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October 7-22 during select times
Register today at www.academymeeting.org
The Charles F. Prentice Medal is the Academy’s top award and lecture at the annual meeting, presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge through research in the vision sciences.

The recipient of this year’s Prentice Medal is Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Zadnik’s career has been focused on advancing optometric research not only through her own insights and brilliance, but with her students and collaborators, and through the joint AOA-AAO Summer Research Institute, which throughout the past 18 years has generated 78 million in research dollars for optometric clinical research.

The Glenn A. Fry Award and Lecture is sponsored by the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) and recognizes a distinguished scientist or clinician for his or her current research contributions.

Donald T. Miller, PhD, is the recipient of the 2020 Fry Award. Dr. Miller has been involved in the study of the optical properties of the human eye for almost three decades and is one of the very few scientists who are not simply driving important advancements in imaging technology, but also contributing to improving the profession of optometry and, ultimately, patient care.

Please join us in congratulating this year’s award recipients! Find inspiration in the awardees’ contributions to the advancement of optometry and vision science.

Due to the face-to-face meeting transitioning into an online event, the awards will be presented to the recipients at next year’s meeting in Boston. However, please join the Prentice and Fry awardees on Thursday, October 8, 7 PM, as they present lectures about their research.
Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Award
The Borish Award recognizes an outstanding young researcher who shows exceptional promise in conducting independent optometric research directly related to etiology, prevention, detection, diagnosis, or management of clinical eye disorders.

The 2020 Borish Award recipient is Zhichao Wu, BAppSc(Optom), PhD. Dr. Wu has made major contributions in how clinicians detect and monitor both age related macular degeneration and glaucoma by developing innovative ways of using imaging modalities.

AAO-Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions to Optometry
The International Award recognizes an individual(s) or organization(s) whose direct efforts and contributions have resulted in unquestionably significant and extraordinary advances in optometry and eye care internationally.

This year’s International Award is awarded to Abraham Bromberg, OD, MS, FAAO. Dr. Bromberg’s efforts and contributions over the last forty years have had a huge impact on the profession of optometry in Mexico that eventually led to optometry becoming a self-governing, legislated profession for the first time.

William Feinbloom Award
The William Feinbloom Award is presented to an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.

This year’s Feinbloom awardee is Roanne E. Flom, OD, FAAO. Dr. Flom’s dedication to the clinical discipline of low vision rehabilitation and to her patients with low vision has been the hallmark of her career. She is a leader in low vision with a focus in both the academic world and the regulatory world, with her work in vision-related driving in Ohio.

Brien Holden Humanitarian Award
The Brien Holden Humanitarian Award recognizes an individual or organization who has made significant contributions to improve eye care within a country or region. In particular, the award acknowledges humanitarian efforts in the non-profit/not-for-profit sector that builds or supports the development of sustainable eye care systems in developing communities.

The recipient of this year’s Holden Award is Greg Pearl, OD. Nominated by two previous Holden award recipients, Dr. Pearl is a visionary who led VOSH International to establish the VOSH CORP project to recruit and train volunteers to serve in optometry schools worldwide, patterned after the Peace Corps model.

Carel C. Koch Medal Award
The Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award is awarded to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and development of relationships between optometry and other professions.

The 2020 Koch medal is conferred upon Raymond A. Applegate, OD, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Applegate’s sustained efforts in research and education have established mutual respect between researchers, clinicians, and educators in the optometric and ophthalmological professions.

Julius F. Neumuelle Award in Optics
The AAO’s Julius F. Neumuelle Award in Optics is awarded to a student pursuing the Doctor of Optometry degree in a school or college of optometry who submits a first-authored original research paper on one of the following topics: Geometrical Optics, Physical Optics, Ophthalmic Optics; Optics of the Eye.

This year the Awards Committee selected the following research article to honor with this award: “Quantifying the Optical and Physical Consequences of Daily Cleaning on Conventional and Wavefront-Guided Scleral Lenses,” Sarah M. Wilting, BS; Gareth D. Hastings, PhD, BOptom; Lan Chi Nguyen, MBA, FAAO; Matthew J. Kauffman, OD, FAAO; Elizabeth S. Bell, OD; Chuan Hu, MD, OD; Sujata Rijal, BOptom; Jason D. Marsack, PhD, FAAO; University of Houston College of Optometry.

Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award
The Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award is presented to a distinguished clinician who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to the Academy’s Lectures and Workshops program.

The 2020 Ellerbrock award recipient is conferred posthumously to Gay Tokumaru, OD, FAAO. Taken too soon from the lecture stage, Dr. Tokumaru was an outstanding Veterans’ Administration clinician and educator who dedicated her career in service of veterans and the optometric profession. She shared her clinical expertise and knowledge in support of the Academy’s Lectures & Workshops Program for nearly 20 consecutive years both as a lecturer and in her work with the Lectures & Workshops Program Committee.

Garland W. Clay Award
The Garland Clay Award is presented to the authors of the manuscript published in Optometry and Vision Science (OVS) that has been among the top OVS papers cited in the world research literature in the preceding five years and has the majority vote of the Optometry and Vision Sciences Editorial Board.

The recipient of this award is: Jun-Kang Si, MD; Kai Tang, MD; Hong-Sheng Bi, MD; Da-Dong Guo, PhD; Jun-Guo Guo, MD; Xing-Rong Wang, MD. Orthokeratology for Myopia Control: A Meta-analysis. Optometry and Vision Science 2015; 92:252-257.
Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award
The Schapero Award, which is the Section’s highest award, honors a clinician, researcher, or scholar who has made a significant contribution to the cornea and contact lens field by virtue of his/her publications, lectures, or research efforts.

