In This Issue:

- Academy 2020 Nashville
- Section & SIG Symposia
- Annual Awards
- Fellowship Anniversaries
- Clinical Corner
- Chapter News
- American Academy of Optometry Foundation News

October 7-10, 2020
Music City Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Registration and housing open May 12, 2020
www.academymeeting.org
Academy 2020 Nashville will feature more than 400 hours of continuing education in a variety of formats including lectures, workshops, symposia, and scientific papers and posters. New this year, the Lectures and Workshops Committee will offer a limited number of Academy Classroom Exchange (ACE) courses which will provide small group learning experiences that will maximize discussion and interaction with the course presenter. Reserve your spot for $25 when you register for the meeting.

Standards of care, diagnostic standards and targets have changed significantly over the past several years. As such, this year’s Plenary Session will focus on updating attendees’ knowledge base regarding hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, and other common ailments which may improve a patient’s vision and eyecare.

Thursday morning will kick off with a focus on science with the Hot Topics paper presentations in various areas of eye and vision research and the annual Monroe J. Hirsch Research Symposium - 2020: The Future Is Upon Us. Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space colonization were once just an imagined future dreamt up and played out only in science fiction books and movies. The future world of George Jetson is upon us in 2020. Astronauts are living in space for extended periods of time. Robotics and smart technology are assisting with activities of daily living. This symposium will bring together three leading researchers to highlight the impact of space travel on the visual system as well as the utilization of technology in autonomous driving and socially assistive robotics for patients in need of vision rehabilitation.

The American Academy of Optometry is bringing the best in optometric education to Nashville, Tennessee, October 7-10, 2020 for Academy 2020 Nashville! Join us for the largest meeting in optometry featuring four days of cutting-edge continuing education, the latest scientific research, a bustling exhibit hall, and exciting social events. Commonly referred to as Music City, Nashville is known for its vibrant music and entertainment scene and offers a plethora of things to do and see. Our host venue, Music City Center, is nestled in the heart of the city, with many attractions and restaurants just a short walk away.

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Also new this year, the Academy will hold a special symposium on diversity, equity and inclusion on Thursday, October 8. This special symposium, co-presented by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), and the National Optometric Association (NOA), will promote a basic understanding of the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion as they pertain to optometric education and clinical practice. The symposium will feature an overview of the current state of diversity in optometry, ASCO's cultural competency curriculum guidelines and efforts, equity and inclusion success stories, and strategies for working toward a more diverse, culturally sensitive, and inclusive profession. The moderators will be:

- Dr. Karla Zadnik, Dean, The Ohio State University College of Optometry
- Dr. Sherrol Reynolds, President, National Optometric Association

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Gary Chu, Senior Director, Public Health and Community Collaborations, New England College of Optometry
- Dr. Edna Chun, Chief Learning Officer, HigherEd
- Dr. Rustin Moore, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, The Ohio State University
Another not to be missed session is the Ezell Fellows Present Symposium. This session features three investigators at different stages of their careers who received the American Academy of Optometry Foundation’s Ezell Fellowships early in their careers. This year’s symposium, 2020 - Advances in Clinical Imaging, will feature Dr. William Tuten as he discusses the utility of adaptive optics in clinical imaging. Dr. Danielle Robertson will then share her work on novel anterior segment imaging. Finally, Dr. Suresh Viswanathan will talk about novel imaging in glaucoma and/or TBI.

The Academy and ASCO will also partner for a session on conducting optometric education research. The scope of this workshop is to provide a broad overview and steps involved in designing and conducting optometric education research and identify some of the common mistakes and pitfalls. These workshops also serve as a forum for optometric educators to network and plan collaborative research on topics of mutual interest.

Did you know that you can be part of the Academy 2020 Nashville education program? The Scientific Program paper and poster presentation submission window will be open from May 1 – June 1, 2020. For guidelines on the submissions, please visit the Academy website. Registration and housing will open on May 12, 2020. For more information, visit www.academymeeting.org, and keep an eye out for the Program Preview in May!
Sections and Special Interest Groups
Symposia

Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG Symposium: From the Trenches: Complex Cases at Academic Medical Centers
This session will be a multiple case report presentation and panel review. What happens in a medical center when cases go astray? The objectives of this conference 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 improved patient care. They are particularly important for identifying systems issues (e.g., outdated policies, changes in patient identification procedures, arithmetic errors, etc.) which affect patient care.

Anterior Segment Section Symposium: Ocular Surface Reconstruction: Putting the Pieces Back Together
This session will discuss advances in ocular surface reconstruction including limbal stem cell deficiency, corneal transplantation, iris prosthesis, fixing IOLs, artificial corneas, and K-prosthetics.

Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section Symposium: It’s 2020: How Refraction Changes Lives
Uncorrected refractive error remains a vast worldwide problem, resulting in a reduction in quality of life, educational advancement and economic success. This symposium will examine the magnitude of the problem, its impact upon young adult populations and the potential benefits and risks from remote examinations.

Comprehensive Eye Care Section Symposium: ExCELL & FLARE: A Uveitis Symposium
This event seeks to explore current and relevant clinical advances in the treatment and management of uveitis. Topics will be pertinent to all comprehensive eye care providers with attention to novel treatment options including biologics and surgical care. The symposium aims to address how the comprehensive eye care provider can improve patient care to prevent vision loss and blindness while working collaboratively with other medical specialists.

