The culturally and historically rich city of New Orleans, Louisiana, will host Academy 2015 New Orleans, the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry on October 7-10, 2015. While visitors to the city expect to enjoy the jazz and “bon temps” of the city, attendees at the Academy meeting expect exceptional education at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

On Wednesday, October 7 from 12 – 2 PM, the Plenary Session “Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice®: Recognizing and Treating Ocular Melanomas,” features the world-renowned team of Carol Shields, MD, and Jerry Shields, MD, who head the Oncology Service at Wills Eye Hospital. The service is the largest eye cancer center in the country and has helped Wills achieve their prestigious ranking each year among the top eye centers in the country. The group delivers unique radiotherapy and chemotherapy to a variety of eye tumors for patients from all parts of the world. The Shields team has authored over 9 textbooks, 300 chapters in textbooks and 1,000 original peer reviewed articles. Both Carol and Jerry are the recipients of numerous awards including Jerry receiving the 2014 American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Laureate Award, the Academy’s highest honor.

The session will highlight how to differentiate between suspicious and non-suspicious pigmented and amelanotic lesions. The consequences in missing these lesions are significant. New treatment and management options including clinical trials using chemotherapeutic agents will be shared. Please don’t miss this unique opportunity to hear from the most respected oncology group in the world. Be sure to select this session when registering for the meeting.

Another not-to-be-missed event at Academy 2015 New Orleans is the inaugural joint symposium of the Academy and the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The first-ever joint educational program is scheduled to take place at our annual meeting in New Orleans, with the identical program to be repeated at the American Academy of Ophthalmology annual meeting.

Keep Your Eye on Academy 2015 New Orleans!
in Las Vegas in November. This inaugural program is the result of a collaborative effort to support joint educational initiatives. Evidence-based pediatric eye care will be addressed by Donald Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO, Bruce Moore, OD, FAAO, and Susan Cotter, OD MS, FAAO, and American Academy of Ophthalmology representatives Jonathan Holmes, MD, Mary Lou Collins, MD, and Jean Ramsey, MD. This alliance collaboration is the first effort by the two Academy organizations to work together to better prepare and support their members in delivering the highest quality eye care. The 2-hour program is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 9 at 2 PM.

Thursday morning, the scientific reporting continues with Hot Topics presentations in various areas of eye and vision research and the Monroe J. Hirsch Research Symposium. The topic for the 2015 Hirsch Symposium is “Research Matters: How Research Changed Practice.” The symposium will give a bird’s eye view into the steps required to transition from bench to bedside including the key target areas that drive laboratory-based research and the establishment of diagnostic methodologies to not only test for, but also monitor therapeutic and post-operative response. Speakers will include Lucia Sobrin, MD, MPH, who will lead a discussion about the impact of the growing field of molecular genetics on patient care and clinical outcomes. Matthew Petroll, PhD, will present his work on the development and clinical implementation of ophthalmic imaging devices, with an emphasis on confocal microscopy, including data he acquired from the first confocal microscope ever used to image the human cornea. Finally, Andrew Lee, MD, will speak about the impact of clinical trials, focusing on the results of the Optic Neuritis Treatment Trial and how it has influenced current practice patterns.

Ezell Presents 2015 is “Tackling Traumatic Brain Injury.” Three investigators at different stages of their careers, who were supported early on by receiving AOF Ezell Fellowships, will focus on how retinal and visual function is affected by traumatic brain injury. New measures to quantify traumatic brain injury recovery will also be discussed so that clinicians can make more educated decisions as to whether or not an athlete is ready to return to play. Speakers include Kristine Dalton, OD, PhD, FAAO, of the University of Waterloo, and Andrew Hartwick, OD, PhD, FAAO, of the Ohio State University College of Optometry.

If you are wondering how you can participate in this year’s meeting in New Orleans, it’s not too late! The submission for the Scientific Program’s paper and poster presentations will take place May 1 - May 29. For guidelines to submit, please visit the Academy website at www.aaopt.org.

Earn CE with Academy Online Education

The Academy’s Live Learning Center connects you to educational session recordings from past American Academy of Optometry annual meetings. If you missed a particular presentation or could not make it to the conference, here is your chance to catch up on the sessions you were unable to experience live.

Members can access complimentary session recordings from Academy 2014 Denver, as well as the previous five meetings. Nonmembers who attended the Academy meeting can also access session recordings for $99 and nonmembers who did not attend the meeting can access recordings for $149.


What is Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF)?

The MOF bylaws amendment was passed at the Academy’s 2009 annual meeting in Orlando. This amendment states that Fellows inducted at or after Academy 2010 Boston must meet the MOF requirements every 10 years in order to maintain Fellowship in the Academy. This initiative was designed to ensure that all Fellows remain dedicated to professional growth.

Each Fellow is required to obtain 15 points during each 10 year period after Fellowship is earned. Points can be earned in a variety of ways including attending the Academy’s annual meeting (3 points), attending CE at the Academy’s meeting (1 point/2 hours of CE), or authoring an article in one of the peer reviewed journals approved by the Academy (up to 4 points).

A full explanation of the points can be found on the MOF homepage at http://www.aaopt.org/fellows/mof, as well as a link where you can check your MOF progress.
For those of you who frequent the President’s Post Banquet Reception during the annual meeting, you are well aware of the musical talents of Chris Johnson, PhD, DSc, FAAO, and the lovely songstresses of the Academy (Helen Viksnins) and American Optometric Foundation (Tracy Kitts), among others. For those of you who are not familiar, it is tradition for Dr. Johnson to fill the evening with renditions of eye or vision-related songs on the piano. For Denver, Dr. Johnson wrote a personal song in tribute to Bernie Dolan’s term as Academy President using the lyrics of “Barney Google.” Although the song wasn’t ultimately shared at the reception, it was his desire to share it with the Academy membership as his tribute to Dr. Dolan.

