The Future is Bright at Academy 2016 Anaheim!

The future is so bright that you will need to make sure to bring your shades to Academy 2016 Anaheim, the annual meeting of the American Academy of Optometry on November 9-12, 2016. Attendees will enjoy the warm California sun while partaking of four days of superb speakers, clinically-relevant research and continuing education, and an exceptional exhibit hall.

On Wednesday, November 9 from 1 - 3 PM, the Academy will welcome world-renowned author and extraordinary speaker Malcolm Gladwell to present the Plenary Session, “Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice®: Current State of Health Care and Research.” Mr. Gladwell’s CE presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with members of senior management from Alcon, Allergan, and Essilor. Essilor will sponsor the CE portion, while Alcon, Allergan and Essilor will co-sponsor the panel discussion.

Malcolm Gladwell is the author of five New York Times bestsellers — *The Tipping Point*, *Blink*, *Outliers*, *What the Dog Saw*, and *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits and the Art of Battling Giants*. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by *TIME* magazine and one of the Foreign Policy’s Top Global Thinkers.

Mr. Gladwell has explored how ideas spread in *The Tipping Point*, decision making in *Blink*, and the roots of success in *Outliers*. His latest book, *David and Goliath*, examines our understanding of the advantages of disadvantages, arguing that we have underestimated the value of adversity and over-estimated the value of privilege. He has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1996, has won a national magazine award and been honored by the American Psychological Society and the American Sociological Society. He was previously a science and medicine reporter for *The Washington Post*.

Academy 2016 Anaheim
Registration and housing open on May 23, 2016!
www.aaopt.org
Another not-to-be-missed event at Academy 2016 Anaheim is the second joint symposium of the Academy and the American Academy of Ophthalmology, titled, “Keratitis in Contact Lens Wear.” As medical devices, contact lenses have the potential to cause significant corneal morbidity. Several corneal responses will be examined ranging from corneal inflammatory events to rare non-bacterial corneal infections. Current literature will be shared to help aid in the important differentials and a discussion will highlight strategies to avoid serious sight threatening complications.

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.

Named in honor of Dr. Monroe J. Hirsch, each year the Academy’s Research Committee creates a program that keeps communication open between scientific discovery and clinical patient care. The 2016 Hirsch symposium, “The Distressed Eye: Ocular Pain,” will focus on several key aspects of ocular pain. Discussions surrounding sensory transduction and signaling in the eye, the psychophysical measurement of ocular surface pain and thermal sensing, and innovative treatment strategies will be presented. Speakers include Carlos Belmonte, MD, PhD, and Trefford Simpson, DipOptom, MS, PhD.

Ezell Fellows Present 2016 is titled, “The Future of Optical Interventions is Now.” Three investigators at different stages of their careers, supported early in their careers by receiving AOF Ezell Fellowships, will focus on how contact lenses can provide value-added benefits beyond vision correction. The exciting topics will include the current state of wavefront-guided scleral contact lenses for minimizing visual problems in the highly aberrated eye, and the latest developments in lens designs for myopia control and presbyopia. Speakers include Ray Applegate of the University of Houston, Jeffrey Walline of the Ohio State University, and Ravi Bakaraju of the Brien Holden Vision Institute.

If you are wondering how you can participate in this year’s meeting in Anaheim, it’s not too late! The submission window for the Scientific Program’s paper and poster presentations will be open May 2-31. For guidelines to submit, please visit the Academy website.

Continued…

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 2015 New Orleans, as well as previous 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.


Academy Funding Opportunities for Cutting-Edge Research

The Academy is pleased to offer the following funding opportunities to support cutting-edge optometric research. If you have any questions about these initiatives, contact Helen Viksnins at HelenV@aaoptom.org.

Clinical Research Award

Nearly half of Academy Fellows are in private practice, and 87% are engaged in direct patient care. The Clinical Research Award is provided to assist Fellows in conducting a research project that addresses a relevant clinical question and has the potential to positively impact patient care in optometry. Letters of intent are due April 1, 2016. For details about the award please visit http://www.aaopt.org/clinical-research-award.