Section on CCLRT Symposium: Myopia Management: The Evidence Is In… Now Let’s Make It Happen
Decades of research have shown that contact lenses can be successful in the management of myopia and our profession has the opportunity to alter the path of this devastating condition. This course is designed for those who understand the condition, are versed in the science behind contact lenses options and want to learn how to implement these various modalities into their practice. Learn from those who advocate and practice this everyday so that you can join the league of specialists and improve the eyes of the future.

Fellows Doing Research SIG Symposium: Clinical Research in Today’s Practice
Randomized controlled trials have been the gold standard of rigorous, high quality research. The reality is that there are many unanswered questions in eye care that lend themselves to observational study designs. The Fellows Doing Research Special Interest Group has sought to train clinicians to answer these very questions. This symposium will review the state of clinical research and share examples of how groups were formed to contribute important data to the scientific literature, ultimately to improve patient care.

Glaucoma Section Symposium: Contemporary Glaucoma Management for 2020: Where Are We Now and Where Are We Going?
Three topics will be presented as a point counterpoint format focusing on contemporary topics in glaucoma that will help the primary care practitioner understand how to adjust their thinking on patient management in the near future. Topics of discussion include:

- Is glaucoma more of a medical or surgical disease?
- What are the practical aspects of new medical therapies versus generics?
• Conventional versus contemporary technologies: What will we still be using with our patients at the end of the decade?

Low Vision Section Symposium: The Right to Online Accessibility for the Blind and Visually Impaired
The internet is rapidly becoming the new marketplace and town square. When the ADA was written this was not envisioned. Blind and visually impaired people have struggled to participate in the visually rich environment of the digital display. A legal case concerning the lack of online accessibility for a blind person was recently considered by the US Supreme Court. In this symposium we will hear from a disability attorney, a tech accessibility expert and a low vision optometrist who will each provide a unique insight into this issue and how we might plan a path forward.

Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: The Lawrence Gray Memorial Symposium: Optic Neuritis, Neuro-immunity, and Demyelinating Disease
This program will combine the knowledge and perspectives of an optometrist, neuro-ophthalmologist and neuro-immunologist to educate and update attendees on recent developments in classification, investigation and management of optic neuritis and demyelinating disease.

Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIG Symposium: You Are What You Eat (and Drink and Smoke)
Dr. Stuart Richer will discuss the science of cannabis/CBD, as well as the ophthalmic effects. Dr. Kim Reed will discuss “Trendy American Diets” and review myths and scientific facts of keto, fasting, Whole 30, etc. Dr. Steven Pratt will discuss the ideal anti-inflammatory diet.

Optometric Education Section Symposium: Research in Optometric Education
The learning objectives for this symposium include how to choose a feasible and interesting topic, what methodological understandings are needed for the topic, how to conduct a literature search, appreciate the need for ethics approval, and how to take the research forward.

This symposium will review the CDC’s Healthy People initiatives and achievements for 2020 and the objectives and goals for 2030 for vision. In addition, recent major changes to the multiple standards that provide guidelines and requirements for safety and protective eyewear for occupational, educational and recreational use will be discussed. Updated information regarding photochromic contact lenses and the “blue light hazard” will be provided, including implications for patients.

Retina SIG Symposium: Outlook for Genetic Testing and Therapies for Genetic Retinal Disease
In the past decade there has been a large movement in research for treatment of many human ailments using genetic technology. There are a number of clinical trials in this arena with respect for vitreoretinal disorders. Recently the first gene therapy for RPE 65 mutation-associated retinal dystrophy was FDA approved.

There is a vast amount of information both accurate and inaccurate that eye care providers come across. Patients also have access to this information which results in discussions in the examination room. This lecture will review the background of genetic retinal disease and shed light on the state of available and future potential therapies for these conditions. The pros and cons of genetic testing and commercially available tests for inherited retinal disease will be discussed as well.

Vision in Aging and Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIGs Joint Symposium: Optimizing Care of Your Aging Patient: Polypharmacy, Nutrition and the Eye
In geriatric care, the topics of polypharmacy and nutrition present opportunities for collaboration across multiple disciplines, including optometry. This symposium will cover the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic changes with normal aging, as well as potential problems with polypharmacy, including drug, supplement and food interactions. Compliance issues in relation to cognitive and physical abilities will also be addressed and nutrition recommendations for the aging eye will be discussed, including an AREDS2 review.
Call for Board of Directors Nominations

This is an election year for the Academy Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is working to develop the slate of candidates for the next Board of Directors election at Academy 2020 Nashville.

The ideal candidate has in-depth knowledge of the Academy and has distinguished themselves by significant service in the volunteer structure, usually in a leadership position.

If you are an Academy Fellow and you know of Fellows willing and able to serve the Academy in this leadership capacity, please submit the name(s) by May 1, 2020 to Jo LaBorde at JoL@aaoptom.org.

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

Submit nominations to JoL@aaoptom.org by May 1, 2020.
2020 Academy Awards

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

“When you get where you’re goin’ don’t forget turn back around help the next one in line.”