Dr. Dolan (left) and Dr. Johnson (right) singing at the Academy 2010 San Francisco President’s Post Banquet Reception.

Bernie Dolan, he will take care of your eyes.
Bernie Dolan, his exam is very wise.
He can make your vision great.
And you’ll never have to wait.
Bernie Dolan, he is really quite a prize.

Bernie Dolan, he has led the Academy.
Bernie Dolan, we’re as pleased as we can be.
When the World Series was done,
He found out his Giants won.
Bernie Dolan, he’s a hands down MVP.

Bernie Dolan, he’s had a busy couple of years
Bernie Dolan, he’s overcome all of his fears.
He’s got everything all set.
And our future’s a good safe bet.
Bernie Dolan, we owe him a few beers.

Bernie Dolan, his time is nearly through.
Bernie Dolan, we are grateful for all you do.
Now it’s time to jump the fence
And leave it for Dr. Brett Bence
Bernie Dolan, our hats are off to you.

Bernie Dolan, it’s time to say goodbye
Bernie Dolan, the time did really fly.
We appreciate all that you do.
So, thank you thank you, and thank you.
Bernie Dolan, what a most amazing guy!

Place Your Nominations for the 2015 Academy Annual Awards by April 1

It’s time to send in nominations for the Academy 2015 New Orleans Awards! The distinction, knowledge and expertise of the nominees and candidates continue to get better with each passing year. Help make Academy 2015 New Orleans the best it can be by nominating your colleagues who have made significant contributions to optometry, and who deserve to be recognized and honored for their achievements.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2015. Full information about the various awards can be found on the Academy’s website at http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2015/Awards. Nominations consist of a nomination letter, a seconding letter and the curriculum vitae of the individual being nominated. Please email these materials to Helen Viksnins, Senior Director of Programs, at HelenV@aaoptom.org. The Awards Committee will select the nominees from all submissions.

Be sure to identify the specific major accomplishments of the nominee in the opening paragraph so that the Awards Committee will be apprised of their primary contributions from the beginning of the nomination package. In particular, those accomplishments that are most directly related to the specific award should be emphasized. Also, please remember that candidates who did not receive the awards in the previous few years can be re-nominated. This is not just a one-time, one-year process. Existing letters and curriculum vitae information from the prior year can be used again, or a new set of letters and curriculum vitae material can be submitted to indicate recent progress. The Awards Committee will contact the primary nominee to determine which option they would like to select, and a complete package will be prepared for the candidate.

Academy 2015 New Orleans is shaping up to be an outstanding meeting, and we appreciate your effort and assistance in making the 2015 Awards Ceremony a true highlight. Let the nominating begin!
The collective goal of all members of the Scientific Program Committee is to bring their wide range of expertise when evaluating the large number of research and case-based abstracts, and constructing a coherent and quality driven program pertinent to both practicing optometrists and researchers.

I would like to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the strong leadership over the last several years of the outgoing Chair, Dr. Michael Twa. His significant contributions will be missed.

After several years as a committee member, Dr. Andrew Mick has been appointed to the position of Chair. The other members of the committee include Drs. David Berntsen, Andrew Hartwick, Charlotte Joslin, Sruthi Srinivasan, Michael Sullivan-Mee, Suresh Viswanathan and Eric Weissberg. With their diverse scientific knowledge and clinical expertise, each of the committee members brings his/her own unique perspectives and strength to the scientific program planning process.

Last year, the committee reviewed a total 638 abstracts, of which 492 were accepted for presentation at the annual meeting in Denver. Of those accepted, approximately 23% were delivered as talks. Feedback from attendees indicated that the quality of the scientific presentations were very good and attendance was high in the scientific paper sessions, especially in the “Hot Topic” sessions and the Thursday evening poster event. In recognition of the need for enhanced traffic control at the evening poster session, the Scientific Program Committee has secured a much larger and more open space within the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

The Scientific Program Committee has introduced many new initiatives over the last several years. These include “Hot Topic” paper sessions organized at unopposed times, the introduction of prominent members from the clinical and research community as keynote speakers for paper sessions, the ability to acquire continuing education credits in 15-minute increments and finally the granting of a certificate of special recognition to the best scientific presentation from a student or resident.

The Scientific Program serves as a forum for scientists and clinicians to exchange the latest ideas in optometry and vision science. However, the success of the program ultimately depends on the quality and quantity of the submissions. The committee strongly encourages all optometrists and vision scientists, including students and residents, to submit abstracts for research papers, posters and clinical case reports. The submissions window for Academy 2015 New Orleans is from May 1 through May 29, 2015. As a bonus, all presenting first authors (excluding students and residents) get to register at reduced rates of $100 off full meeting registration! For further information go to http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2015/SciProg.

2014 Best Student Scientific Program Presentation

The Academy Scientific Program Committee is pleased to recognize Ziwei Wu for the Best Student Scientific Program Presentation: How Do Blinking and Tear Secretion Respond To Ocular Surface Stimulation?

This recognition was selected from more than 600 scientific submissions. The top 10 candidate submissions were identified by the committee during reviews at the annual planning meeting in July. Final selection of the 2014 Best Student Scientific Program Presentation was based on the author’s presentation of their work at this meeting. The Scientific Program Committee congratulates each of the candidates selected for this recognition, who made this a difficult decision.

“It was a great honor to present my work at Academy 2014 Denver and to receive this prestigious recognition. It has given me tremendous encouragement to continue to pursue a career in eye research and its applications to clinical practice.”

- Ziwei Wu, PhD Student, Indiana University
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See product instructions for complete wear, care and safety information.

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Hotels for Academy 2015 New Orleans

Hilton New Orleans Riverside (Headquarters Hotel)
2 Poydras Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $239/night
**Highlights:** This riverfront hotel is situated next to Harrah’s Casino, steps from famous New Orleans streetcar lines, a few blocks away from the French Quarter, and on the banks of the Mississippi River.