This year’s honoree is Jeffrey J. Walline, OD, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Walline has received substantial research support for his work on contact lenses and myopia progression. He has 44 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented hundreds of invited lectures on his research.

Tony Adams Eminent Service Award
The newly renamed Tony Adams Eminent Service Award honors those persons who have rendered extraordinary and/or distinguished long-term service to the Academy.

This year’s awardee is Brett G. Bence, OD, FAAO. Besides his successful career in a group practice in Seattle, Washington, Dr. Bence committed himself to sustained volunteerism within the Academy in the former Disease Section, the Scientific Program, the Lectures & Workshops Program (serving as Chair 2002-2004), and on the Academy Board of Directors, culminating in his Academy Presidency in 2015 and 2016.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Awards
These awards and lecture will be presented on Monday, October 12 at 7 PM EST during Academy 2020 At Home.

Public Health & Environmental Vision Section Award
This award and lecture will be presented online during Academy 2020 At Home. Stay tuned for the scheduled date and time!

Henry B. Peters Memorial Award
This year’s recipient is Gregory W. Good, OD, PhD, FAAO. Dr. Good has committed his career to optometric education, research and service in the field of environmental vision. He not only taught courses at the Ohio State University College of Optometry, but also secured substantial research grants while being on the college’s clinical faculty.

We are pleased to honor these distinguished individuals, acknowledging the countless contributions that they have made in advancing our profession.
The Academy is pleased to bring Academy 2020 Nashville to the safety, comfort, and convenience of your home. Academy 2020 At Home will be delivered virtually October 7-22 during select times.

Working with our speakers and sponsors, we’ll bring you nearly 80 hours of continuing education credits with over 300 hours of lectures available! Additionally, Nashville is the Music City and has some of the world’s most renowned artisans, restaurants and much more... and we’re working to bring these experiences to you so you feel like you’re in a Honky Tonk along Broadway, instead of sitting in your living room.

Read ahead to learn more about the Academy’s first ever virtual meeting, Academy 2020 At Home, for a preview of what’s to come.

**Registration**
Registration for Academy 2020 At Home is open at [www.academymeeting.org](http://www.academymeeting.org). Enjoy the same great Academy education and special events with even more opportunities and flexibility for earning your continuing education credits for the same affordable price as the onsite meeting. Watch on your time in the convenience of your home without incurring any travel costs.

- Fellows/Candidates: $435
- Honorary/Emeritus: $110
- Non-Member: $795
- Students/Resident Academy members: $0 - Generously sponsored by our Industry Partners

**Our Exhibits**
Don’t miss out on our virtual exhibit hall! Our exhibiting companies are excited to join us online, ready to showcase their products, technologies, innovations and services. With flexible hours available throughout the meeting, you’re sure to find time to explore their unique offerings, connect and discover the tools you need to take your skills and patient care to the next level.

**Our Industry Partners**
A special thank you to our valued Industry Partners! The Academy is honored to recognize and appreciate their continued support in bringing our annual meeting to life every year. With their support, the Academy is able to present the most comprehensive (and FUN!) meeting optometry has to offer. Be sure to visit their virtual space, attend their exciting events, secure a spot in one of the many Industry Innovation Lunch + Learn sessions or pop into any of the Vision Theater sessions offered. A full schedule of these events will be available on the meeting website.

**Press Conference**
Interested in a high-level overview of the 20 most newsworthy scientific presentations and new products and technologies from industry being presented at the meeting? Attend the Press Conference! That’s right, it’s not just for press. Join us Wednesday, October 7 from 9 to 11 AM.
There are several popular student and resident events in development just for you! The Academy and its sponsors will be bringing the Luxottica Student Welcome Reception, Essilor Academic Challenge, and the Residency and Graduate Program Fair to you virtually. There will also be designated student-only exhibit hall hours so you can network and explore the products and technologies available.

Are you an OD student who will graduate in 2021 or later? Sign up for the Student Fellowship program! The Student Fellowship program is a great opportunity for you to engage in cutting edge knowledge and technology through lectures, posters, special events, and much more! You will gain exposure to the Academy and take your first step forward in learning more about becoming a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO) after graduation. See the full list of requirements and learn how to participate in the program on the Academy website Student Fellowship page.

Residents Day will continue virtually on Saturday, October 10. The Resident Papers session will be held from 8 to 10 AM EST and the Resident Posters session will be from Noon to 2 PM EST. Tune in to hear from current residents as they present their cases and research projects. Residents, be sure to keep your eyes open for an invitation to participate in the Resident/Practitioner Networking Event!

Thanks to our generous Industry Partners, complimentary registration is available for all student and resident members of the Academy! Take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the excellent continuing education and exciting social events offered during Academy 2020 At Home.

For more information about these events and programs, please visit the Academy meeting website www.academymeeting.org or download the Academy.20 mobile app.
Academy 2020 goes virtual with “Academy at Home”

Greg Nixon, OD, FAAO
Chair, Lectures and Workshops Committee

We all realize that 2020 hasn’t quite turned out to be the year that we had hoped. For health and safety reasons, our in-person meeting in Nashville was converted to a fully virtual format. While we won’t be able to have the fellowship and comradery of a typical Academy meeting, one thing won’t change: the Academy will still offer the best CE program in optometry and vision science with a full array of evidence based lectures and presentations of groundbreaking research in the scientific program.

