCare.


This symposium will feature speakers involved in the cutting-edge concussion research that impacts the visual system including topics of vestibular-ocular disorders, convergence insufficiency, and other eye movement disorders. Additionally, the symposium will dedicate time to current research on issues concerning the overall health and wellness of our patients with concussion.

Comprehensive Eye Care Section Symposium: Diplomates Present Grand Rounds

This symposium seeks to highlight complex case studies presenting to the comprehensive eye care practitioner. Topics will be pertinent to all eye care providers with attention to anterior segment, posterior segment, and neuro-ophthalmic disease. The symposium aims to address how the comprehensive eye care provider can improve patient care to prevent vision loss and blindness. Fellows interested in becoming a Comprehensive Eye Care Diplomate are strongly encouraged to attend.

Low Vision Section Symposium: The Promises and Challenges of Electric Head-Mounted Video Devices in Vision Rehabilitation

We have now had electronic head-mounted video devices for use in low vision rehabilitation for nearly 25 years. Many technological innovations have been developed as the products have evolved, yet they still make up a relatively small portion of vision assistive equipment used in the field. This session’s presenters have impressive and varied credentials and experience working with these devices. They will offer insights into the challenges of creating truly useful head-mounted technology, a look at the history and future of these devices, and share experiences of a low vision rehabilitation professional who uses head-mounted video technology himself.

Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: The Lawrence Gray Memorial Symposium: Clinical Neuro-ophthalmic and Neuroradiologic Correlates

This program will utilize the skills of an optometrist, neuro-ophthalmologist, and neuro-radiologist to examine patients...
need neuro-imaging with insight into the proper testing needed, how to optimize the management through imaging, and interpretation of the ordered testing. Blind cases will be presented and a neuroradiologist will interpret the neuro-imaging on the spot.

Optometric Education Section Symposium: Engaging Students in Learning Through Cognition, Self-Regulation, and Deliberate Practice

The ability to participate actively in lifelong learning is an essential competency required of all future healthcare providers. It is necessary for students to have a clear understanding of how they can self-regulate their learning and to critically analyze their performance. Educators are called to outline these integral skills for student success, as well as incorporate active and engaging aspects of these competencies into the classroom whether didactic, clinical or in the simulation setting. Integration and self-regulated learning techniques such as deliberate practice and metacognitive strategies are a crucial and ongoing issue for schools and colleges of optometry.

Optometric Education Section Workshop: Instructional Tools for Cognition and Self-Regulated Learning

Participants of the paired workshop will leave with an outline of specific tools that can be used in a variety of educational settings to enhance self-regulated learning. Implementation of deliberate practice interventions and a framework for student support will be reviewed. Additionally, an opportunity to participate in hands-on application of the tools will be provided.


This symposium will explore the impact of organized optometry on the ability of specific countries and regions around the world to reduce vision impairment and prevent vision loss among their citizens. We will discuss the education and personnel resources necessary to affect such improvements, as well as the legal and professional hurdles that need to be overcome. Following a brief presentation from each presenter, the audience will be invited to participate with questions and comments.

Retina SIG Symposium: State of Macular and Retinal Degenerative Disease

This course discusses various macular diseases commonly encountered, such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic macular edema, central serous chorioretinopathy, vitreomacular traction, epimacular membrane, macular holes and more. Learners will be presented with information in regards to diagnosis, management, and follow-up protocols. Utilization and application of imaging and diagnostic technologies such as optical coherence tomography and OCT angiography (OCT-A) and other diagnostic techniques will be discussed. A review of emerging treatments is covered as well.

Vision Science SIG Symposium: Augmented and Virtual Reality for Vision Science

In addition to being a powerful tool for gaming and entertainment, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) hold promise as exciting tools for learning more about the visual system, helping us function in the everyday world, and potentially assisting patients with visual and cognitive disorders. While it is now possible to use AR/VR to explore new research directions beyond those that could be accomplished using traditional psychophysical techniques, current AR/VR instruments also pose challenges associated with vision, human and engineering factors. The goals of this session will be to discuss some of these challenges and present current research and technological advances in AR/VR. Invited speakers from academia and industry will present their work and provide their perspectives on visual, human, and engineering factors to consider when developing and using AR/VR, as well as new opportunities for its application to the visual system.

Vision in Aging SIG Symposium: Neurodegeneration and the Aging Eye: Role of Eye Care Professionals in Early Management and Care for Patients with Progression

Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s diseases, Parkinson’s disease and dementia are on the rise and creating a substantial public health burden. Currently, detecting these conditions requires invasive and expensive testing, and often they are detected too late after irreversible changes have occurred in the brain. Researchers are discovering that there are biomarkers in the eye, most notably the retina, that can detect neurodegenerative conditions less invasively and at its earlier stages. Eye care professionals are on the forefront of possibly being able to detect these conditions at their earliest stages in the eye, which could lead to more effective treatment and reduced progression of cognitive impairment.
I have attended the annual Academy meeting every year since I graduated and pursued Academy Fellowship as soon as I was done with my residency. I always intended to get my Diplomate—just as soon as I figured out what area to pursue. My problem was that as I was developing as a clinician, none of the Academy Sections really seemed to fit. I did my residency in pediatrics and specialty contact lenses, but didn’t really practice that anymore. I thought I might fit into Primary Care, but that didn’t ring true. The more I learned about each Section, the more I wished there was an Anterior Segment Section. It turned out, there were a group of like-minded doctors, and so we formed a Special Interest Group (SIG) that quickly became a Section.