New Orleans Marriott at the Convention Center
859 Convention Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $229/night; Triple: $249/night; Quad: $269/night
**Highlights:** This riverfront hotel is housed in a renovated 19th century cotton mill and is located in the vibrant Arts District, near top New Orleans attractions such as the French Quarter, Harrah’s Casino, and more.

New Orleans Marriott
555 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $229/night; Triple: $259/night; Quad: $289/night
**Highlights:** This hotel is located in the heart of the French Quarter and includes a fitness center and pool.

*Note that this is a government per diem rate hotel, and as such the rate can change as of October 1, 2015. Meeting attendees must show Government ID to receive the special government per diem rate. Please note that while the Academy works to secure as many government rate rooms as possible, there are a limited number available at this rate.*

Doubletree Hotel New Orleans (Government Hotel)*
300 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $154 (or approved government per diem rate as of October 1, 2015)
**Highlights:** This hotel overlooks the Mississippi River and features a pool and fitness center. The AFOS meeting will take place at this hotel.

Marriott Springhill Suites (Student Hotel)**
301 St. Joseph Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $183/night; Triple: $203/night; Quad: $223/night
**Highlights:** This hotel is located in the Warehouse/Arts District and features an outdoor pool, complimentary high-speed Internet, and fitness center.

Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans (Student Hotel)**
1001 S. Peters Street, New Orleans, LA 70130
Single and Double: $185/night; Triple: $205/night; Quad: $225/night
**Highlights:** This hotel is located just steps from the convention center and offers a fitness center and rooftop swimming pool.

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

10 Reasons to Stay at a Contracted Hotel in New Orleans

10) The Academy has negotiated competitive rates for the contracted hotels.

9) In order to secure sleeping rooms for the annual meeting, the Academy signs contracts for a minimum number of room nights. If we do not fill our room block, financial penalties will be due to the hotels. This impacts the fiscal health of the Academy.

8) Sleeping room usage helps the Academy secure meeting space for education, committees and section functions. If we don’t use a minimum number of sleeping rooms, our future educational offerings will be limited.

7) Keep up with your home or office while you’re away by staying in one of the hotels’ guest sleeping rooms designed for the business traveler.

6) Take advantage of the networking opportunities – the “fellowship” and camaraderie that we value so much – by staying at a property with many of your colleagues.

5) Use the hotel concierge for great ideas on New Orleans nightlife and sightseeing! It could be your best resource.

4) Get your exercise in the hotel’s gym or fitness center, or enjoy the many dining and entertainment options near the convention center.

3) Become captivated by the charm of New Orleans just outside of your room by staying at our contracted hotels.

2) Many of the Academy contracted hotels are in the heart of downtown New Orleans. You’ll be on the riverfront, just steps away from a plethora of shopping and dining options.

1) The contracted hotels are a short walking distance away from the convention center. Attend product information breakfasts and a variety of post education social events within easy walk!
Let the Good Times Roll in New Orleans!

Imagine a city where cultures collide in a brilliant explosion of flavors, emotions, and sounds. Traditional, old-time jazz music enlivens the soul, the cuisine is incomparable, and the city’s charm captivates.

New Orleans is the birthplace of jazz, home to Creole cuisine and rich with history and culture. It is centrally located with a walkable downtown and world class convention facilities. With more than $1.57 billion worth of improvements to the city in 2013, New Orleans remains an authentic destination, a place like no other. It’s a place of chefs and delectable cuisine and a unique blend of French, Spanish, Caribbean and African cultural influences in our architecture, food, people and music.

New Orleans combines big city choices with small town friendliness. Your exploration of the many sensory extravagances that endure in the unique city of New Orleans begins at Academy 2015 New Orleans. Enjoy the journey and laissez les bons temps rouler – let the good times roll!

Academy 2015 New Orleans Exhibitors (as of Feb. 2015)

ABB Optical Group
Abbott Medical Optics
AccuLens Inc.
Acuity Pro/VisionScience Software, Inc
Advanced Ocular Care
Alcon
Alden Optical
Allergan
American Academy of Optometry
American Optometric Foundation
Annidis Health Systems
Art Optical Contact Lens Inc.
Bausch + Lomb
Brien Holden Vision Institute
Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.
Carl Zeiss Vision, Inc
CooperVision, Inc.
Designs for Vision
DGH Technology, Inc.
Diagnosys LLC
Eschenbach Optik of America
Essilor of America
Good Lite
Haag-Streit/Reliance USA
HAI Laboratories, Inc.
Heidelberg Engineering
Heine
Hoya Vision Care
HumanWare
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
Keeler Instruments
Marco
Menicon
Ocular Melanoma Foundation
Ocular Nutrition Society
Oculus, Inc.
PentaVision LLC
Practice Director
Precision Vision
Reichert, Inc.
Stereo Optical
Synergeyes
TearLab, Corp.
TearScience
Topcon Medical Systems, Inc.
Tru-Form Optics
Unilens Corporation
VOLK Optical
VSP Global
VSP Global/Vision Care
VSP Optics Group
2015 Section and SIG Symposia

Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG: The Future of Optometrists in Academic Medicine
Understanding the working relationship between ophthalmologists and optometrists is vital to the growth and survival of optometrists in academic medical settings. The 2015 AMCO symposium will focus on creating healthy work environments for optometrists at these institutions. The session will focus on topics of academic growth and support for this growing field.

Anterior Segment Section: Controversies and Evolutions in the Management of Corneal Infectious Disease
This session will include the introduction and review of the changing landscape of corneal infectious disease. Old controversies, such as utilization of empiric versus culture driven treatment strategies and use of corticosteroids will be reviewed through the prism of antimicrobial resistance, and new trends such as increasingly common clinical appearance of Herpes Zoster in the healthy adult population and the use of corneal cross linking as an antimicrobial strategy will be considered. Speakers include Paul Karpecki, OD, FAAO; Joseph Shovlin, OD, FAAO; Christine Sindt, OD, FAAO; and Michael DePaolis, OD, FAAO.

Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Section: ARVO/AAO Joint Symposium: Visual Neural Plasticity: Cells to Systems
Neural plasticity refers to the reorganization of neural pathways and synapses in the brain as the result of perceptual and motor learning experiences. Because most synaptic circuitry development is known to occur in the first few years of life, it was assumed that neural synapses were unalterable after his time – hence, the clinical dogma that vision anomalies such as amblyopia and oculomotor disorders were untreatable beyond early childhood. However, in recent years there have been major scientific breakthroughs to support clinical observations that neural plasticity continues beyond early childhood and even into adulthood. Using a cells to systems approach, four leading scientists will present their cutting-edge research pertaining to neural plasticity of the visual system. Speakers include moderator Tawna Roberts, OD, MS, FAAO; R. Douglas Fields, PhD; Benjamin Thompson, PhD; Tara Alvarez, PhD; and Michael Earley, OD, PhD, FAAO.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies: Layers, Lenses and Lasers
This session will cover innovations in the application of laser light technologies to refractive and corneal surgery. Tentative speakers include Jeffrey Krohn, OD, FAAO; Ronald Kreuger, MD, and Jane Weiss, MD.

Glaucoma Section: Evidence Based Decision Making in the Management of the Open Angle Suspect
Management of the open angle glaucoma suspect poses many clinical challenges. Using a panel of national experts, this course will present evidence-based strategies to optimize care for this group of patients. Features that aid differentiation of the physiological cup from a suspicious optic nerve will be delineated. The use of risk factors, functional testing and advanced structural imaging will be explained. Clinical cases will then be presented and opened to comment for the panelists. Speakers include Richard Madonna, MA, OD, FAAO; Denise Pensyl, OD, MS, FAAO; Anthony Litwak, OD, FAAO; and John McSoley, OD.

Low Vision Section: Update on the Preferred Retinal Locus: What We Have Learned About Visual Function and the Development of this Pseudofovea in the Context of Macular Disease?
The majority of patients in the U.S. with low vision suffer from macular disease. In cases where the fovea of each eye become non-functional, the visual system creates a new pseudo-fovea, the preferred retinal locus (PRL). It has been over thirty years since the PRL was first described in the literature, and our understanding of how a PRL is developed, the visual potential of the PRL, and how to optimize a patient’s PRL has greatly expanded. In this symposium, we discuss the developments in our understanding of the PRL, and how to best utilize this knowledge to improve the visual function of the low vision patient. Speakers include David Lewerenz, OD, FAAO; Russell Woods, PhD, MCOptom, FAAO; Susana Chung, OD, PhD, FAAO; Kristina Visscher, PhD; and Nicole Ross, OD, MSc, FAAO.

Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG; 2015 Lawrence Gray Symposium on Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders
This symposium begins with practical information about neuro-imaging, including types of tests, when each is warranted, and specifics regarding how to properly order the testing. This segues into the remainder of the symposium, which uses a case-based format to provide updates on important neuro-ophthalmology topics that the optometrist might see on the front line, many of which will require neuro-imaging. The presentation of each characteristic case is followed by a mini-lecture on what’s new in that topic. This symposium is clinically relevant with much practical information that can be immediately applied to daily practice. Speakers include Leonard Messner, OD, FAAO; Tina Porzukowiak, OD, FAAO; Nancy Newman, MD; and Valerie Bioussé, MD.
Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Wellness SIG: The Role of Carotenoids in Visual Performance and Cognition
This panel style discussion will feature the latest research regarding the dietary carotenoids with respect to visual performance (temporal / visual motor processing) and cognitive processing. We will also feature a discussion regarding carotenoids across the life cycle beginning with in utero visual and neurological development. The program will conclude with practical clinical application to patient care including nutrition and supplementation recommendations for patients. Speakers include Kimberly Reed, OD, FAAO; A. Paul Chous, MA, OD, FAAO; Lisa Renzi, PhD, Dennis Ruskin, OD, FAAO; and Stuart Richer, OD, PhD, FAAO.

Optometric Education Section: Effective Clinical Teaching: What’s the Best Evidence?
This symposium will review the evidence, theory and practice, related to key factors that promote effective and efficient learning in a clinic. Dr. Littlefield will describe methods to increase feedback-seeking by students and feedback-giving by faculty. Dr. Talley will describe her use of these methods with medical students in a psychiatry clinical clerkship. Speakers include Chris Woodruff, OD, FAAO; Meredith Whiteside, OD, FAAO; John Littlefield, PhD, and Brenda Talley, MD.

Primary Care Section: Innovative Optometry: Light, Technology, Telemedicine and the Future
The year 2015 is the International Year of Light, a cross-disciplinary educational and outreach project with more than 100 partners from over 85 countries. The science and applications of light creates revolutionary technologies that directly improve quality of life worldwide. This symposium highlights the current trends in ophthalmic technology exposing both the value and limitations of such innovations. A look at Smartphone applications, telemicine, and the automated ocular examination will be discussed. The symposium seeks to provoke the discussion, “With the automation of the optometric examination, what is the role of the optometrist, and are we ready for the future?” Speakers include Tina Porzukowiak, OD, FAAO; Nicole Putnam, MS, PhD; Kirk Smick, OD, FAAO; Charles Kinnaird, OD, FAAO; Anastas Pass, OD, MS, FAAO; and Scot Morris, OD, FAAO.

Public Health and Environmental Vision Section: Global Health and Emerging Diseases 2015
The distinguished faculty of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine will panel a program on “Global Health Issues 2015.” Centered on Dean Pierre Bueken’s overview, leaders in worldwide nutrition and the Ebola epidemic will add their specific expertise to the discussion, highlighted by new information on Ebola’s effect on the eyes. Discussion to follow may center around climate change and its impact on other diseases that affect the eye. Speakers include Jeffrey L. Weaver, OD, FAAO; Pierre Buekens, MD; John Mason, PhD; and Susan McLellan, MD.