With the exception of poster presentations, which will not qualify for CE credit, all lecture and scientific paper presentations will be counted as “live” CE for credit purposes. However, the actual presentations will be a mix of live-stream events and pre-recorded sessions with the lecturers attending the sessions to respond to Q&A and chat discussions. The meeting will kick off at 11 AM on October 7 with the traditional Plenary Session: A New Look at Some Old Medical Guidelines to provide insight on contemporary management of systemic diseases relevant to eyecare. During the original meeting dates of October 7-10, there will be a mix of traditional CE lectures, scientific paper presentations, and Section and SIG symposia. Then on October 12-15 and October 19-22 there will be a variety of one and two hour CE presentations throughout the day. Up to four course offerings will be presented during the hours of 9 to 11 AM, 1 to 3 PM, 5 to 7 PM, and 9 to 11 PM (all Eastern Daylight Savings Time). The timing and coordination of the presentations offers courses from each topic area on various days of the week and during various times so attendees may participate.

All of the Academy 2020 At Home courses have been vetted by the Lecture and Workshops Committee and the Scientific Program Committee. The CE offerings include the highly rated rapid-fire sessions. We are excited to introduce two new course formats this year. The Academy Classroom Exchange (ACE) courses are small group presentations designed to support highly interactive learning environments. We are also introducing two “Today's Research, Tomorrow's Practice” sessions that combine scientific presentations, a lecture presentation, and expert panel discussions on a topic of interest. The first topic in this new format is “Intermittent Exotropia” presented from 5 to 7 PM on Wednesday, October 14. The second session will be “The Art and Science of Myopia Control,” scheduled from 9 to 11 AM on Monday, October 19. This year’s joint AAO/AAOphth symposium will be presented from 9-11 PM on Monday, October 19 and is titled “Update on the Assessment and Treatment of Age-Related Macular Degeneration.”

Regardless of the format, the Lecture and Workshops Committee can assure that the level and quality of CE at this year’s Academy 2020 At Home matches the standards for which the Academy is known. We hope you take advantage of all the Academy 2020 At Home has to offer.

Download the Academy 2020 At Home Education Schedule for more information about lectures, symposia, papers and posters, and special events.

Download here!
Scientific Program
Papers and Posters

Suresh Viswanathan, MS, PhD, FAAO, Chair, Scientific Program Committee

The Scientific Program Committee of the American Academy of Optometry is very excited to bring you more cutting edge research and new perspectives on clinical cases this year, all presented in a virtual format for your viewing from a safe environment. This year attendees will have close to five hundred papers and posters to sift through to find the ones that match their interest.

All the Scientific Program presentations have been scheduled between Wednesday, October 7 and Saturday, October 10 with presentations starting no earlier than 11 AM EST and extending until late in the evening to accommodate the schedule of attendees. Presentations within a paper session could be delivered live or pre-recorded, but presenting authors will be available to answer questions live at the end of each presentation even if the presentation was pre-recorded.

Another new feature this year is to have the posters in a given topic area scheduled for presentation either immediately before or after the paper session in that same category with the authors of the posters available to answer questions live at these scheduled times. Also, all the posters will be available for viewing over an extended period of time from Wednesday, October 7 to Thursday, October 22 with attendees being able to send questions to the authors at any time using the chat box, and the authors replying via email at their convenience. We are confident that attendees will want to log in to the poster sessions and learn the exciting new developments live and first hand from the authors themselves.
American Academy of Optometry

Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Sherrol A. Reynolds, OD, FAAO, Chair, SPLIC Membership Pillar

We are in unprecedented times. As we battle the COVID-19 crisis, we are faced with the longstanding pandemic of racial inequality, racism, and bigotry that is still present in our society.

With the population becoming increasingly diverse, it is imperative that our profession work toward improving the inequities in health and vision care. Future optometry students will see an increasingly diverse patient population. These patients will require personalized approaches to meet their visual and healthcare needs. To address these challenges, we need increased focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in our profession.

Diversity is critical for positive patient care, and for collaboration, success, and innovation in our profession. In tandem with an equitable culture, acceptance of our differences allows everyone to thrive. Students feel safe, embraced, and respected in a diverse learning environment.

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) is taking steps to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. The AAO, in conjunction with the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the National Optometric Association (NOA), will present a special symposium aimed at promoting and understanding the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion as they pertain to optometric education and clinical practice at this year’s meeting. This event will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 1 to 3 PM EST.

The symposium will present an overview of the current state of diversity in optometry, ASCO’s cultural competency curriculum guidelines and efforts, and an equity and inclusion success story from a non-optometric health field. It also will offer strategies to build a more diverse, culturally sensitive, and inclusive profession.

Notable speakers include Dr. Rustin Moore, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine and Ruth Stanton Chair in Veterinary Medicine, Department of Veterinary Clinical Services, The Ohio State University; Dr. Gary Chu, Senior Director of Public Health and Community Collaborations and Adjunct Associate Professor, The New England College of Optometry; and Dr. Edna Chun, Chief Learning Officer, HigherEd Talent and author of numerous books including “Leading a Diversity Culture Shift in Higher Education” (2018).

The American Academy of Optometry membership pillar focuses on increasing membership for under-represented populations. We recently formed a Diversity Task Force that will, among other things, focus on developing initiatives and programs addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion to improve and increase diversity in Academy membership and leadership.