Tim McGraw

We are heading to Nashville! Music City – twang! Time to take inspiration from some of the great country songs. As we prepare for our annual meeting it is time to consider who you would like to honor with an award.

The Academy and its Foundation (like the CMAs) offers annual awards for all walks of our profession; for clinicians, for pioneers, for educators, for global visionaries, for scientists, for mentors, and for your colleagues. Our awards are only as good as the people you nominate. Without your nomination there will be no awardees. Please consider who you would like to nominate, who you would like to second your nomination, and submit your nomination to Helen Viksnins by email at HelenV@aaoptom.org.

Submit nominations to HelenV@aaoptom.org by May 1, 2020.

Our awards and awardees strengthen core elements within several pillars of our new and bold strategic plan.

Our research-related awards help the following objectives of the Research Pillar:
- To raise the visibility of research within the Academy and at its annual meeting, demonstrate the Academy’s support for it, and highlight the importance of research to the mission of the Academy.
- To identify talented individuals early in their clinical or research training and encourage and support them in their pursuit of a successful career in vision-related research.

Our leadership and legacy awards help the Leadership and Legacy Pillar by:
- Celebrating 100 years of leadership and legacy.

Our awards that recognize achievement and service in the areas of interprofessional, strategic and global initiatives help the Strategic Partnerships Pillar by:
- Strengthening our partnerships with the American Optometric Association and other eye care organizations.
- Cultivating industry partnerships.
- Enhancing integration of optometry into interprofessional education and practice.

The Awards Committee looks forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating in Nashville!

“Plan to attend the Fry and Prentice Awards and Lectures at its new time on Thursday, October 8 from 10 AM to Noon.

“It’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you. It’s what you leave behind you when you go.”

Randy Travis
**Fellowship Anniversaries**

**Class of 1970, 50 years!**

Dr. John R. Anthony, San Diego, CA  
Dr. Dennis Bader, Toronto, ON  
Dr. Richard W. Baker, Moraga, CA  
Dr. Richard D. Brannen, Etta, NH  
Dr. Abraham Bromberg, Mexico City, FDM  
Dr. Allen H. Cohen, New York, NY  
Dr. Paul A. Darrow, San Antonio, TX  
Dr. Larry V. Downer, Emmett, ID  
Dr. Weylin G. Eng, Orinda, CA  
Dr. Ricardo Espinosa, Prescott Valley, AZ  
Dr. J David Grisham, Novato, CA  
Dr. Michael H. Heiberger, Greenlawn, NY  
Dr. Wayne W. Hoefl Agua, Dulce, CA  
Dr. Louis G. Hoffman, El Dorado Hills, CA  
Dr. Norman Ihrig West, End, NC  
Dr. Jerry S. Jacobs, Dallas, TX  
Dr. Arthur J. Jordan, Scranton, PA  
Dr. Lawrence N. Kline, Woodbridge, CT  
Dr. William L. Larson, Mount-Royal, QC  
Dr. Norman E. Leach, Friendswood, TX  
Dr. Charles F. Mullen, Pittsburgh, PA  
Dr. Jerry L. Neely, Fairborn, OH  
Dr. Richard L. Newell, Hudson, FL  
Dr. Jerry R. Pederson, Greenwood Village, CO  
Dr. Nancy Peterson-Klein, Mecosta, MI  
Dr. William D. Platt, Mount Vernon, OH  
Dr. Kenneth A. Polse, Piedmont, CA  
Dr. Vernon Reese, Baltimore, MD  
Dr. Daniel M. Runyan, South Vienna, OH  
Dr. Thomas J. Scannell, Helotes, TX  
Dr. John William Sims, Naples, FL  
Dr. Daniel D. Weinstein, San Francisco, CA  
Dr. Jonas J. Zucker, Fairfield, CT

**Class of 1980, 40 years!**

Dr. Kevin L. Alexander, Fullerton, CA  
Dr. Andrew W. Backus, Bloomington, IL  
Dr. Barry J. Barresi, Roswell, GA  
Dr. Robert Norman Bailey, Houston, TX  
Dr. Andrew W. Backus, Bloomington, IL  
Dr. Kevin L. Alexander, Fullerton, CA  
Dr. Jerry R. Pederson, Greenwood Village, CO  
Dr. Nancy Peterson-Klein, Mecosta, MI  
Dr. William D. Platt, Mount Vernon, OH  
Dr. Kenneth A. Polse, Piedmont, CA  
Dr. Vernon Reese, Baltimore, MD  
Dr. Daniel M. Runyan, South Vienna, OH  
Dr. Thomas J. Scannell, Helotes, TX  
Dr. John William Sims, Naples, FL  
Dr. Daniel D. Weinstein, San Francisco, CA  
Dr. Jonas J. Zucker, Fairfield, CT

**Class of 1995, 25 years!**

Dr. Douglas R. Williams, Huntington Beach, CA  
Dr. Aharon Sternberg, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Douglas W. Steger, Graham, TX  
Dr. Mack Smith, Pawnee, OK  
Dr. Robert D. Spruance, Goodyear, AZ  
Dr. Douglas W. Steger, Graham, TX  
Dr. Aharon Sternberg, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Douglas W. Steger, Graham, TX