One of the main differences between a SIG and a Section is the creation of a Diplomate Program. I volunteered immediately to be in charge of developing one. Most Sections will have case reports, a written exam, and an oral exam—we had excellent people to develop those areas. But most Sections also have a practical exam where the clinician is tested with real patients who have diseases in the area being studied. Well, how do you time a patient to have an acute anterior segment disease at an annual meeting? This was going to be our biggest hurdle. We came up with a slide practical exam since we realized we didn’t need to test instrument skills, just the ability of candidates to think on their feet. We showed pathology images or videos, candidates asked questions, diagnosed and managed or ordered further testing. The Academy Board of Directors approved our plan with some tweaks and we were off and running.

Two very brave souls, Drs. Nick Colatrella and Aaron Bronner, threw their hats in the ring to run the gauntlet we had created. I think both of them will tell you that the process was rigorous yet fair, and they came out the other side better clinicians. As soon as they had fulfilled every requirement and became Diplomates at Academy 2015 New Orleans, I stepped down as Diplomate Chair and put myself through the process. If you’re thinking that my journey was therefore easier, let me disabuse you of that notion. I was given rewrites on my cases by the Case Reports Chair that made my papers stronger. The written exam was rigorous. And the slide practical was completely rewritten and much better than the one I had produced! I had four cases that I tested candidates on. I was given eleven. Eleven. But the test was better because every structure of the anterior segment was covered to make sure I had breadth of knowledge and to minimize the luck of the draw of a case. My oral exam asked difficult questions and made me defend clinical choices I had made in my case reports.

I walked across the stage at Academy 2018 San Antonio to accept my Diplomate Certificate. It seemed fitting as my first Academy meeting was in San Antonio in 1997. I am the third Diplomate of the Anterior Segment Section. Yes, I am a better clinician for having gone through this process. But better still, I have made strong friendships with fine doctors who practice in different settings throughout the country. I highly recommend this process—take the leap! Which Section is the right fit for you? Or will you start one with your colleagues?

Become a Diplomate: Step One

Fellows, make 2019 the year you begin the process of becoming a Diplomate. All eight Sections of the Academy will offer informative Diplomate Preparatory Courses during Academy 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry. Come learn about the application process, network with current Diplomates and earn COPE-approved CE!* Plan on adding one of these sessions to your schedule at the annual meeting this year! As an added bonus, the $100 application fee will be waived if you apply for Diplomate candidacy during the annual meeting!

*COPE approval pending for Diplomate Preparatory Courses. Look for more information about COPE approval in the coming months.
**There will be an additional fee to attend the Diplomate Preparatory Courses offered on Tuesday, due at the time of registration.
Maximize Your Membership in 2019

Are you taking advantage of your Academy membership benefits? Review some of the excellent and enriching benefits available to you as a member of the American Academy of Optometry.

Academy Online gives you 24/7 access to the quality education the Academy meeting is known for. You can enjoy complimentary access to past session recordings, virtual posters, and COPE-approved distance learning credits (COPE testing fees apply).

Further your dedication to lifelong learning by enjoying access to our online optometric library, which provides you with complimentary subscriptions to a variety of journals, including the Academy’s journal *Optometry and Vision Science*.

Dive into your interests by joining a Section or Special Interest Group (SIG) focused on topics ranging from Anterior Segment to Vision Science. Your membership in any of these Sections or SIGs is included in your Academy dues. You can also take your professional development to the next level by becoming an Academy Diplomate in one of our eight Diplomate programs.

Academy members receive significant discounts on annual meeting registration rates. Utilize your nearly 50% discount off non-member rates on registration fees to attend Academy 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry. Can’t make it to the annual meeting? Get involved with your local Academy Chapter for educational events, networking, and camaraderie year round.

Define Your Academy

*John G. Flanagan, PhD, FCOptom, FAAO, Chair, Awards Committee*

**What defines an Academy?**

An Academy can be literally defined as a society of learned persons organized to advance art, science, or literature.

**What defines your Academy?**

Perhaps, an annual gathering of like-minded friends and colleagues, dedicated to representing the best of our profession?

How can you define your Academy?

One way is by recognizing your exceptional colleagues, teachers, mentors, clinicians, scientists and inventors. Our Academy is only as good as the people we honor. The responsibility to build our Academy belongs to every Fellow. It belongs to you.

Your Academy and its Foundation offer annual awards for all walks of our profession; for clinicians, for pioneers, for educators, for global visionaries, for scientists, for mentors and for your friends. If someone deserving remains unrecognized we must all own the blame. So, talk with your colleagues, remember your heroes, and recognize the exceptional amongst us. These awards are yours, and these awards help define our Academy. I look forward to you deluging the Awards Committee with nominations. It is your responsibility to do so!