The Academy will continue to work with the National Optometric Association and Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry to create a lasting impact in our profession. This year the AAO will partner with the NOA to present continuing education focused on the impact of COVID-19, race, and eyecare as well as the racial visual health impact of diabetes, hypertension, and glaucoma.

Confronting the longstanding pandemic of inequality and racism in our society and our profession requires all of us to do the honest, uncomfortable work of addressing it and facilitating change.

Be sure to join the Academy and NOA on Saturday, October 17 for this special continuing education.

SE-11 NOA Presents: COVID-19, Race, and Eyecare with Drs. Sherrol Reynolds and Paula Anderson-Worts from 2 to 4 PM EST.

SE-12 NOA Presents: The Silent Killer – Diabetes, Hypertension, and Glaucoma with Drs. Sherrol Reynolds and Breanne McGhee from 4 to 6 PM EST.
Section and SIG
Symposia and Events

Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG Symposium: From the Trenches: Complex Cases at Academic Medical Centers
Thursday, October 8 from 5 to 7 PM
Evan Kaufman, Sean Donahue, Christine Shieh, Stephen Kim, Rahul Gupta, Timothy Hug, Duc Tran

Anterior Segment Section Symposium: Ocular Surface Reconstruction: Putting the Pieces Back Together
Tuesday, October 13, 9 to 11 PM
Scott Han, Jacob Lang, Albert Cheung, Joseph Shovlin, Guillermo Amescua, Karen Carrasquillo

Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section Symposium: It’s 2020: How Refraction Changes Lives
Wednesday, October 14 from 10 AM to Noon
Mark Rosenfield, Kathryn Saunders, Paul Glewwe, Noel Brennan

Section on CCLRT Symposium: Myopia Management: The Evidence Is In… Now Let’s Make It Happen
Monday, October 19 from 8 to 10 PM
Louise Sclafani, Dwight Akerman, S. Barry Eiden, Susan Resnick, Padmaja Sankaridurg, Jeffrey Walline

Fellows Doing Research SIG Symposium: Clinical Research in Today’s Practice
Wednesday, October 14 from 7 to 9 PM
Justin Kwan, Thomas Aller, Colton Heinrich, Milton Hom, Leslie O’Dell

Glaucma Section Symposium: Contemporary Glaucoma Management for 2020: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?
Tuesday, October 13 from 9 to 11 PM
Michael Sullivan-Mee, Jack Phu, Joseph Sowka, Sarah Wood

Low Vision Section Symposium: The Right to Online Accessibility for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Wednesday, October 7 from 1 to 3 PM
David Lewerenz, Jessica Weber, Ron Schuchard, William O’Connell

Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: The Lawrence Gray Memorial Symposium: Optic Neuritis, Neuro-immunity, and Demyelinating Disease
Monday, October 12 from 9 to 11 PM
Kelly Malloy, Leonard Messner, Reid Longmuir, Francesca Bagnato

Optometric Education Section Symposium: Research in Optometric Education
Tuesday, October 20 from 5 to 7 PM
Daniel Bastian, Emily Aslakson, Daniel Taylor, Philip Himebaugh

Tuesday, October 13 from 1 to 3 PM
Karl Citek, Emmanuel Alabi, Dale Pfriem, Asel Ryskulova, Phillip Yuhas, Aaron Zimmerman

Retina SIG Symposium: Outlook for Genetic Testing and Therapies for Genetic Retinal Disease
Tuesday, October 20 from 9 to 11 PM
Roya Attar, Kimberley Poirier-Schmidt, Ben Shaberman, Brian Tieu

Tuesday, October 20 from 1 to 3 PM
Janet Garza, Sunny Linnebur, Kimberly Reed, Christine Winter-Rundell, Tracy Offerdahl, April Lewis

Vision Science SIG: Retinal Ganglion Cell Structure, Function, and Therapy in Normal and Diseased Eyes
Tuesday, October 13 from 9 to 11 AM
Jason Porter, Lisa Ostrin, David Calkins, Donald Miller, Tonia
Women In Optometry’s 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference Presented During at the Academy 2020 At Home Event

Women In Optometry® (WO) announced that its annual 2020 Women’s Leadership Conference will take place during the American Academy of Optometry’s Academy 2020 At Home annual meeting. Spanning three evenings - Tuesday, October 13 through Thursday, October 15 - from 7 PM to 9 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time, the Women’s Leadership Conference is packed with important information for women in the profession.

“The WO Leadership Conference offers unique content not offered at any other industry conference or event,” said Marjolijn Bijlefeld, Editor in Chief of Women in Optometry. “This conference offers content that is designed specifically for and by women. We will cover topics that encompass issues that are important and relevant to women professionals in the industry.”

During the course of the three two hour sessions, a variety of issues will be presented and discussed. Each two-hour session features panel presentations by leading female ODs.

The first day’s program will begin with a welcome presentation from Barbara Caffery, OD, PhD, FAAO, Academy President. Also presented on day one will be a keynote address by a prominent women’s motivational speaker soon to be announced and a first time ever “Workforce & Demographic Update” presentation that will presented in conjunction with the New England College of Optometry.

Day two of the Conference will feature sessions on self-advocacy and negotiating titled “What are you Worth?” This session will be followed by a presentation on communication titled “Making the Undiscussable Discussable!”

The day three agenda includes sessions on business leadership titled “Secrets of our Success” and a session on Practice Culture/Staffing, “Workplace Well-being: Creating a productive and positive Culture.”