Career Development Award

It has been recognized for some time that young investigators, including optometric investigators, take many years after the inception of their careers before successfully acquiring Federal research funding. In an effort to positively influence and reduce the age at which early stage optometric researchers attain large scale federal support, the Academy has launched the Career Development Award. Letters of intent are due March 30, 2016. For details about the award please visit http://www.aaopt.org/about/careerdevelopment.
It’s time to send in nominations for the Academy 2016 Anaheim Awards! The distinction, knowledge and expertise of the nominees and candidates continue to get better with each passing year. Help make Academy 2016 Anaheim 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, 2016. Full information about the various awards can be found on the Academy’s website at http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2016/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 2016 Anaheim is shaping up to be an outstanding meeting, and we appreciate your effort and assistance in making the 2016 Awards Ceremony a true highlight. Let the nominating begin!

Fellows! Do You Know Your MOF Status?

The Maintenance of Fellowship (MOF) bylaws 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.
Science: The Fuel of the Academy

Andrew B. Mick, OD, FAAO, Chair, Scientific Program Committee

The Academy is extremely proud of the annual meeting we plan and host every year. I have had the privilege to serve this organization throughout my career and I have witnessed the hard work it takes, by a countless number of tireless people, to execute the meeting. A high-caliber meeting is not unlike a complex and well-tuned machine, similar to a modern automobile with a lot of coordinated moving parts. These parts work in harmony to give the passenger (our attendees) an exhilarating educational ride.

The raw materials to build the car come from our corporate sponsors, the Academy membership, and registered attendees through their financial contributions. The Board of Directors is the computer, taking input from the numerous systems and making the calculated best decisions. The Academy staff is the reliable engine that always starts and is powerful enough for any job. The hundreds of volunteer committee members are all of the smaller parts that serve necessary functions to deliver the passengers to their destination safely and comfortably.

But any automobile, no matter how well designed, won’t move a single inch without fuel. Like fuel for a car, the annual meeting is equally dependent on the talents and expertise of the clinicians and scientists who attend. The Academy cannot consistently deliver what we think is the most high-quality and diverse educational program in the profession unless talented speakers continue to submit their lectures. Similarly, to create the kind of scientific program that everyone within the Academy is striving for, we need submissions representing the best basic science, translational research, and clinical care being done within the profession.

Over the past decade the Scientific Program Committee has seen an increase in the number of submissions, setting a record of over 750 abstracts last year. The committee used those abstracts to build an innovative program in New Orleans, including new formats such as keynote speaker hosted paper sessions, evening poster viewings, hybrid paper and poster events, and unopposed “Hot-Topic” science-based lectures. Despite these successes, the Academy is always motivated to improve the product. Regardless of how it is presented, a good program starts with the highest-quality science. To complete the analogy of the automobile, the Academy needs optometry’s premium fuel.

How can I be a part of the Scientific Program?

You can submit an abstract to the Scientific Program Committee to present a paper or poster at the 2016 Anaheim meeting during the submission window from May 2 – May 31. Go to http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2016/SciProg to learn more about submission categories, get tips on preparing your submission, read submission guidelines, and even listen to a podcast for ways to improve your chances of having your submission accepted.

2016 Diplomate Preparatory Courses

This year eight Academy Sections will offer Diplomate Preparatory Courses to Fellows who are interested in becoming Academy Diplomates. Watch for more information and be sure to select one of these courses when you register for Academy 2016 Anaheim!

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NOW AVAILABLE: PLUS POWERS!

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2016 Anaheim Hotels

Hilton Anaheim (Headquarters Hotel)
777 West Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single and Double: $230/night; Triple: $250/night;
Quad: $270/night

Anaheim Marriott
700 West Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single and Double: $230/night; Triple: $250/night;
Quad: $270/night

Hyatt Place at Anaheim Resort/Convention Center
2035 South Harbor Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single/Double/Triple/Quad: $179/night

Springhill Suites at Anaheim Resort/Convention Center
1801 South Harbor Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single and Double: $179/night; Triple/Quad: $189/night

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Hotel Anaheim Resort -
Convention Center
2085 South Harbor Boulevard, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single and Double: $170/night; Triple: $190/night;
Quad: $210/night

Red Lion Anaheim Hotel (Government and Student
Hotel)* **
1850 South Harbor Blvd, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single/Double/Triple/Quad: $149/night

Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort (Student Hotel)**
616 Convention Way, Anaheim, CA 92802
Single/Double/Triple/Quad: $129/night

*Note that this is a government per diem rate hotel, and as such the rate can
change as of October 1, 2016. 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.