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2019. Full information about the various awards can be found on the Academy’s website at http://bit.ly/aaoawards. Nominations consist of a nomination letter, a seconding letter, and a curriculum vitae of the individual being nominated. Please email these materials to Helen Viksnins at HelenV@aaoptom.org. The Awards Committee will then select the nominees from all submissions.

Dr. Bernie Dolan (right) receiving the 2018 Eminent Service Award from Dr. Joe Shovlin, Academy President (left).
What motivated you to pursue optometry?

I started thinking about optometry as a profession when I worked for an optometrist in my hometown in Michigan. I worked there the summer after I graduated from high school and the one after my freshman year at the University of Michigan.

Who from the profession has inspired you, and why?

Throughout my professional life I have been blessed to have wonderful mentors. As a student at UC Berkeley, Tony Adams was the Dean. Mark Dunbar was my residency director at Bascom Palmer. I worked for years on a committee and editorial board under the direction of Michael Twa. Bernie Dolan has been a co-worker my entire career at San Francisco VA. They are all very different people with contrasting, but effective styles of leadership. They all have inspired me by modeling excellence in their professional roles and being supportive mentors to everyone in their sphere of influence.

How did you first become involved with the Academy?

A year after I became a Fellow in 2003, there was an unexpected opening on the Membership Committee and I was lucky enough to be selected to serve. It was an excellent introduction to the Academy and its amazing staff.

What has been your favorite role within the Academy so far?

I truly enjoyed serving on the Scientific Program Committee and on the Editorial Board of Optometry and Vision Science. I developed numerous friendships and I am a better clinician and educator thanks to reading the thousands of abstracts and manuscripts that were submitted.

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Academy Board of Directors?

I want to get more new Fellows involved in the volunteer structure of the Academy. I think Fellows benefit most by serving the organization. Being involved is how you meet new inspiring colleagues and get exposed to all of the knowledge and collective expertise the Academy has to offer. Plus, we have to identify the next generation of Academy leaders.

Why did you decide to get into optometry?

I was that myopic kid in the 70’s who did not embrace spectacles. In high school I asked my local optometrist, John Shank, OD, FAAO, if he would prescribe contact lenses and put me on a payment plan, because I was paying for them myself. He offered me a job (and made me pay for the lenses). I knew I had found a profession that could change lives instantly.

How did you first become involved with the Academy?

I went to my first meeting as a contact lens resident and the rest is history. I was stimulated by the research, the education, the networking, and the close knit community. I became a volunteer the year after I became a Diplomate in the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies.

What has been your favorite role within the Academy so far?

I loved working with my friends in the Section. I also had the privilege of serving on the Lectures and Workshops Committee. It is a hard working group, but we always had a moment to pop in to a lecture and hear a great speaker provide a gem of a clinical pearl that I knew I would use the next week in the clinic.

What does being a part of the Academy mean to you personally and professionally?

The Academy developed me as a clinician scholar and eventually a leader. The friendships I have developed and the opportunities I have been given have contributed to my love of my profession. Every year at the annual meeting, it feels like coming home and then I go back to my academic home at Pacific University feeling professionally energized.

What do you hope to accomplish as a member of the Academy Board of Directors?

I want to pay back to an organization that has invested greatly in me, and I want to pay it forward to our next generation of leaders, clinicians, and scholars. I am excited to be assigned to a strategic planning work group focused on internal leadership and the legacy. I am collaborating with my colleagues to expand member engagement—volunteering, presentations, mentorship, providing leadership opportunities, and ultimately continuing the legacy of the organization for another 100 years.


Fellowship Anniversaries

Class of 1969, 50 Years!

Dr. Murchison G. Callender, Waterloo, Canada
Dr. Michael L. Cohen, Tarpon Springs, FL
Dr. Robert T. Gmelin, Sonoma, CA
Dr. Lorance W. Harwood, Sonora, CA
Dr. G. Burtt Holmes, Naples, FL
Dr. Jack Jaffe, Indianapolis, IN
Dr. Carl B. Mclnsh, Brewton, AL
Dr. Michael A. Newman, Ewing, NJ
Dr. George C. Pence, Selinsgrove, PA
Dr. Francisco J. Pimentel, Wallingford, CT
Dr. Donald M. Rasmussen, San Diego, CA
Dr. Forrest E. Seavey, Laconia, NH
Dr. Jacob Sivak, Waterloo, Canada
Dr. Kirk L. Smick, Morrow, GA
Dr. Derrald G. Taylor, Mokena, IL
Dr. Evan B. Thomas, Newport Beach, CA
Dr. David M. Tykkoki, Fenton, MI
Dr. James W. Walters, Houston, TX

Class of 1979, 40 Years!