Also for day three will be the annual Women In Optometry’s Theia Awards that recognizes outstanding female professionals in the areas of Mentorship, Leadership, Innovation, Education and Outstanding Young OD.

More information is available at WomenInOptometry.com.

WO members can register to access the entire Academy meeting at the same rate as AAO members at www.academymeeting.org

*Visit www.academymeeting.org for the updated education and event schedule.
The Safety of Others and Us During COVID-19

Richard Hom, OD, PhD, FAAO, Diplomate in Public Health and Environmental Vision, Guest Contributor

There are four areas of safety that an optometrist can moderate: environmental, personal, patient, and examination workflow. The inner-office environment is controllable by the optometrist. The judicious use of ventilation, relative humidity, and temperature minimizes the persistence and spread of the virus. An adequate heating, air condition, and ventilation (HVAC) system of at least eight air changes per hour (8 ACH) is a minimum standard. Maintaining the relative humidity to 40-60% and a room temperature of 68°F or above are also strong recommendations. The walls, furniture, and equipment location should discourage crowding. All of the environmental conditions may not be modifiable. In such cases, strengthening a different component might mitigate the deficiency of another part.

The second part of safety is personal protection. Personal protection ranges from face shields, masks, and clothing (called personal protection equipment or PPE) to workflow changes. The PPE is the first “line of defense” against infection. If everybody uses the appropriate PPE, most infected water droplets would not reach the ACE2 (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2) receptor sites of the eyes and nose. Personnel who directly care for patients can elevate their protection by using a well-fitted N95 mask and face shield. All others who are in the same building, even when there are separate rooms, should wear surgical masks. Within the office, PPE use among the office staff, doctor, and the patient will protect each individual from infecting another.

The third component of a protection scheme is the patient. Surgical masks are paper or cloth rectangular, pleated and commonly fit over the ears but not airtight around the face. While common, the surgical masks were designed to prevent the infection of others and are worn by surgical personnel to minimize contamination of the clean surgical field. An N95 mask, on the other hand, is fit snugly around the face and must be fitted to the wearer to gain maximum protection from incoming droplets. The N95 gets its name because it filters out 95% of the incoming droplets while the surgical mask captures 80% of the outgoing droplets. They are not interchangeable. The N95 may lose its effectiveness if the mask is repeatedly removed either reducing the tight fit or by the loosening of the side draw straps. An appropriate fitting for N95 on an individual basis is crucial for the best results from an N95 mask. Other patient actions can help reduce infections by staying outside of the office until the office is ready, not having a large group of relatives or children accompanying the patient and keeping their time in the office to a minimum. In those circumstances where the N95 mask supply is variable, reducing close personal contact time, using automated equipment to accommodate social distancing, or returning the patient for certain tests at a later time can balance out the lack of an N95 mask. Supplementary “in-room” ventilation, decontamination and other kinds of facial protection are also likely alternatives to reduce the risk of unintentional viral transmission.
The fourth and last component is the optometric evaluation and examination. Under pandemic conditions, the goal of the optometrist is to minimize close personal contact with the patient and the total time in the office. Keeping the direct face-to-face interaction of two feet or less and an accumulated time of 60 seconds for the entire visit requires modification to the examination sequence. Under pandemic conditions, determining which parts of the usual routine or focused medical examination needs to be done may help reduce the total time the doctor is exposed to a patient. For instance, a retinal evaluation can be performed via a retinal photograph so long that the doctor fully interprets and records the details of the retina just as they would in an ophthalmoscopic examination. The retinal evaluation is not neglected but modified. The optimum solution for decontamination of a room is vacancy (no occupancy) between 12-28 minutes where 90-99% of the air can be exchanged completely with the usual building ventilation system. Surfaces can be cleaned and disinfected with a neutral detergent and water solution or any of the more than 300 CDC-approved solutions. Of course, contact times should be observed. Such modifications support the overall safety of a patient.

Under a pandemic condition, a doctor’s duty to protect their patient may appear to clash with regulatory bodies, third-party payers, and the public. Practically all licensing boards and third-party payers offer provisions that give doctors the prerogative and latitude to change their behavior if those regulations needlessly expose the patient to a higher chance of infection or injury. In this environment of a pandemic, cooperative behavior by all parties will keep the virus in check and help return optometry to sustainability.

References
Coming soon!

Optometry365

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Optometry365 will share: pertinent industry knowledge, build strong corporate relationships, launch innovative products, and help cultivate today and tomorrow’s optometrists.

Optometry365 will bring: information and resources from industry supporters, including new products and services, research and academia, conferences, regional meetings, online education, and Hot Optics — covering all the latest topics in optics, a buyer’s guide to the latest and greatest in retail offerings, practice management best practices, wellness and mindfulness tips and tricks and much more.

Going live November 10th
www.optometry365.com

Stay tuned
Arizona Chapter

The annual Spring Meeting of the Arizona Chapter took place on Saturday, March 7. This event featured six hours of COPE approved CE including keynote lectures by Mark Sawamura, OD, FAAO on “10 Steps to a Better Neuro Exam,” discussing neuro-ophthalmological and retinal conundrums. An excellent overview of glaucoma and modern surgical options was presented by Vinay Dewan, MD, and a Grand Rounds course showcased Arizona’s newest AAO Fellows. 98 optometrists were in attendance at this event hosted by Midwestern University, Arizona College of Optometry in Glendale, AZ.