**Class of 1970, 50 years!**

Dr. Stanley I. Levinger, Teaneck, NJ  
Dr. Richard London, Lake Oswego, OR  
Dr. Richard L. Lukenberg, Richfield, UT  
Dr. Vic E. Malinsky, Bloomington, IN  
Dr. W Howard McAllister, Saint Louis, MO  
Dr. Eugene J. McDonough, Orchard Park, NY  
Dr. Kevin L. Melicher, Fargo, ND  
Dr. Bruce D. Moore, Boston, MA  
Dr. Michael L. Nichols, Columbia, MO  
Dr. Sam C. Olphant, Oklahoma City, OK  
Dr. Charles W. Paepke, Plattsburgh, NY  
Dr. Gordon W. Postovit, Sun Lakes, AZ  
Dr. Leonard J. Press, Point Pleasant Beach, NJ  
Dr. Judith A. Prima, Lodi, CA  
Dr. Barbara L. Reiss, Austin, TX  
Dr. LeRoy S. Roberson, Waynesville, NC  
Dr. Carl H. Ross, Leona, TX  
Dr. Kenneth R. Seger, Davie, FL  
Dr. John T. Shank, Kodiak, AK  
Dr. Robert H. Sharp, Atlantic, IA  
Dr. Charles M. Shiel, Maywood, NJ  
Dr. Ronald Siwoff, Chester, NJ  
Dr. Mack Smith, Pawnee, OK  
Dr. Robert D. Spruance, Goodyear, AZ  
Dr. Douglas W. Steger, Graham, TX  
Dr. Aharon Sternberg, Anchorage, AK  
Dr. Douglas W. Steger, Graham, TX
Pilot Study on Vision Therapy for Intermittent Exotropia Funded by Career Development Award

Angela M. Chen, OD, MS, FAAO

I was first exposed to clinical research during my residency with Dr. Susan Cotter. I quickly recognized the potential impact that research has on clinical practice and thus decided that I wanted to be an active contributor to the scientific advancement of optometry and vision science. Conducting clinical research is now an integral part of my optometric career. I have had the distinct pleasure of working with several NEI-funded research groups, including the Pediatric Eye Disease Investigator Group (PEDIG) and the Convergence Insufficiency Treatment Trial-Attention and Reading Trial (CITT-ART) Group. My involvement with PEDIG and CITT-ART has allowed me to interact with talented individuals who conduct high-quality research that has changed clinical practice and to gain a better understanding on how to morph a clinical question into a study protocol.

Intermittent exotropia (IXT) is the most common form of childhood-onset exotropia and a challenging binocular vision disorder that I enjoy treating. I often recommend vision therapy as a non-surgical treatment option for patients with IXT and I have successfully treated numerous patients. However, vision therapy has not undergone a rigorous evaluation of its effectiveness as a treatment modality for IXT, and this needs to be done. As I have learned over the years, it takes a large dose of “blood, sweat and tears” as well as a cadre of like-minded co-investigators to conduct a high-quality clinical trial. Thus, I feel incredibly fortunate to have found Academy colleagues who share my passion of wanting to rigorously evaluate vision therapy for the treatment of IXT.

The VT for IXT Study is a joint effort with the following Academy Fellows who comprise the Executive Committee:

- Dr. Susan Cotter, SCCO/Marshall B. Ketchum University
- Dr. Erin Jenewein, Salus University
- Dr. Tawna Roberts, Stanford University
- Dr. Ann Morrison and Dr. Maureen Plaumann, The Ohio State University
- Dr. Kristine Hopkins, University of Alabama School of Optometry
- Dr. Marie Bodack, Southern College of Optometry
- Dr. Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, Case Western Reserve University

Our group is committed to making a significant scientific contribution that will inform clinical practice regarding the effectiveness of vision therapy treatment for IXT. We are grateful to have received support from the Academy to conduct our proposed pilot study, which will assess the short-term effectiveness of vision therapy for the treatment of childhood IXT and determine the feasibility of conducting a full-scale randomized clinical trial in the near future.

What the Diplomate(s) Mean to Me

Stanley Hatch, OD, MPH, FAAO

In optometry school, we were told that if we didn’t enjoy the education, we should choose a different profession. If learning the subject was tedious, then the job would be too. The journey is the reward.

Like many, I had diverse interests on receiving my FAAO. My residency had been in pediatric optometry and vision therapy. I was an instructor in binocular vision courses and clinic, and I had enrolled in a Master of Public Health (MPH) program. How could I further my understanding of these topics? Where could I be tested and given feedback at the highest levels? I decided to apply to become a Diplomate in the American Academy of Optometry. But in which Section should I apply?

I chose the Public Health and Environmental Vision Section because I was just finishing the MPH. With all that epidemiology and biostatistics fresh in my mind, I was able to pass the written exam. The next step was the oral interview. I love interviews! To field questions from some of the best minds in optometry is simply the most intellectually stimulating experience I can think of. Did I get everything right? Of course not, but the journey includes learning from your mistakes. The Diplomate process is a safe place to make mistakes while advancing your knowledge. The committee tested me and pushed me. Yet, it was not a one way process. The committee invited my own queries. Imagine that, national experts asking for my opinion or theory.