Dr. Clark M. Abramson, Livermore, CA
Dr. R. Keith Amiel, Shalimar, FL
Mr. Brian R. Ariel, London, United Kingdom
Prof. Simon Barnard, London, United Kingdom
Dr. Joseph T. Barr, Dublin, OH
Dr. Stanley R. Black, Thornton, CO
Dr. Alan L. Blatterman, Clarksville, TN
Dr. David C. Bright, Huntingdon, PA
Dr. Carl T. Garbus, Valencia, CA
Dr. Lisa Barnhart Fox, Charlotte, NC
Dr. Frank Giardina, Nipomo, CA
Dr. Carl B. McInnish, Brewton, AL
Dr. Michael L. Cohen, Tarpon Springs, FL
Dr. C. Stephen Johnson, North Canton, OH

Dr. Richard C. Meetz, Bloomington, IN
Dr. Edwin V. Murr, Arlington, TX
Dr. James M. Ots, Johnson City, TN
Dr. Ramon Pacheco, Guaynabo, PR
Dr. Ronald R. Phillips, Guelph, Canada
Dr. Thomas W. Raasch, Columbus, OH
Dr. Barbara E. Robinson, Waterloo, Canada
Dr. Julie B. Ryan, Kamuela, HI
Dr. Stephen E. Schock, Naples, FL
Dr. Bill Sharpton, Lakemont, GA
Dr. John L. Sterling, La Crosse, WI
Dr. Trevor K. Tchan, South Australia, Australia
Dr. Garey E. Ware, Bastrop, LA
Dr. John C. Whitener, Asheville, NC

Dr. Sandra M. Akamine Davidson, Riverside, CA
Dr. Andrew J. Alpar, Amarillo, TX
Dr. Jane A. Bachman Groth, Cedarburg, WI
Dr. Ivan B. Bank, Dallas, TX
Dr. Loren W. Bennett, Johnson City, TN
Dr. Mary A. Bigelow, Carterville, IL
Dr. Michael B. Bogg Jr., Ventura, CA
Dr. Michel Bolduc, Quebec, Canada
Dr. Helene M. Bradley, West Warwick, RI
Dr. Mitchell C. Brown, Coronado, CA
Dr. Dori M. Carlson, Park River, ND
Dr. Patricia E. Carniglia, Red Bank, NJ
Dr. Melissa W. Chun, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Sean R. Claflin, Canon City, CO
Dr. Stephen R. Cohen, Bel Air, MD
Dr. Valarie L. Conrad, Chicago, IL
Dr. Rachel A. Coulter, Davie, FL
Dr. William Y. Cuthbertson, Franklin, TN
Mr. Damon J. Ezekiel, Perth, Australia
Dr. Eleanor E. Faye, New York, NY
Dr. Roberta Felici, Safety Harbor, FL
Dr. Lisa Barnhart Fox, Charlotte, NC
Dr. Carl T. Garbus, Valencia, CA
Dr. Frank Giardina, Nipomo, CA
Dr. Jan Hajnosz, Belleview, WA
Dr. Demetra Hamakiotes, New York, NY
Dr. M. Richard Hearing, Jupiter, FL
Dr. Vinita A. Henry, Saint Louis, MO
Dr. Nicky R. Holdeman, Houston, TX
Dr. James E. Jackson, Fort Worth, TX
Dr. Barbara M. Junghans, Sydney, Australia
Dr. Roger J. Mckay, Washington, DC
Dr. John C. Whitener, Asheville, NC
Dr. Ronny M. LaQuey, Duncan, OK
Dr. Steven P. Lary, Camden, ME
Dr. Russell H. Laverty, Jones, OK
Prof. Susan J. Leat, Waterloo, Canada
Dr. James D. Lohrberg, Danville, IL
Dr. Dennis H. Lyons, Brick, NJ
Dr. John Marshall, Big Spring, TX
Dr. Gary L. Martinson, Roseville, CA
Col. Kirk Maynard, Bellevue, NE
Dr. Karin D. McCarthy, Jacksonville Beach, FL
Dr. Patrick M. McLarn, Mount Olive, NC
Dr. Paul B. Michel, Littleton, CO
Dr. Bruce W. Morgan, Big Rapids, MI
Dr. Neil B. Murray, Pasadena, Australia
Dr. Christopher P. Olson, Mount Pleasant, IA
Dr. Gary A. Osias, Castro Valley, CA
Dr. Michael D. Patterson, Dayton, MD
Dr. Daniel E. Reiser, Sudbury, MA
Dr. Daniel L. Sanders, El Cerrito, CA
Dr. Michael B. Sehy, Effingham, IL
Dr. Barnet Shuman, Walpole, MA
Dr. Michael J. Sowa, Arden, NC
Dr. Marlee M. Spafford, Waterloo, Canada
Dr. Bernard I. Sparks III, Bartlett, TN
Dr. Lynne Speedwell, London, United Kingdom
Dr. Dean R. Streff, Lancaster, OH
Dr. Michael Sullivan-Mee, Albuquerque, NM
Dr. Loretta B. Szczotka-Flynn, Cleveland, OH
Dr. David K. Talley, Memphis, TN
Dr. Roger J. Trudell, Longmont, CO
Dr. Cheryl C. Van Horn, Fairmont, WV
Dr. Heidi Wagner, Columbus, OH
Dr. Richard L. Walker, North Conway, NH
Dr. Ronald K. Watanabe, Boston, MA
Dr. Sarah J. Waugh, Cambridge, United Kingdom
Dr. David J. Weigel, Greensburg, IN
Dr. Nancy P. Wiggins, Aliquippa, PA
Dr. Steven S. Wolfe, Omaha, NE
Dr. Donee L. Wong, Boston, MA
Dr. Mark D. Woodward, Hampton, VA
Dr. Ellen H. Yuncastro, Everett, WA
Dr. Steven J. Zorn, Longwood, FL