Retina SIG: Diabetes: A Comprehensive Team Approach
Diabetes is a multifactorial disease that affects all aspects of our patients’ health, reaching well beyond the eye. A multidisciplinary faculty panel consisting of specialists in endocrinology, retina, and optometry will provide a practical and interactive educational program focusing on diabetes. Speakers include Steven Ferrucci, OD, FAAO, A. Paul Chous, MA, OD, FAAO; Mandeep Brar, MD; and Michael Tolentino, MD.

Vision in Aging SIG and Public Health and Environmental Vision Section: Aging in the International Year of Light
This symposium brings together a diverse group of experts to highlight how light impacts the lives of older adults. Dr. Lewis will review the myriad of new bulb and illumination designs concentrating on LED. Dr. Werner will review the changes in light perception that occur with the aging eye including reduced retinal illumination. Dr. Figueiro will discuss lighting options to improve the functioning of older adults during active hours as well as improving the sleep wake cycle. Dr. Flanagan will present his research into new technologies for mirrors, windows, night vision driving systems. Speakers include Sue Leat, PhD, FAAO, FCOptom; Alan Lewis, OD, PhD, FAAO; Jack Werner, PhD; Mariana Figueiro, PhD; and Michael Flanagan, PhD.

Vision Science Section and Low Vision Section: New Approaches to Rehabilitation of Visual Field Loss after Brain Damage
Visual field loss, such as hemianopia, is a common consequence of stroke and traumatic brain injury (TBI), which can cause difficulties in many aspects of daily life, including reading, watching television, walking and driving. Effective rehabilitation is essential to maintaining independence and quality of life. The goal of this symposium is to provide clinicians and vision scientists with up-to-date knowledge about new developments relevant to the assessment and rehabilitation of patients with visual field loss following brain damage. Speakers include Joanne Wood, OD, FAAO; Nicole Ross, OD, MSc, FAAO; Denise Goodwin, OD, FAAO; Russell Woods, MCOptom, PhD, FAAO; Alex Bowers, PhD, FAAO, MCOptom; Alison Lane, PhD; and Krystel Huxlin, PhD.
Academy Announces 2014 Career Development Awardee

The Academy is pleased to announce Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD, FAAO, as the inaugural Career Development Award recipient. The Academy will provide a maximum of $50,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years, potentially renewable once for a total of up to four years of funding. The Ohio State University College of Optometry will provide matching funds, dollar for dollar, up to $50,000 per year for each year of funding.

Dr. VanNasdale was selected from a pool of applicants by an Academy committee based on the potential for growth and future major extramural funding. The goal of his project is to identify pathological changes in the retina associated with diabetes and link those changes to early functional vision loss.

“It is an extraordinary honor to be the inaugural recipient of the American Academy of Optometry Career Development Award,” says VanNasdale. “With this, we will be able to expand our lab’s resources and develop new, multi-disciplinary collaborations that include expertise in patient care, optical engineering, and visual function. I am enthusiastic about this project and believe this award will help further our goal of developing and exploring techniques for early detection of pathological changes in sight-threatening retinal disease.”

At Ohio State, VanNasdale established a research program centered on advanced imaging of the eye, which builds upon his existing body of research on photoreceptor and microvascular changes in normal aging, age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Dr. VanNasdale has been a Fellow of the Academy since 2009.

For more information about the Career Development Award or other funding opportunities, visit www.aaopt.org/fellows/awards.

Glaucoma Section Launches Diplomate Program

In November 2014 the Glaucoma Section of the Academy was born. The primary mission of the Glaucoma Section is to promote excellence in the care of patients with glaucoma by developing evidence-based educational activities, fostering original research endeavors, and promoting inter-disciplinary collaboration.

Through the fusion of clinicians, educators, and researchers who share a common passion in the area of glaucoma, the Section provides the leadership and mentorship that is necessary to enhance and optimize clinical management of glaucoma throughout the optometric profession.

Applications are now being accepted from all Fellows who are interested in the enormous professional growth and the wide range of benefits that the Glaucoma Diplomate program offers.

Please visit the Academy website at http://www.aaopt.org/glaucoma-section-many-benefits-becoming-diplomate to learn more about the program, read the program guide, and access the program application.
2015 Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight™ Program

Under the leadership of Mert Flom, OD, PhD, FAAO, twenty-eight optometrists, representing different segments of the profession met from 1991 to 1994 to consider the rapid changes taking place in optometry. The focus of their discussions was to identify ways to deal with these changes proactively and effectively. Subsequently, the group recommended forming a leadership program.

Dr. Flom was not only an outstanding vision scientist, clinician and educator; he was also a visionary with a passion for leadership. With his passing in February 2010, the profession and the Academy lost a giant in optometry. In memory of him and his inspiration to us all, the Academy was proud to name the program in his honor. This year marks the 22nd year that Leadership InSight™ courses will be offered at our annual meeting.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART I:
What is Leadership?

Wednesday, October 7th
8:00 am – 11:00 am
$50 fee (Students $10)

Regardless of position, everyone can benefit from learning about leadership and how to bring about change through leadership. Part I of this course will focus on the topics such as definitions of leadership, the differences between leadership and management, traits and characteristics of leadership, and using leadership to influence organizational culture. Part I of this course also discusses individual strengths and different leadership styles.

Enrollment is limited to 50 people.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART II:
Putting Leadership into Action

Thursday, October 8th
8:00 am – 11:00 am
$50 fee (Students $10)

Building upon the foundation of Part I of this course, Part II will examine the real world aspects of leadership and how to put leadership into action. This course will focus on Kotter’s model of leadership and how to use it to establish a vision, align people to that vision, and motivate them to stay with the vision. The course will also include a discussion of how communication can be used to support leadership efforts.