Election of new officers took place during the annual business meeting. Congratulations to President - Brianna Ryff, OD, FAAO, FSLS; Vice President - Linda Ly Bianciotto, OD, FAAO; Secretary - Jason Powell, OD, FAAO; Treasurer - Mackenzie Black, OD, FAAO; Immediate Past President - Florencia Yeh, OD, FAAO, FSLS.

The Chapter’s eighth annual Fall Meeting will be held September 19 and will feature keynote speaker Stephanie Schmiedecke Barbieri, OD, FAAO, Diplomate in Low Vision, discussing gene therapy and new technology in low vision rehabilitation. Additionally, Christopher Fecarotta, MD will discuss the management and co-management of amblyopia, strabismus, and common pediatric anterior segment conditions. The education will culminate with an update on ocular pharmacology highlighting new drugs and delivery systems from Michael Kozlowski, OD, PhD, FAAO.

India Chapter

The American Academy of Optometry (AAO) India chapter expresses its condolences regarding the sudden passing of Dr. Rajeswari Mahadevan, fondly called Raji, to the hard battle with cancer. She was heading the contact lens clinic at Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai, India for almost two decades. She held a number of first of its kind accolades including a PhD in the field of specialty contact lenses, PROSE clinical fellowship from the Boston Foundation for Sight, USA to becoming the Asia Pacific Regional president of the executive board of the “International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE).” She became a Fellow of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (FIACLE) in 2000, obtained FSLs a Fellowship from the Scieral Lens Education Society in 2014, received the Fellowship from the British Contact Lens Association (FBCLA) in the year 2014, Fellowship from the American Academy of Optometry (FAAO) in 2016, and served as the Asia Pacific – President for IACLE. She brought in all the best practices and advancements in the field of contact lenses and specialty contact lenses to India.

Raji will be missed deeply and her loss is indeed an irreplaceable and irreparable one to the global optometry fraternity. She will remain an inspiration to many in the personal and professional front.

University of Waterloo Student Chapter

The Academy’s University of Waterloo Student Chapter ran a successful fundraiser last year selling optometry themed scrunchies to send students to Academy meetings through the AAOF Student Giving Matching Travel Grants. Peers and faculty were so excited about the optometry merch. This year to suit changing circumstances the chapter will be selling optometry themed masks. The chapter looks forward to another successful fundraising year in support of students attending future Academy meetings.

If you have any questions for the club or are interested in their scrunchies and masks please contact them at aaowaterloo@gmail.com.
Official foundation of the American Academy of Optometry | Fall 2020

President’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

I reach out to you today as we continue to navigate one of the most difficult times in recent history. Both our personal and professional lives have been affected in countless ways by the COVID pandemic. People often describe our Academy community like a family. It is clear this family is more important than ever!

Although it is not often easy to embrace the opportunity difficult circumstances hold, I hope there have been at least some positive opportunities. I personally have found that since my children’s activities have all been canceled, we have spent more time at home as a family talking and playing games. Last spring with the schools closed, I had the opportunity to teach my children math or Spanish (well, after refreshing my memory!). Being home more I have also actually met many new neighbors, despite having lived in the neighborhood for 10 years! However, I think this unexpected opportunity is exactly where we find ourselves as an organization and profession. How can we better help our patients and to support our colleagues in this new world?

Although the future is uncertain, let us look towards that future; to find opportunities and to continue to enable excellence in eye care. Let us find opportunities to help our Academy family. Over the past unique year, the Foundation has awarded more than $600,000 in awards and grants, helping 150 people work towards a better future for our patients and our profession despite the uncertainty in our surrounding world.

The Foundation has been hard at work coming up with unique solutions for several key challenges in our profession. We are developing new scholarships to attract the best and brightest to optometry. We are developing mechanisms to help those busy with their clinical practices to better train staff and more easily access the cutting-edge information needed to improve patient care. We are developing grants to fund the essential research our patients need. You’ll read more about these new programs in this newsletter.

Despite the uncertain future, we hope these initiatives will have a lasting impact on the future. If you are in a position to support the Foundation’s efforts through donation of your time, talents, or monetary resources, please consider helping in any way you can. Our Academy family needs our support, now and into the future. If you want to get involved, or know of someone who might, please let me know at kollbaum@indiana.edu.

Thank you again for being a supporter of the Foundation, and I look forward to seeing you at Academy 2020 At Home and the next time we can meet in person!

Sincerely,

Pete Kollbaum, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, AAOF
**Enabling Excellence in Eye Care: New Foundation Initiatives**

The Foundation has been hard at work developing six new programs to help fill currently unmet needs and align with the American Academy of Optometry’s recent strategic plan. The Academy’s strategic plan, entitled “Inspiring Excellence in Eye Care” has five pillars, each defining a priority of the Academy. These are: Education, Research, Membership, Leadership & Legacy and Strategic Partnerships. Below is a brief description of the new programs which support these pillars by “Enabling Excellence in Eye Care.”