Marlee M. Spafford (center) with new 2018 Optometric Education Diplomates Drs. Daniel Taylor and Raymond Chu (l to r). Congratulations on 25 years as a Fellow!
This year marked the first ever Essilor Academic Challenge at Academy Stadium (EAC), sponsored by Essilor. The EAC is a team competition, where each school or college of optometry selects three students to represent them in a battle for the EAC Championship. The inaugural EAC was held on Thursday, November 8 at Academy 2018 San Antonio.

Congratulations to the 2018 EAC Champions, The Ohio State University! Second place was awarded to Southern College of Optometry with The Rosenberg School of Optometry cinching the third place slot.

Study up on your optometry knowledge and prepare to join us again for the 2019 Essilor Academic Challenge in Orlando!

The Academy Board of Directors and the Scientific Program Committee gave special recognition to Nevin El-Nimri, a PhD student at the University of California Berkeley, at Academy 2018 San Antonio. Dr. El-Nimri’s presentation titled, “Effect of Topical Latanoprost on Lamina Cribosa and Sclera of Myopic Guinea Pigs,” was identified as the best student presentation of the 2018 Scientific Program. The presentation was co-authored by Melissa Yao, Andrea Huerta, Michelle Hoang, Anna Barcellos, and Christine Wildsoet.

"I am truly honored to receive the Best Student Scientific Presentation award. This recognition has provided me with confidence, motivation, and support to succeed in my chosen career path as a young clinician-scientist with optometric roots."

Nevin El-Nimri, OD, MS, FAAO
Snapshots of San Antonio

The FDR SIG conducts a Timed Rebound Experiment (T-REX) research study.

Former Ezell Fellows pose with their AAOF “Through Our Eyes” portrait taken in the exhibit hall.

Attendees explore the latest technology in the exhibit hall.

Residents present their posters during Residents Day.

Dr. Barbara Caffery being inducted as the new Academy President.

A student learns more about residency programs.

Attendees at the 2018 Plenary Session.

Attendees break to enjoy the picturesque San Antonio Riverwalk.
Move Forward in Your Neuro-ophthalmic Assessments by Going Back to the Basics

Kelly A. Malloy, OD, FAAO, Guest Contributor

Neuro-ophthalmic disease patient care revolves around anatomic localization. Although this can seem daunting, it does not have to be. The anatomy does not change. However, it does require occasional review to retain the important anatomical knowledge and recall it when needed for patient care.

An increased comfort level with head and neck anatomy and neuroanatomy can hone your skills. If you know what structures have close anatomic relationships, know the pathways for certain neurologic functions, and understand where certain neural pathways travel relative to each other, you are better able to elicit important pertinent positives or negatives in the history. You are also better able to match structure with function of the afferent and efferent visual systems to perform a more focused clinical examination and enhance your localization ability. Once you are able to localize the problem, you get a better sense of the potential etiologies, and you can better focus any necessary neuro-imaging studies. A good anatomical knowledge base can also help you determine whether or not a specific previously noted neuro-imaging lesion could be responsible for your patient’s current clinical presentation.

So, whether you graduated from optometry school last year, or if you just celebrated your 30th reunion, you can become more comfortable with neuro-ophthalmic disease detection by going back to the basics. Dust off your old notebooks, review your instructor’s lectures, download an anatomy text, or do a Google search. Any of these methods will be effective in helping you refresh your anatomical knowledge base.

Here are 10 suggestions to get you started:

1. Review retinal and optic disc anatomy as it relates to understanding and interpreting optical coherence tomography (OCT) of the optic disc and ganglion cell analysis. This can be instrumental in assessing for not only glaucoma, but also non-glaucomatous optic neuropathy and papilledema. An increased comfort level with head and neck anatomy and neuroanatomy will be effective in helping you refresh your anatomical knowledge base.

2. Review the subtleties of the visual pathway in detail. Understand where exactly the fibers from each retinal nerve fiber bundle/section of the neuroretinal rim travel throughout the entire course of the visual pathway. This will help you better differentiate when you need to consider glaucoma versus a sellar mass or a homonymous hemianopia.

3. Understand how the light and near reflex pathways differ. Use that information to look for the diagnostically useful finding of light-near dissociation. Review the similarities and differences between the light reflex pathway and the visual pathway to understand which anatomic locations, when damaged, can result in a relative afferent pupillary defect.