Note: Part I of this course is strongly recommended prior to taking Part II. If you have taken the Fundamentals of Leadership Course previously, Part II will also be a valuable refresher on how to actively practice leadership in everyday situations.

Enrollment is limited to 50 people.

INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP COURSE:
Leading Through the Challenge of Change

Thursday, October 8th
1:30 to 4:30 pm
$75 fee (Students $20)

Leading change is difficult. No matter where great change is imagined, the process and the struggle for every leader is guaranteed. Wherever your challenge to change exists, whether it is in your practice, your university, or your community organization, practical information on strategies to create and manage change will be offered. Discussion about different approaches to change and how to galvanize an organization around change will be presented in this course. This course will provide a combination of presentations, real life applications and group discussion sessions.

Enrollment is limited to 50 people.

We hope to see you at this year’s Leadership InSight™ courses!
Congratulations to the 2014 Class of Student Fellows!

The 2014 class of Student Fellows from the University of Montreal School of Optometry.

The 2014 class of Student Fellows from Salus University, Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Dr. Etty Bitton delivering the Student Fellowship Orientation at Academy 2014 Denver.

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Search for “American Academy of Optometry” in the Groups section.

www.youtube.com/AmerAcadofOptometry
Watch videos about all of the exciting events at Academy 2015 New Orleans!
Academy After Graduation: Becoming a Fellow

Amy Lam, AOSA National Liaison to AAO

With less than four months to graduation, there is much to be excited about. Congratulations to the class of 2015 on making it this far! The coveted letters “OD” will soon follow your name, but there is an opportunity to add even MORE letters to your signature. The American Academy of Optometry has a distinction known as “Fellow,” or “FAAO,” that is used to honor optometrists committed to practicing at the highest level of patient care.

Becoming a Fellow is more than extra acronyms, as it is the mark of a clinician who is willing to devote additional time to lifelong learning and going the extra mile. In order to become a Fellow, fifty points must be accumulated over three years (although the process can be completed sooner than that). Completion of residency fulfills a little under half the point requirement (20 points) and points can be earned in a variety of ways, from case reports, posters/papers, publications, and lectures (10 points each). The Candidate for Fellowship then sits for an oral exam at the Academy annual meeting. By doing these scholarly activities, one demonstrates their willingness to stay current with the literature and keep their clinical acumen proficient with updated treatment options. Though this may sound like additional work, the benefits of becoming a Fellow are invaluable.

As a Fellow, the external recognition and the internal fulfillment are the most obvious benefits, but there are other benefits that the Academy offers. As a licensed professional, a requirement to maintaining licensure is to accrue continuing education and one of the most prominent conferences for obtaining this CE is the annual Academy meeting. If one is a Fellow of the Academy, significantly discounted registration fees are offered. Fellows of the Academy can stay up to date throughout the year via a free subscription to Optometry & Vision Science, a peer-reviewed medical journal.

Finally, being a Fellow means the ability to join Sections or Special Interest Groups (SIGs). This is especially important for people who opt to specialize in a particular area, as it brings together practitioners who share similar interests within the field. These groups release their own newsletters throughout the year tailored to their interests and have their group-specific meetings and education at the annual meeting. For those who are interested, being a part of these groups also allows one to be involved in any upcoming research projects.

When we leave the doors of our respective institutions, by no means is our educational journey over. The changes in technology and treatment methods requires us to be informed practitioners so that we can provide the highest standard of care to our patients. The process of becoming a Fellow is a good way to transition into the continual learning process that occurs throughout our professional lives. The benefits, recognition, and sense of accomplishment that accompanies the “FAAO” distinction will make the entire process worth it. Up until the end of 2015, the membership fee to for new graduates to become a Fellow will be waived, so don’t hesitate and apply immediately after graduation!

Student Travel Fellowships for ARVO

Generously sponsored by

Thanks to a generous grant from Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc., the Academy will provide a number of $750 travel fellowships to students to attend the ARVO meeting to present their research.

The application window will be open from March 9-20, 2015 on the Academy’s website at www.aaopt.org/student-travel-fellowships.

Students MUST be a member of the American Academy of Optometry, be an optometry student or graduate student currently enrolled full-time, and have a paper or poster accepted by ARVO.

Travel fellowships are awarded based on accomplishments and potential in optometric research and education. Other criteria used by the reviewers include the applicant’s one page statement, the faculty evaluation, and the quality of the abstract. Each student may only be the recipient of one travel fellowship per meeting.

Please check the Academy’s website for more information!
Chapter News

Florida Chapter
The Florida Chapter will host its Annual Educational Meeting April 17-18, 2015 at The Mission Inn and Golf Club located in Howey-in-the-Hills, Florida. This event will feature speakers Joe Pizzimenti, OD, F AAO, Albert Woods, OD, MS, FAAO, and Timothy Underhill, OD. CEE hours as well as Medical Errors hours will be available. Also, a golf tournament precedes education on Friday morning. Contact Art Young, OD, F AAO, at eyeguy4123@msn.com for more information.

New Jersey Chapter
The New Jersey Chapter will be hosting its 13th annual Myrtle Beach Education Conference on April 22-25, 2015 where 16 CE credits will be provided by renowned speakers, Drs. Mark Friedberg and Alan Kabat. This meeting is open to all optometric colleagues and their staff. If you are interested in attending contact Dr. Dennis Lyons (732-920-0110). Proceeds of our educational events allow the Chapter to support educational endeavors of optometric institutions such as Salus University and SUNY. It is with pride that the New Jersey Chapter has contributed scholarship donations in excess of $190,000.

NOVA Student Chapter
Eighteen Nova Southeastern University optometry students completed all requirements for what it takes to become a Student Fellow at Academy 2014 Denver. The program teaches optometry students about posters and papers and requires them to attend continuing education lectures in order to foster further involvement and to encourage them to become a Fellow upon graduation. The chapter is very proud of the students who participated this year and is excited for another great year in New Orleans!