The journey was the reward, and this journey didn’t end with the Diplomate certificate. As a member of the committee, I returned the favor by mentoring new candidates, encouraging them, and learning from them. What could be more rewarding? I could do it again.

I had been out of academia for a few years and I felt I had not maintained the best skills in some areas. If I was to practice at the highest level as a pediatric optometrist, I needed the next journey. Going back to the books and journals took discipline, but I was able to pass the written exam to start the Diplomate in Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry. My first case report didn’t go so well. The reviews were harsh and it took some time to recover: about eight years actually. Over that time, I changed and the Academy changed. The standards for Diplomate became not easier, but more flexible. It was time to try again. I was allowed a mentor who became the most integral part of my journey. I wrote, and rewrote the case reports. I took the practical and advanced to the interview. Did I mention I like interviews?

The journey is the reward. So start your own journey. If it’s in the Public Health and Environmental Vision or Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Sections, I might see you at the interview.
Diplomate Prep Courses: Your First Step to Becoming a Diplomate

All eight Academy Sections will offer Diplomate Preparatory Courses at Academy 2020 Nashville. Come learn about the application process, network with current Diplomates, and earn continuing education credits! Fellows who apply for Diplomate candidacy during the annual meeting will have the $100 application fee waived. Fellows, add a Diplomate Prep Course to your schedule for Academy 2020 Nashville when you register.

Anterior Segment Section
Aaron Bronner - Management of Infectious Keratitis
A. Mika Moy - Ocular Inflammation: Episcleritis, Scleritis, Uveitis
Nicholas Colatrella - Anterior Segment Jeopardy
Casey Hogan - Chronic Conjunctivitis: An Overview on Classification and Management

Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section
Mitch Scheiman - Evaluation and Treatment of Non-Strabismic Binocular Vision Disorders: Advanced Concepts
Kristine Hopkins - Evaluation of Strabismic Sensory Adaptations
Catherine Heyman - Pediatric Low Vision- Evaluating and Managing Kids with Bad Eyes
Graham Erickson - Evidence-Based Refractive Prescribing for Pediatric Patients

Comprehensive Eye Care Section
CEC Section Overview: Leadership of the Section discuss the Diplomate process.
Scientific Writing Workshop
The Essentials: Contact Lenses, Pediatrics / Binocular Anomalies, and Vision Rehabilitation

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies
Marsha Malooley - Corneal Transplantation: What an Optometrist Should Know
Lyndon Jones - Dry Eye and Contacts: Harmony or Havoc?
Susan Gromacki - Pearls for Managing Keratoconus with CXL: Corneal Collagen Crosslinking

Glaucoma Section
Richard Madonna - Critical Analysis of the Research Literature for the Expert Clinician
Jack Phu - Applying the Evidence for Best Practice in Angle Closure Disease: Diagnosis and Management
John O’Donnell - When It’s NOT Glaucoma

Low Vision Section
Jonathan Jackson - Epidemiology, Histopathology and Functional Impact of Sight Limiting Eye Disease in Children
Stacy Hu - Diagnosis and Management of Ocular Pathologies Giving Rise to Vision Impairment in Adults
Frank Spors - Low Vision Optics
Karen Squier - Verification of Near Low Vision Devices: A Hands-on Approach
Greg Hopkins - Low Vision Tech
Hendrik Derksen - Practical Low Vision Telescopes

Optometric Education Section
The Optometric Education (OE) Diplomate program provides an opportunity to obtain recognition of advanced knowledge and expertise in the field of optometric education. Diploma candidates engage in professional development, reflect on their teaching and their students’ learning and increase their publication productivity while experiencing camaraderie with like-minded Academy Fellows. The course reviews the Diplomate application and candidacy steps and provides tips and techniques regarding the pursuit and demonstration of OE scholarship.

Public Health and Environmental Vision Section
Debbie Hettler – History of Public Health
Satya Verma – Ethics
Kevin Jackson – Prevention
Stanley Hatch and Lisa Jones-Jordan – Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Sandra Block – NASEM Report and World Report on Vision
Michael Radoiu – Optometry and Tropical Diseases
Debbie Hettler – Health Care Policy
Barbara Cohn – Quality Assurance
Stanley Hatch – Public Health Law
Stephen Dain – Environmental Vision
Brian Hatch – Eye Injuries and Eye Protection
Jeffrey Weaver – Occupational Optometry
Richard Hom – Health Care Systems
2019 Best Student Scientific Presentation

The Academy Board of Directors and the Scientific Program Committee selected Sudan Puri, OD, as the recipient of the Best Student Scientific Presentation award at Academy 2019 Orlando. Dr. Puri is currently a graduate student at the University of Houston. He will be recognized for his presentation, “Contribution of limbus and central corneal epithelial cells in corneal wound healing,” at Academy 2020 Nashville. This presentation was co-authored by Mingxia Sun, Kazadi N. Mutoji and Vivien J. Coulson-Thomas.

“I am sincerely grateful and honored to be recognized as the Best Student Scientific Presentation. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all the co-authors in the presentation. Thank you for this designation which has provided a boost to my confidence and an encouragement to continue working towards my career goals in vision science.”