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<th><strong>Clinical Podcast Series</strong></th>
<th><strong>Research Funding</strong></th>
<th><strong>OD / PhD Scholarship Program</strong></th>
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<td>Optometrists may often not have enough time or access to read all the relevant published research papers. This program will provide summaries of trending, clinically relevant research which may directly translate and impact daily patient care. We plan to present summaries from across the literature in a podcast format.</td>
<td>Two gaps were identified in funding research. First, a need to stimulate novel exploratory research in specific areas of optometric interest through pilot funding. Secondly, to form collaborations with research partners, such as those in traditional vision care as well as technology firms, to explore areas of mutual interest. Competitive proposals will be submitted and undergo a peer review process.</td>
<td>Additional PhD’s will be required to teach the next generation of optometry students and move the profession’s cutting-edge research forward. It is advantageous if these individuals also have clinical backgrounds. The Foundation will provide a training development scholarship to help incentivize optometrists/residents to pursue a PhD in a vision science or related biomedical science field.</td>
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<th><strong>Clinical Investigator Certification</strong></th>
<th><strong>Staff Training</strong></th>
<th><strong>“Bright Ideas” Pitch Competition</strong></th>
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<td>Fellows have so much to offer to the clinical research community. Each day clinicians identify many important key insights, which could be of great value to the broader community. Many potential collaborative partners, such as academic and industry researchers, are searching for this insight. This certificate training program will provide practicing optometrists initial training to learn skills required to serve as a clinical investigator for sponsored research within their current practice setting.</td>
<td>Optometrists have voiced the need for an online staff training program that provides basic foundational education for employees who are new to the eye care profession. The training modules are aligned in a curriculum intended to be taken during the first two weeks of employment and certificates will be presented upon completion. Training modules will include topics such as basic eye anatomy, fundamentals of an eye exam, diagnostic equipment, and HIPAA and legal guidelines.</td>
<td>This program will aim to stimulate new ideas and innovative thinking leading to potential treatments or devices. Top submitted ideas will be invited to a Pitch Competition at the Academy 2021 Boston meeting to present their project to a live audience and receive feedback from a panel of judges. Cash awards will be presented to winners to provide seed development funding.</td>
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Volunteer task force groups are currently working hard defining these ideas and developing details surrounding their implementation. As the programs develop with confirmed content and timelines, we will keep you updated. If you have questions or comments about these programs or the Foundation in general, please contact our Development Director, Bob Gray (BobG@aaoptom.org); or Foundation Board President, Pete Kollbaum (kollbaum@indiana.edu); or Campaign Chair, Wendy Harrison (wwharris@central.uh.edu).
2020 Ezell Fellowship Recipients

The Foundation has selected 11 outstanding vision researchers to receive the esteemed Ezell Fellowships. Now in its 72nd year, the Ezell Fellowship program, named after AAOF founder Dr. William C. Ezell, is intended to recognize talented optometric researchers who are pursuing careers in research and education. The Ezell Fellowship program is made possible through the commitments of generous endowments, the ongoing contributions of membership donors and friends of the Foundation, and through the visionary support of corporate leaders.

American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Ezell Fellow
Eugene Appenteng Osae, OD
University of Houston College of Optometry

Research focus: Metabolic syndrome effects on the Meibomian gland and the ocular surface

“I am extremely honored to be a second-time Ezell awardee, and to be the 2020 recipient of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Ezell Fellowship is truly humbling. I sincerely thank the AAO for their continued support of my PhD research and my dream to be a clinician scientist and optometric educator in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa. I owe great appreciation to my mentors Drs. Alan Burns, Rachel Redfern and Samuel Hanlon for their exceptional guidance, and I am also grateful to Drs. Laura Frishman and Eric Ritchey for their invaluable support throughout my graduate studies at the University of Houston.”

AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies (CCLRT) Ezell Fellow
Erin Sayoko Tomiyama, OD, MS, FAAO
University of Houston College of Optometry

Research focus: Comparison of toric contact lenses for myopia management of astigmatic myope

“I am greatly honored to receive the 2020 AAO CCLRT Ezell Fellowship. I would like to thank the CCLRT Section and the American Academy of Optometry Foundation for this prestigious recognition and my advisor, Dr. Kathryn Richdale, for her continued support and guidance in my pursuit of becoming a successful clinical researcher. It is truly an honor to be following in the footsteps of my mentors and some of the most impactful researchers in vision science.”

Danne Ventura / Essilor Ezell Fellow
Reynolds Kwame Ablordepeey, OD
State University of New York College of Optometry

Research focus: Characterization of the structural and functional changes that occur in the eye during myopia development

“I am deeply honored to be receiving the 2020 Danne Ventura/Essilor Ezell Fellowship. I would like to thank the American Academy of Optometry, Essilor of America, and my mentors (Drs. Alexandra Benavente-Perez, Suresh Viswanathan, David Troilo, and Miduturu Srinivas) for this prestigious award. It is such an honor to join the club of accomplished researchers and educators who have previously won this award. This will go a long way in funding my research and development as a clinician-scientist.”

Facebook Ezell Fellow
Lyndsey M. Ferris, OD, FAAO, ABCMO
Indiana University School of Optometry

Research focus: Understanding contact-lens wear safety by investigating metabolic transport and tear dynamics

“I am honored and humbled to receive the 2020 Facebook Ezell Fellowship. I have found inspiration in the ingenuity and groundbreaking AR/VR advances made daily by Facebook’s Reality Labs teams. Thank you to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation, Facebook, Inc., and the many mentors who have guided and supported me. I am committed to upholding the Ezell legacy as I continue along my journey as a clinician-scientist, educator, and service member.”