Tennessee Chapter
The Tennessee Chapter is co-sponsoring a scientific poster session with the Southern College of Optometry (SCO) as a part of their spring CE program in April 2015. The program will highlight some of SCO faculty’s latest research and interesting case reports. This poster session will allow participants the chance to enjoy lunch while viewing and discussing some of the faculty’s latest posters with the authors themselves.

Western University Student Chapter
The Western University Student Chapter held a fundraiser in 2014 that raised $430 in funds toward student travel fellowships for Academy 2015 New Orleans. The fundraiser featured a holiday photo session for $10 that included Drescher Claus (Robin Drescher, OD, MS, FAAO) and his helper, Buddy McElf (Bennett McAllister, OD, FAAO). The Chapter hopes to continue to raise funds to support student travel fellowships.

Scenes from Academy 2014 Denver

2014 Plenary Session on the Science of Cannabinoids

Bundled up attendees enjoying the warmth of the convention center

Dr. Brien Holden delivering the Charles F. Prentice Lecture

Residents enjoying the Residents Day poster session
Fellows Celebrate 25 and 50 Year Anniversaries

Class of 1965, 50 Years!

Dr. Howard A. Backman, Montreal, Canada
Dr. Richard J. Ball, Laingsburg, MI
Dr. John P. Borland, Annapolis, MD
Dr. James A. Boucher, Laramie, WY
Dr. Miriam S. Boyd, Vincennes, IN
Dr. J. L. Cahan, Boca Raton, FL
Dr. H. Barry Collin, Victoria, Australia
Dr. Joan M. Exford, Boston, MA
Dr. Kenneth Gasworth, Palm Beach, FL
Dr. Louis J. Gorz, Rhinelander, WI
Dr. Leon Hoffman, Holtsville, NY
Dr. Richard R. Lehr, Downingtown, PA
Dr. Jacques Letourneau, Montreal, Canada
Dr. Robert E. Melby, Saint Petersburg, FL
Dr. Allan D. Moore, San Pedro, CA
Dr. Lawrence A. Ragone, Camden, NJ
Dr. Avrum Richler, Mount Pearl, Canada
Dr. Clifton M. Schor, Berkeley, CA
Dr. Jerald W. Strickland, Houston, TX
Dr. Irwin B. Suchoff, Kennesaw, GA
Dr. Libby I. Sukoff, Brooklyn, NY
Prof. Selwyn Super, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Theodore S. Thamel, Worcester, MA

Class of 1990, 25 Years!

Dr. Rick D. Andersen, Racine, WI
Dr. James M. Aylward, Westborough, MA
Dr. Lawrence W. Baith, Dallas, TX
Dr. Sandra S. Block, Chicago, IL
Dr. J Bart Campbell, Bartlett, TN
Mr. Patrick J. Caroline, Forest Grove, OR
Dr. Janet L. Carter, Reno, NV
Dr. Connnie L. Chronister, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Timothy L. Comstock, Rochester, NY
Dr. Jan A. Cox, Honeoye Falls, NY
Dr. Larry J. Davis, Saint Louis, MO
Dr. Brian K. Deckert, Fairfax, VA
Dr. Louise DiChiara-Pastore, Cranston, RI
Dr. Robert J. Doty, Red Bank, NJ
Dr. Mitchell W. Dul, New York, NY
Dr. Steven E. Faith, Livemore, CA
Dr. Daniel G. Fuller, Germantown, TN
Prof. Bernard Gilmartin, Birmingham, Dr.
Dr. Thomas A. Golis, Hot Springs, SD
Dr. Gregory W. Good, Columbus, OH
Dr. Frank E. Graf, Omaha, NE
Dr. Matthew E. Groshart, Sheridan, WY
Dr. Lawrence K. Harrington, Dayton, OH
Dr. Dean E. Hart, Hicksville, NY
Dr. Michael James Hassur, Puyallup, WA
Dr. Stephen Heiden, Hollywood, FL
Dr. Lori M. Helman, Sanford, FL
Dr. Gordon J P. Hensel, Edmonton, Canada
Dr. Fernando Hidalgo Santa Cruz, Madrid, Spain
Dr. William C. Holcomb, Chesapeake, VA
Prof. Robert J. Jacobs, Auckland Mail Centre, New Zealand
Dr. John B. Jarding, Rapid City, SD
Dr. Robert L. Johnston, Plainfield, IN
Dr. Robert B. Kennedy, Roseville, MN
Mr. David Lewis, Arlington, VA
Dr. Janis M. Lightman, Carmichael, CA
Dr. Ronald W.Y. Ling, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Gary S. Litman, Plymouth Meeting, PA
Dr. Neil W. Margolis, Arlington Heights, IL
Dr. James L. Marshall, Albemarle, NC
Dr. Donald M. Matsumoto, Los Angeles, CA
Dr. Timothy I. Messer, Tucson, AZ
Dr. Dena M. Mintz, Corona, CA
Dr. Bert F. Moritz, Eau Claire, WI
Dr. Guy R. Naegels, Antwerp, Belgium
Dr. Clarke D. Newman, Dallas, TX
Dr. John H. Nishimoto, Fullerton, CA
Dr. Paul D. Padfield, Goderich, Canada
Dr. Susan A. Primo, Decatur, GA
Dr. John J. Riggs, Carlsbad, CA
Dr. Nicholas B. Ritz, Albuquerque, NM
Dr. Jeffrey H. Roffman, Saint Johns, FL
Dr. George P. Rooney, Glasgow, KY
Dr. Mark Rosenfield, New York, NY
Mr. Alan P. Saks, Auckland, New Zealand
Dr. Howard Saulles, Ann Arbor, MI
Dr. Sara L. Schamerloh, Roanoke, IN
Dr. Donald H. Seabock, Plymouth, MN
Dr. David B. Seib, Saint Louis, MO
Dr. Mark L. Smith, Chillicothe, OH
Dr. Bill T. Takeda, Northridge, CA
Dr. Francis A. Tarantino, Bolivia, NC
Dr. Mark E. Teeple, Arkona, Canada
Dr. David N. Welborn, Alexander City, AL
Dr. R. Tracy Williams, Wheaton, IL
Dr. Thomas L. Wolf, Oxnard, CA
Dr. Bernita B. Wolf, Saint Louis, MO
Dr. Maurice K H. Yap, Hong Kong
Thank You to Our Generous Corporate Sponsors

The American Academy of Optometry and the American Optometric Foundation thank their generous corporate sponsors for their support of 2014 activities.