2020 Essilor Academic Challenge

The Essilor Academic Challenge (EAC) at Academy Stadium came back for its second year at Academy 2019 Orlando. This team competition sponsored by Essilor had three students from each school and college of optometry competing for the EAC championship.

The competition ended in a tie with Southern College of Optometry and Southern California College of Optometry both claiming victory. The third place winner was the Rosenberg School of Optometry.

The Essilor Academic Challenge will be back for Academy 2020 Nashville! Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.
Event Highlights from Academy 2019 Orlando

This year marked the first Luxottica Student Welcome: Fashion Focus featuring a frame fashion show. Thanks to all the students who volunteered as frame models!

On Thursday morning, students were welcomed to student-only exhibit hall hours to get focused time with the exhibitors and play Optometric Pursuit for the chance to win special prizes.

Attendees danced the night away at the annual Australia Party on Friday evening.

Recent graduates were invited to the Young ODs reception Wednesday evening generously sponsored by Zeiss.

The recipients of the Allergan Resident Travel Fellowship received their awards during the Student and Resident Awards Lunch.

The Residents Day poster session was very well attended while current Residents showcased their research.
New Developments at the Academy Meeting under the Research Pillar of the Strategic Plan

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

In addition to the regular Scientific Program papers and posters and the research symposia organized by the different Sections, Special Interest Groups and the Research Committee of the Academy, we are developing additional research programs for implementation at Academy 2020 Nashville in keeping with the goals of the new strategic plan. The following information highlights a few of these new initiatives, but watch this space in future newsletters for more details on these and other initiatives.

Proven treatments tested in research studies make their way into clinical care. A circular pathway from the clinic back to the laboratory contributes to ongoing refinement of treatment procedures. In keeping with this bidirectional concept, the Scientific Program Committee in collaboration with the Lectures and Workshop Committee will introduce a program under the theme of “Bench to Chairside and Back Again.” We will pilot two paper sessions in Nashville this year as part of this new program titled Management of Intermittent Exotropia and Management of Myopia.

As many of you may know, Cochrane is an independent organization that facilitates evidence-based choices about health intervention by developing systematic literature reviews on various topics. The Academy has initiated a process to collaborate with Cochrane Eyes and Vision (CEV) to develop systematic evidence-based reviews in vision care in areas of mutual interest to both organizations. CEV is an international network of individuals working to prepare, maintain and promote access to systematic reviews of interventions to treat or prevent eye diseases or visual impairment. They also do systematic reviews of the accuracy of diagnostic tests for common ocular diseases and conditions. This year the Academy proposed a new symposium at the annual meeting to introduce Cochrane Eyes and Vision and the process by which it supports the preparation of these reviews. The symposium will include first-hand reports from Academy members who have participated in developing Cochrane reviews. Please contact Drs. Susan Cotter (scotter@ketchum.edu) and Suresh Viswanathan (sviswanathan@sunyopt.edu) or your Section/SIG chairs if you have ideas for reviews.

Following the successful implementation of the first Academy Think Tank session on the topic of Microbial Keratitis organized at Academy 2019 Orlando, planning is underway for the second Academy Think Tank session on the topic of Visual Impact of Concussion/Traumatic Brain Injury.
The First American Academy of Optometry Think Tank

Loretta B. Szczotka-Flynn, OD, PhD, FAAO, Guest Contributor

I have had the privilege of participating in a few “firsts” within the Academy. It is no coincidence that these opportunities revolved around contact lens associated microbial keratitis, a yet unsolved problem in our field. In 2016, I was honored to co-moderate the first joint symposium of the American Academy of Optometry and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The inaugural topic for this ongoing series of lectures was contact lens infections. Similarly, at this past year’s Academy 2019 Orlando meeting, the American Academy of Optometry hosted its first Think Tank on this same topic and I had the pleasure to participate in the planning process and delivery of a relevant lecture. We gathered experts in the field of contact lenses and corneal disease to review the current state of contact lens associated infections and the important questions we have yet to answer.

The impressive lineup of speakers and commenters included:
- Cristina Schnider, OD, FAAO
- Joseph Shovlin, OD, FAAO
- Loretta Szczotka-Flynn, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Fiona Stapleton, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Abby Kroken, OD, FAAO
- Carol Lakkis, Bsc Optom, PhD, FAAO
- Elmer Tu, MD
- Eduardo Alfonso, MD
- Robin Chalmers, OD, FAAO
- Mark Wilcox, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Nicole Carnt, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Charlotte Joslin, OD, PhD, FAAO
- Oliver Schein, MD
- Eric Pearlman, PhD
- Sarah Collier, MPH
- Deborah Jacobs, MD

Collectively this group represented clinical and academic optometry, ophthalmology, basic science, microbiology, immunology, and public health incorporating the CDC.

One of the driving forces in choosing this topic, was the myopia control movement, where children wear contact lenses very early in life, yet practitioners monitoring these children have almost no information of their risk for infection. What we do know is that the risk of true microbial keratitis in contact lens wearers has not changed over many years, despite the advancement of new materials and modalities. The incidence of microbial keratitis during strict daily contact lens wear is about one in every 5,000 wearers, for all lens wearers combined the incidence remains at one in every 2,500 wearers, and during extended wear it rises dramatically to one in every 500 soft lens wearers.