4. Review the anatomy of both the sympathetic and parasympathetic components of the autonomic nervous system, and understand all of the places damage can occur. Review the ocular and non-ocular clinical findings that can help you localize the problem to a particular section of either of these pathways.

5. Refresh your knowledge of the anatomy of the orbit and surrounding structures. Understand how particular disease processes can specifically alter this anatomy to enhance your diagnostic acumen of orbital processes.

6. Review the specifics of the anterior and posterior circulation to the brain and the clinical presentation of an interruption of any of these vessels. Understand if signs and symptoms point to a certain blood supply, and therefore, suggest a possible stroke or other vascular abnormality.

7. Refresh your knowledge of all 12 cranial nerves on both a gross and microscopic level. Know the entire course to their destination. Understand the structures that each cranial nerve travels near/with/through and how each can contribute to damage of that cranial nerve.

8. Review testing of all cranial nerves to assess for loss of function. If a deficit is found, understand how you could use other parts of the visual and neurologic examinations to help localize the problem.

9. Refresh your knowledge of the somatic sensory and motor pathways, where they cross, and where they travel in relation to other pathways of the afferent and efferent visual system. Remember to ask about things like loss of sensation or weakness, and to clinically test for these deficits in order to better localize a clinical problem.

10. Become comfortable with performing and interpreting all aspects of a neurological examination, including not only cranial nerve testing, sensory and motor functions, but also coordination, reflexes and mental status.

Take one suggestion at a time and delve into it until you feel comfortable both in terms of knowledge base and clinical application. Going back to the basics can change the way you think, how you take a history, your examination technique, the completeness of your differential diagnoses, the accuracy of your anatomic localization, and the appropriateness of your referrals to neurology and neurosurgery.

I see neuro patients on a daily basis, and I still find that reviewing the anatomy helps me to modify and refine my clinical practice!
Friends to Fellows: Special Incentives for Referring New Members

Marta C. Fabrykowski, OD, FAAO, Chair, Membership Committee

In the fall of 2018 the Academy’s Board of Directors approved an exciting new program called “Friends to Fellows” that offers existing Fellows financial incentives when they refer new members into our organization. The program rolled out in November 2018 and is simple in that we are offering two monetary incentives:

**Incentive #1:** $100 off annual meeting registration if you refer a new Candidate for Fellowship.

The Academy will offer you $100 off annual meeting registration for Academy 2019 Orlando if you refer a new Candidate for Fellowship who applies by July 1, 2019! The applicant must complete and submit the full application along with full dues payment and any applicable fees. Fellows will receive a promotional code to use at registration that is only valid for the 2019 meeting. The program is not applicable for new Candidates who have graduated optometry school in the past 3 years. Discount can only be used once per year and doesn’t increase with number of Candidates. Applicant must apply by July 1st for the Fellow to receive the promotional code for that year’s meeting. Candidate must submit the name of the referring Fellow at the time of his/her application.

**Incentive #2:** Complimentary registration for referring a new Candidate for Fellowship who successfully completes the Fellowship process.

Reach out to your friends and encourage them to join the Academy and become a Fellow! We also encourage you to serve as an unofficial mentor to the Candidate(s) you refer. Complimentary registration must be used for the annual meeting immediately following the induction of the new Fellow (mentee). Complimentary registration cannot be transferred or deferred. Not applicable for new Candidates who have graduated optometry school in the past 3 years. If the Fellow qualifies for Incentive #1 and Incentive #2 in the same year, the Fellow will simply receive full complimentary registration for the meeting as outlined in Incentive #2 guidelines. Discount can only be used once per year and doesn’t compound with number of Candidates. Candidate must submit the name of the referring Fellow at the time of his/her application.

We hope these incentives will not only help the Academy’s membership base grow, but also encourage Fellows to get more involved in mentoring Candidates. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to reach out to me at martafabrykowski@gmail.com, Eilene Kinzer at eilenekinzer@upike.edu, or Jenny Brown at JennyB@aaoptom.org.

Career Development Award: Supporting Young Researchers

Research is fundamental to enabling innovation and advances in the profession. In many cases, engaging in research at the capacity needed to make new strides in the field requires a great deal of financial support. Unfortunately for young investigators, federal research funding leans in favor of more seasoned optometric investigators, with the mean age of first time National Institutes of Health (NIH) grantees over 40 years of age. The Academy launched the Career Development Award to aid against this funding obstacle that young optometric researchers often face.

This year’s recipient of the Career Development Award is Alexandra Benavente-Perez, MCOptom, PhD, FAAO. The Academy will provide a maximum of $50,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years, potentially renewable once for a total of up to four years of funding. The State University of New York will provide matching funds, dollar for dollar, up to $50,000 per year for each year of funding.