Irvin M. Borish / Essilor Ezell Fellow
Young Hyun Kim
University of California Berkeley School of Optometry

Research focus: Understanding contact-lens wear safety by investigating metabolic transport and tear dynamics

“I am honored and humbled to be the recipient of the 2020 Irvin M. Borish / Essilor Ezell Fellowship. This award will allow me to continue pursuing my goal to become a scientist and an educator in the field of vision. I am grateful to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation and Essilor of America for supporting this endeavor. Finally, I would like to thank Drs. Meng C. Lin and Clayton J. Radke for their unwavering support and mentorship throughout my education.”

John N. Schoen Ezell Fellow
Justin Courson
University of Houston College of Optometry

Research focus: Corneal Innervation in Health and Disease

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation for awarding me the John N. Schoen Ezell Fellowship. I am truly thankful for this organization’s unwavering support for vision science, and I am humbled to have been chosen to join the prestigious ranks of Ezell Fellows. I would also like to recognize my mentor, Dr. Alan Burns, for his invaluable expertise and steadfast support of my research into the role of corneal nerves in health and disease. This fellowship will undoubtedly assist me on my journey as a vision scientist, and I will do my best throughout my career to uphold the values and standards for which the Ezell Fellowship stands.”
Merton C. Flom Leadership Ezell Fellow
Kelsy R. Steele, OD, MS, FAAO
The Ohio State University College of Optometry
Research focus: Inflammatory and infectious complications associated with contact lens hygiene practices

“I am thrilled and honored to receive the 2020 Merton C. Flom Leadership Ezell Fellowship. This award is particularly meaningful given Dr. Flom’s extensive contributions to vision science research and optometric education, which further motivates me to continue my work in these areas. I am so grateful for the support provided to me by the Flom family, the American Academy of Optometry Foundation, my husband, and my advisor, Dr. Karla Zadnik, as I work to become an independent clinician-scientist.”

Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellow
Afua Oteng Asare, OD, MOH, MS
Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Research focus: The Cost Effectiveness and Utilization of Publicly Funded Universal Vision Care Services and Vision Screening for Children in Ontario

“As a second time recipient of the Ezell Fellowship, I am very grateful to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation, Dr. Michael G. Harris, my sponsor, and my team of advisors and mentors at the University of Toronto: Dr. Agnes Wong, Dr. Daphne Maurer, Dr. Natasha Saunders, and Dr. Wendy Ungar. I am humbled by the endorsement and look forward to the many opportunities to continue to develop my research.”

Mike Daley / Essilor Ezell Fellow
Kwaku Osei, OD, FAAO
University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Optometry
Research focus: The role of glycoprotein 340 in dry eye pathophysiology and ocular surface infection

“I feel honored to be the recipient of the 2020 Mike Daley / Essilor Ezell Fellowship award. I thank both the American Academy of Optometry Foundation and Essilor of America for the recognition. This award reinvigorates my commitment to dry eye and ocular surface research. I am especially grateful to Drs. Jason Nichols, Champion Deivanayagam, and Kelly Nichols, all of UAB, for their inspiring and unflinching support in my pursuit of becoming an optometric educator and clinician-scientist.”

Optometric Glaucoma Society (OGS) Ezell Fellow
Billie Beckwith-Cohen, DVM, MBA, FAAO
University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry
Research focus: Retinal neurophysiology and enhancing visual function in retinal degeneration

“It is with honor and humility that I accept the Optometric Glaucoma Society Ezell Fellowship. As a mother of underrepresented minority, I take pride in this accomplishment, and am grateful for the equitable inclusion practices set forward by the American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Foundation. This openhanded award enables me to pursue my career as a clinician-scientist and educator focused on ocular health. I am especially thankful for the faith the Optometric Glaucoma Society has in me, and for their ongoing generosity.”

Rod Tahran / Essilor Ezell Fellow
Rabia Mobeen, BOptom, MPhil
University of New South Wales, Sydney
Research focus: The effect of age and contact lens wear on the ocular surface inflammatory response

“I have been extremely honored to have been awarded the Rod Tahran / Essilor Ezell Fellowship. I believe my recognition as Ezell Fellow will significantly complement my current efforts to strengthen my research focus, improve clinical and teaching skills and advance the optometry profession. Being the first Ezell Fellow from Pakistan, it will also provide me with opportunities to network with international colleagues and encourage future collaborative efforts that will impact positively on the professional output of optometrists in Pakistan. This fellowship will further strengthen my ability to significantly contribute to achieve my career goals. I am grateful to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation and my supervisors Professor Stapleton, Associate Professor Golebiowski and Dr. Chao for their support.”

Newest Giving Circle Members

The Foundation is deeply grateful for the ongoing commitment from this special group of donors and would like to recognize its newest member.

President’s Circle
Michael Mayers, OD, FAAO

If you are interested in becoming a member of the President’s Circle, please contact Bob Gray at bobg@aaoptom.org.
Vision
Inspiring Excellence in Eye Care

Mission
The American Academy of Optometry provides exceptional education, supports innovative research, and disseminates knowledge to advance optometric practice and improve patient care

Values
Lifelong Learning
Fostering intellectual curiosity, embracing innovation and pursuing knowledge

Excellence
Achieving the highest standards of clinical practice, critical thinking, scholarship, and professionalism

Evidence-based care
Promoting high-quality care informed by rigorous research

Integrity
Inspiring ethical behavior in scientific research, clinical practice, and the educational environment

Collaboration and Collegiality
Encouraging a respectful and collegial environment across the Academy and in our engagement with diverse external partners

Strategic Pillars
1. Education
2. Research
3. Membership
4. Leadership & Legacy
5. Partnerships

Strategic Framework

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