Although we don’t have data that daily disposable lenses have reduced the incidence of microbial keratitis, there is good data documenting that in the category of severe microbial keratitis, there is a significantly lower risk of corneal infection with daily disposable lenses compared to reusable lenses, and this reduction in risk remains even when other risky variables are controlled.

The Think Tank outlined ongoing risks of rare severe eye infections, most commonly acanthamoeba, and fungi, concentrating on direct exposure to water or through swimming, showering or not drying hands, and case contamination. But much is missing in the contact lens literature. There is very little North American data and no solid information on the theoretical risk reduction one would expect to see with the daily disposable lenses including the newest daily disposable silicone hydrogel lens types. As microbial keratitis is such a rare disease, specific study designs such as case-control studies or registries would be required on a collaborative level. These are expensive and difficult studies that do not appeal to funding agencies. The Academy is seeking ways to alleviate these concerns so that the community has the proper data to pursue and promote the safest lenses amongst our contact lens wearing patients, and most importantly children. Stay tuned for an in-depth review of the entire Think Tank in an upcoming Academy publication.
Visit The Exhibit Hall With It All!

Exciting social events, professional networking opportunities, places to relax and recharge, and more – Academy 2020 Nashville’s exhibit hall will be better than ever! With an expected 180 exhibiting companies in attendance, there will be countless opportunities to discover the latest and greatest innovations the optometry field has to offer. Whether you decide to peruse the hall in search of new ways to enhance your practice, watch a compelling, information-packed Vision Theater session in a theater constructed right on the exhibits floor, or simply sit back and relax at one of the many recharge lounges, Academy 2020 Nashville’s exhibit hall will have something for everyone to enjoy.

Here are a few highlights to add to your schedule this year. Stay tuned for other exciting events and activities to be announced in the coming months.

Exhibit Hall Welcome Reception
There is nothing that captures the excitement of the first day of the annual meeting quite like the grand opening of our expansive exhibit hall. Kick-off the grand opening with appetizers, drinks and networking while you revel in the excitement of one of the first events of Academy 2020 Nashville.

Academy Vision Theater Sessions
These informative 40-minute programs are conducted by exhibitors in a specially constructed theater right on the exhibits floor! Covering an array of topics from bettering your practice management to new advancements in disease treatment, attending one of the Academy’s Vision Theater sessions will be a must during Academy 2020 Nashville.

Puppies and Pilates
Back by popular demand, the Academy will be partnering with the Pixel Fund to bring the Puppies and Pilates event to the Academy’s meeting once again! All puppies are looking for their furever homes and can be adopted right on the show floor. Stop by to speak with the Pixel Fund team to learn more about the fantastic work they do, adopt a puppy or just say hello to the adorable pups!
Academy Chapters

Chapter events are subject to change due to the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please contact your local Academy Chapter with any questions regarding scheduled events.

Arizona Chapter
The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry held their Annual Spring Meeting at Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry on Saturday, March 7. Six hours of COPE accredited continuing education was offered to attendees including multiple neuro-optometry lectures by keynote speaker Mark Sawamura, OD, FAAO. In addition, a lecture covering modern surgical techniques was given by a local glaucoma specialist. Grand Rounds highlighted uniquely challenging cases managed by new and established Arizona Fellows of the Academy. Save the date for the Chapter’s fall meeting on September 19, 2020.

Florida Chapter
The Florida Chapter will hold its 2020 meeting on April 17-18 in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida. Five hours of CE and six hours of TQ/CE will be offered, including the new Florida CE requirement on Human Trafficking. Featured speakers will include Drs. Joe Pizzimenti, Julie Tyler, and John McClane. For more information contact Dr. Art Young at eyeguy4123@msn.com.

Illinois Chapter
The Illinois Chapter had a successful Rosenbloom Rounds in January featuring four of our new fellows presenting cases that they used to obtain their fellowship. It was a fantastic evening of interesting case presentations and discussion, hosted by Naper Grove Vision Care. Be on the lookout for information about our next Rosenbloom rounds in the spring.

Maine Chapter
The Maine Chapter president, Laura Dowd, and treasurer, Luke Cyr, were joined at Academy 2019 Orlando by the two VA Maine residents, Abigail Héroth and Lindsay Michaud. Both residents plan to pursue Fellowship.

New Jersey Chapter
The New Jersey Chapter has planned upcoming continuing education lectures, with gourmet buffet dinners, which will be held at Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune, NJ from 7 to 9 PM on May 13 and November 18, 2020. Dinners are complimentary for NJAO Chapter members who are current on their 2020 Chapter dues. The Chapter has also planned their all day Annual Summer Seminar for Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at Jumping Brook Country Club. This seminar will offer six CE credits and all lecture topics are forthcoming. Interested in attending these events or becoming a member? Contact njoptomacademy@gmail.com.

Pictured from left to right: Faustino Santiago, OD, FAAO, Erica Troyer, OD, FAAO, Mallory McLaughlin, OD, FAAO, Shelby Rogers, OD, FAAO, and Olivia Steinberg, OD, FAAO.