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Review of Optometry

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All About Vision
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Art Optical
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Optometry Times
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Special Thank You to Section and SIG Sponsors

The Academy would like to thank and recognize our generous corporate partners who have sponsored Section and SIG activities:

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Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies
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Sponsor: CooperVision
Co-Sponsors: Art Optical; Alden Optical; Blanchard Contact Lenses

Low Vision Section
Co-Sponsor: Eschenbach

Primary Care Section
Sponsor: Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
American Optometric Foundation Awards
2014-2015 William C. Ezell Fellowships

Alcon Foundation Ezell Fellow
Julie Mocko-Strand, BS – University of Houston College of Optometry, whose research focus is “Effects of high dose vitamin A supplementation in an oxygen-induced rat model of retinopathy of prematurity.”

American Academy of Optometry Ezell Fellow
William Ngo, OD, BSc – University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science, whose research focus is “Contemporary diagnosis and management of dry eye.”

AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Ezell Fellow
Tan Ngoc Truong, OD, MPH – University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry, whose research focus is “Investigating the biological mechanisms that modulate lymph angiogenesis during corneal inflammation.”

American Optometric Foundation Ezell Club, Anthony J. Adams Ezell Fellow
Rose Reins, BA – University of Houston College of Optometry, whose research focus is “Function and activation of vitamin D at the ocular surface and its role in inflammation.”

Irvin M. Borish-Essilor Ezell Fellow
Renfeng Xu, MD, MS – Indiana University School of Optometry, whose research focus is “Non-accommodative strategies of presbyopia correction.”

Mike Daley Essilor Ezell Fellow
Cristina Law, OD, FAAO – State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry, whose research focus is “Visual neuroplasticity in adult amblyopia.”

Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellow
Wing “Eric” Li, OD, MPH – University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry, whose research focus is “Understanding factors that contribute to evaporative dry eye syndrome.”
2014 Practice Excellence Scholarship Recipients

VSP Global®, FYidoctors and the AOF announced the 44 recipients of this year’s Practice Excellence Scholarships. $166,000 was distributed among top-performing fourth-year optometry students in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Canada. The scholarships and travel grants to attend Academy 2014 Denver were funded through the VSP Global Eyes of Hope® Global Charitable Fund in collaboration with FYidoctors in Canada.

Two students from each school or college of optometry were selected by nomination of their individual institutions to receive the scholarship. Some of the key criteria for selecting the scholarship recipients included the student’s commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry, clinical performance, and academic performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name(s)</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashley Finch and Michael Russell</td>
<td>Illinois College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cassie Baker and Stuart Boyd Young</td>
<td>Indiana University at Bloomington School of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griselda Benavides and Jared J. Scaramuzzi</td>
<td>Inter-American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Fordyce and Megan Szarkowski</td>
<td>Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clare Cunningham and Elizabeth Hanohano-Hong</td>
<td>Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Chu and Joseph Kane</td>
<td>New England College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Erica Ngo and Thien Nguyen</td>
<td>Northeastern State University of Oklahoma, College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna-Kaye Logan and Lita Wu</td>
<td>Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cari Gallagher and Andrew Steele</td>
<td>Ohio State University College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Bavasi and Nathan Lebock</td>
<td>Pacific University College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Donald Kramer and Kelsey Moody</td>
<td>Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph J. Allen and Laura K. Schroeder</td>
<td>Rosenberg School of Optometry, University of the Incarnate Word</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Kleen and Christopher Loe</td>
<td>Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Brown and Lisa Muiller</td>
<td>Southern College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine E. Corrente and Elsa C. Sheerer</td>
<td>State University of New York College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Britanny Eidam McNeely and Catherine Elna Stokes</td>
<td>University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Leis and Kevin Tam</td>
<td>University of California, Berkeley, School of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephanie Lechlitner and Crystin Webb</td>
<td>University of Houston College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Ann Durst and Jenna Osseck</td>
<td>University of Missouri - St. Louis, College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Suplee and Samantha Zaczyk</td>
<td>Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoe Lacroix and Diane Sayah</td>
<td>University of Montreal School of Optometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashala Mah and Diana Trieu</td>
<td>University of Waterloo School of Optometry and Vision Science</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The AOF Welcomes New President’s Circle Members

The AOF welcomed several new members to its President’s Circle during Academy 2014 Denver. The AOF President’s Circle members are an elite group of supporters, who take a leadership role in the future of the optometry. Through their remarkable giving, President’s Circle members are transforming the AOF and helping it grow into one of optometry’s most respected foundations, while upholding its mission of developing and providing financial support for optometric research and education in vision and eye health to improve clinical patient care. The greatest benefit of President’s Circle membership is the pride that you experience knowing that your dedication to optometry will make a difference in the lives of students, clinicians, and researchers.

Pictured left to right: David Troilo, Christopher Kerr, Gary Orsborn, Monique Berntsen, David Berntsen, AOF Past President Kathy Dumbleton, Kathryn Richdale, Dori Carlson, and Nicholas Rumney.

Visit Our Website

We encourage you to visit our website, www.aaopt.org/aof to learn more about our organization and stay appraised of the many programs that we administer.

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