“I am very grateful to the American Academy of Optometry, its Research Committee and the Board of Directors for this award. As a clinician-scientist trained under the mentorship of leading research experts in clinical and experimental myopia, I want to contribute to the development of preventive and therapeutic treatment strategies for myopic degeneration—known to be a significant public health concern. I speculate that there are several early retinal changes that are tipping-points for the development of the sight-threatening myopic retinal changes. In collaboration with Drs. Suresh Viswanathan, Scott Read and Miduturu Srinivas, I will develop a novel model of progressive myopia and describe its associated anatomical and functional changes to potentially offer new avenues for effective early interventions,” shared Dr. Benavente-Perez.

Dr. Benavente-Perez currently works as an Associate Clinical Professor at the State University of New York College of Optometry. This funding will help support her research focused on developing a novel experimental model of progressive myopia to study the early retinal changes associated with high myopia.
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Arizona Chapter
The sixth annual Fall Meeting of the Arizona Chapter took place on Saturday, September 10, 2018 and featured six hours of COPE approved CE including keynote lectures on cataract surgery co-management and refractive surgery by Robert Fintelmann, MD. Approximately 80 optometrists were in attendance at this event hosted by Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry in Glendale, AZ.

The Chapter’s Spring Meeting will be on March 9, 2019 featuring keynote speaker, Stephanie Woo, OD, FAAO, FSL, discussing the management and co-management of common retinal diseases, and a Grand Rounds course will showcase Arizona’s newest Fellows and Diplomate.

Florida Chapter
The next Chapter meeting will be April 26-27, 2019. Featured speakers will include Drs. Susan Frick, John McClane, and Tammy Than. Six hours of COPE approved CE/TQ in ocular disease and pharmacology will be offered. There will be two hours of Medical Errors and 2 hours of Florida Jurisprudence as well. Plan a weekend and enjoy the comfortable accommodations of the Mission Inn in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida. Contact Dr. Art Young for registration information at eyeguy4123@msn.com.

Illinois Chapter
The Illinois Chapter welcomed 15 new Fellows this year, four of whom presented cases at our January Rosenbloom Rounds. The event, hosted by the Illinois College of Optometry, was well attended by Fellows, residents and students. Be on the lookout for information about the next Rosenbloom Rounds in April 2019.

New Jersey Chapter
In 2018, the New Jersey Chapter was proud to donate $10,000 in academic scholarships to both Salus University and SUNY College of Optometry. In addition, it provided 4 travel grants for residents to attend Academy 2018 San Antonio.

The Chapter would like to invite all ODs to its 17th Annual Educational Conference on April 3-7, 2019 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. Drs. Jerome Sherman and James Fanelli will present 16 hours of COPE-approved CE. For additional information, please contact Dennis Lyons at dhl2020@aol.com. The Chapter will also hold several educational meetings in the coming months. Please visit the Chapter webpage at www.aaopt.org/njchapter for more details.

North Carolina Chapter
The North Carolina Chapter of the Academy announced that Dr. Sandra Nassar was the initial winner of the “Dr. Roger Cummings First to Fellowship Award” at Academy 2018 San Antonio. The award was created to encourage Academy Fellowship for the residents completing the optometric residency at the W.G. (Bill) Hefner Medical Center in Salisbury, NC. Dr. Cummings created the endowment to support this award in cooperation with Salus University.

Nova Southeastern University Student Chapter
Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry had eighteen students receive their Student Fellowship at Academy 2018 San Antonio and several faculty earn their Fellowship. The students had a great time participating in the Essilor Academic Challenge and look forward to taking part once again in Orlando. The Chapter is hard at work raising money to send students to the next annual meeting.

Quebec Chapter
Academy 2018 San Antonio was once again a popular destination for Quebec optometrists. A total of 137 people were in attendance, of which the majority were students (103)! Several faculty and students presented posters at the annual meeting. The Chapter would also like to congratulate three new University of Montreal Fellows, namely Drs. Zoe Lacroix, Vanessa Bachir, and Diane Sayah.
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.

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COPE Governing Committee Members Selected

The American Academy of Optometry (Academy), the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) have selected the members of the COPE Governing Committee. This newly established committee is the result of a joint agreement to restructure the governance of the Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE™). The committee is tasked with assuring collaboration and the ongoing advancement of the quality of optometric continuing education. The selected representatives from each organization are as follows:

Academy:
- Brett Bence, OD, FAAO
- J. Bart Campbell, OD, FAAO
- Mark Eger, OD, FAAO

ARBO:
- Jim Campbell, OD
- Luanne Chubb, OD, FAAO
- Steve Odekirk, OD
- Bob Smalling, OD
- Susy Yu, OD, MBA, FAAO
- Jeff Yunker, OD

ASCO:
- Kristin Anderson, OD, FAAO
- Rich Madonna, OD, MA, FAAO
- Caroline Beesley Pate, OD, FAAO

Secretary-Treasurer: Susan A. Cotter, OD, MS, FAAO, Fullerton, CA
Immediate Past President: Joseph P. Shovlin, OD, FAAO, Scranton, PA
Jeffrey J. Walline, OD, PhD, FAAO, Columbus, OH
Carl H. Spear, OD, MBA, FAAO, Pensacola, FL
Andrew B. Mick, OD, FAAO, San Francisco, CA
Jennifer L. Coyle, OD, MS, FAAO, Forest Grove, OR

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Editors: Jenny Brown, MBA, CAE, Kayla Ritten, MBA, Orlando, FL

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American Academy of Optometry
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 2018 San Antonio, the Foundation raised more than $225,000 in donations and new pledges.