Pictured from left to right: Luke Cyr, OD, FAAO, Lindsay Michaud, OD, Abigail Héroth, OD, and Laura Dowd, OD, FAAO.
Nova Southeastern University Student Chapter

Nova Southeastern University was well represented at Academy 2019 Orlando. We had 49 outstanding students receive their Student Fellowship. Several of our faculty, residents and students participated in the Lectures and Workshops program and authored posters at the poster session. Two of our faculty, Dr. Tiana Berezu and Dr. Samantha McIntosh, successfully earned their Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry.

University of Montreal Student Chapter

The Student Chapter had a ceremony for the 34 new Student Fellows who attended the Academy for the first time this year in Orlando. They received their certificates and pins at the ceremony. The Chapter has also been organizing fundraisers to raise money for the Student Giving Matching Travel Grants with the goal of raising enough money to award two students with a $750 grant each to attend Academy 2020 Nashville. This past month, the Chapter organized a Paint and Wine event through a sponsorship. 40 students attended the workshop which was lead by an artist and the students got to take their work of art back home to hang on their walls!


2019 Salus University students who earned their Student Fellowship at Academy 2019 Orlando.

Academy board member Dr. Jeff Walline and Academy Student Chapter advisor Dr. Greg Nixon honor the Ohio State University’s record setting 49 students who achieved their Student Fellowship at this past year’s Academy meeting in Orlando. Congratulations to all on this significant achievement and commitment to lifelong learning!
President’s Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we round the corner away from the cold winter into spring and begin to plan for our summer vacations and other adventures ahead, I wanted to share with you exciting news from the Foundation. With the help of many across the organization and profession, the Foundation has been working hard to develop short- and long-term planning, which has led to several exciting new initiatives. These new initiatives enable several strategic goals of the Academy and provide new opportunities to support individuals, our organization and our profession in new ways.

Briefly, these initiatives include (1) providing first of its kind financial support to foster the transition of more clinically trained individuals into academic optometry, (2) pilot and partnership research opportunities to explore important issues impacting patient care, (3) methods to make research and its insights more attainable to us all in our busy lives, (4) methods to advance and empower our staff, and (5) methods to foster the creative transition of ideas into improvements in clinical care.

Over the coming weeks we will be providing more details on these exciting new initiatives in more communications, so please be on the lookout. As you might expect, we will need your continued help in making these new initiatives successful. Please continue to consider donating your time, talents and money in support of the Foundation. Also, please consider connecting the Foundation with individuals in your “circle” (of friends and colleagues) who might be willing to consider joining the Foundation’s circle of donors in making these initiatives impactful in advancing the future of patient care.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Pete Kollbaum, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, AAOF

New Foundation Board Member

Please join the Foundation in welcoming the newly appointed board member for the 2019-2020 term.

April Jasper, OD, FAAO

Dr. April Jasper graduated from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry with highest honors in 1995. Her family of six (awesome husband, two beautiful children and two dogs) live in West Palm Beach, Florida. Dr. Jasper completed her residency in primary care, ocular disease and contact lenses in Boston, Massachusetts where she also held a position as adjunct professor at the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Jasper has served her patients and colleagues as president of the Florida Optometric Association 2016-2017. She continues to share her knowledge and expertise around the world authoring numerous publications, lecturing and as chief editor of Optometric Management magazine.
Ezell Fellow Update –
Kelsy Steele, OD, MS, FAAO

I have had a wonderful experience during my time as a 2019-2020 William C. Ezell Fellowship awardee. Academy 2019 Orlando was particularly meaningful for me as I became a Fellow of the Academy and was recognized as an Ezell fellow by both the Foundation and the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies. This honor has provided me with additional mentorship from previous Ezell awardees and supporters of the Foundation, the opportunity to attend professional meetings and financial support. During my award period, I have had the opportunity to attend multiple professional conferences, contribute to optometric publications and speak at my first conference outside of the United States.

On the research front, I was recently awarded funding for a collaborative project I designed in which I will partner with another department at my institution. Additionally, I am part of a Fellows Doing Research SIG team that just received institutional approval for a multi-site, survey-based contact lens study. Over the next few months, I will complete my collaborative project and submit an abstract to present the initial data at Academy 2020 Nashville. I will also finalize the plan for my candidacy exam, which represents the half-way point in completing my PhD training. I am deeply grateful to the Foundation for their support as I work to become an independent vision scientist and optometric educator.

Getting Involved:
President’s Circle

Andrew Pucker, OD, PhD, FAAO

I decided to contribute to the Foundation as a President’s Circle member so I can help other young clinician-scientists propel their careers forward and be more easily able to partake in the career path that I have grown to love. The support and recognition I have received through the Foundation’s Ezell program has been instrumental in the success of my academic optometry career. The Ezell program has created multiple networking opportunities and allowed me to form new research collaborations. It has helped me obtain new funding opportunities and it has allowed me to make some lifelong friends.

If you’ve not done so, I encourage you to consider joining. You can learn more by emailing Bob Gray, Development Director 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

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Editor: Kayla Ritten, MBA, Orlando, FL

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