The AAOF provided over 105 travel grants to Academy 2018 San Antonio, including 30 as a result of the student giving initiative, the AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grants. Throughout the past year, more than $470,000 was presented in fellowships, scholarships, grants, and residency educational awards.

The Foundation received $80,000 in new President’s Circle pledges and $10,500 in new Ezell Club pledges during the annual meeting, 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 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry meeting.

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 advancing optometry’s future.

Sincerely,

Pete Kollbaum, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, AAOF

Allergan Research Grant Recipients

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation, in partnership with the Allergan Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2018-2019 recipient of the Allergan Research Grant. Congratulations to Alison McDermott, PhD, professor of Cellular and Molecular Sciences at Northumbria University. She has been awarded a $60,000 grant for her project, “Therapeutic Potential of Medicinal Maggot Secretions for Ocular Surface Disease.” William Cheung, PhD, scientific officer of Metabolomics/Proteomics at Northumbria University, is a co-investigator on this project. Both Drs. McDermott and Cheung will be recognized at Academy 2019 Orlando and the 3rd World Congress of Optometry meeting.

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.
New Foundation Board Members

Please join the AAOF in welcoming the newly appointed board members for the 2019-2020 term.

Kathryn L. Richdale, OD, PhD, FAAO

Dr. Kathryn Richdale is an Associate Professor at the University of Houston College of Optometry. She is an active member in the American Academy of Optometry and serves as Chair of the Research Committee and as a member of the Awards Committee. She is an AAOE Ezell Fellow awardee and current President’s Circle member. Dr. Richdale received her BS from the University of Notre Dame and her OD, PhD, and Cornea and Contact Lens Advanced Practice Fellowship from The Ohio State University.

Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, OD, PhD, FAAO

Dr. Loretta Szczotka-Flynn is Professor at Case Western Reserve University in the Departments of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences as well as Population and Quantitative Health Sciences. She received her Doctorate of Optometry and Masters of Physiological Optics from The Ohio State University in 1992, and her PhD in Epidemiology from Case Western Reserve University in 2010. She is a Diplomate and Past Chair of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies of the Academy. Dr. Szczotka-Flynn serves as an Associate Editor for Eye & Contact Lens and a guest editor for Optometry and Vision Science after having served on the OVS Editorial Board for 12 years.

Valerie L. Sharpe, OD, FAAO

Dr. Sharpe received her Doctor of Optometry degree from the Indiana University School of Optometry. For fifteen years, she has served as medical staff at Chinle Hospital, a Navajo Area Indian Health Service facility in Arizona. She is a recipient of the Lester Caplan Award recognizing her accomplishments in Public Health Service. She is currently a Vice Chair on the Admittance Committee for the American Academy of Optometry.

Danne Ventura, FNAO, FAAO

Danne is an optician, contact lens fitter, and ophthalmic medical assistant. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and her recent corporate focus with Essilor of America was on school support, student and institutional grants, creating and implementing student events and student and faculty education. Danne was with Essilor of America for 29 years and retired in 2018. Her most recent position was Director of Professional Education. She is a President’s Circle member.

Inaugural David and Diane Goss Optometry History Fellowship

At Academy 2018 San Antonio, the inaugural David and Diane Goss Optometry History Fellowship was awarded to Sampson Listowell Abu, OD, from the University of Alabama Medicine Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. The fellowship provides support for an individual pursuing research in optometric history. Applicants may be optometrists or optometry students but may also be individuals outside the field of optometry, as an example, a historian or a librarian, and may be at any career stage, from student to retirement. A condition of acceptance of the fellowship is that one year after an award is made, the recipient will submit a progress report suitable for publication in Hindsight, the Optometric Historical Society’s quarterly publication.
Introducing Bob Gray, Director, Development

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation is pleased to introduce our new Development Director, Bob Gray!

Bob brings a vast amount of nonprofit experience to the Academy. He spent 18 years as CEO for The Foundation Fighting Blindness, an organization dedicated to funding research projects on retinal degenerative diseases. He spent 14 years with the National Easter Seals Society fundraising on the local, state, and national levels. Over the past decade he has consulted for numerous nonprofits in the healthcare and environmental sectors. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Education, Bob went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Community Health Education from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. In his spare time, Bob is an avid golfer and fan of football and basketball. He shares these interests with his wife and adult children.

Both the Foundation and the Academy look forward to working with Bob to generate new contribution opportunities and elevate current support for innovative research and awards programs.

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Newest Giving 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, 2018 – January 31, 2019).

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Jean Marie Davis
Jason Miller
Tawna Roberts and Carrie Marino
Lindsay Sicks
Fiona Stapleton

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

New Ezell Club Members
Katherine Bickle
Gareth Hastings
Jasmine Junge
Laura Pardon

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Daisy Shu
Maria Walker

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