** 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 Anaheim

10) The Academy has negotiated competitive rates at a variety of price levels and brands.

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 could 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 Anaheim 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) Participate in the excitement of Anaheim just outside of your room by staying at our contracted hotels.

2) Many of the Academy contracted hotels are within easy walking distance of Anaheim’s signature attractions. Less time spent walking means more time for fun.

1) The contracted hotels are literally just steps away from the convention center. Attend product information breakfasts and a variety of post-education social events within an easy walk!
Discover Anaheim and Orange County

Anaheim and Orange County have a vibrant yet laid-back vibe, a creative spirit and a diverse range of activities that make it one of the nation’s most popular destinations. Orange County is well known for its world-famous theme parks, distinguished shopping centers and trendy beach towns.

Whether arriving before the meeting or extending your stay after, you will find plenty to do! Themed restaurants, chic cafes, gastro pubs and fine dining are certain to please any palate. Anaheim is just a few minutes from an incredible 42-mile coastline with some of the best beaches in California. Ideal, year-round weather also makes Orange County the perfect spot for outdoor sports and activities, including kayaking, biking, surfing, rollerblading, stand up paddling, hiking and golfing.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Academy 2016 Anaheim Exhibitors (as of March 2016)

ABB Optical Group
Abbott Medical Optics
Acuity Pro/VisionScience Software, Inc.
Alcon Laboratories
Allergan
American Academy of Optometry
American Optometric Foundation
Art Optical Contact Lens, Inc.
ARVO
Bausch + Lomb
Bio Tissue
Blanchard Contact Lens, Inc.
BlephEx LLC
Boston Foundation For Sight
Bruder Healthcare Company
Bryn Mawr Communication
Canon USA Inc
Carl Zeiss Meditec, Inc.
CohuB IP Technologies
CooperVision, Inc.
DGH Technology Inc.
Digital Heat Corporation
Enhanced Vision
Eschenbach Optik of America
Essilor of America
Eye Care and Cure
Eye Designs LLC
Eye Photo Systems, Inc.
Fashion Optical Displays

First Capital Benefit Advisors, Inc.
Forus Health
FOXFIRE Systems Group
Fresnel Prism & Lens Co.
Good-Lite Co.
Haag-Streit USA/Reliance
HAI Laboratories, Inc.
Heine USA, Ltd.
Hoya Vision Care
Icare-USA
iMatrix
Innexus by Innereactive Media
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
Keeler Instruments, Inc.
Konan Medical USA
Lombart Instrument
M&S Technologies, Inc.
MacuLogix, Inc
Menicon America
National Vision, Inc.
Novabay Pharmaceuticals, Inc
Oculus, Inc.
OcuSoft, Inc.
Ocutech Inc.
Optos Inc.
PentaVision
Practice Director
Precision Vision

PRN Physician Recommended
Nutriceuticals
Reichert, Inc
Shire
Solutionreach
Synergeyes
TearLab Corp
TearScience
Topcon Medical Systems, Inc.
Tru-Form Optics
Visionary Optics LLC
Vivid Vision
VRMagic
X-Cel Specialty Contacts
2016 Section and SIG Symposia

AAO/ARVO Joint Symposium: Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technology: Control vs. Correction of Early Myopia: Has the “Standard of Care” Changed?
When a young patient presents with reduced visual acuity at distance due to emerging myopia, the general course of action is to correct/compensate for the myopia with conventional lenses (spectacle or contact lenses). This symposium will discuss whether or not the research has demonstrated to a significant degree that such an approach is no longer the “Standard of Care.” Different areas of myopia control (spectacles, contact lenses, pharmaceuticals and genetic testing) will be discussed in order to assist the practitioner in providing adequate informed consent regarding the “control” rather than the “correction” of myopia. Speakers include Jeffrey Walline, OD, PhD, FAAO, Earl Smith, III, OD, PhD, FAAO, Padmaja Sankaridurg, PhD, David Berntsen, OD, PhD, FAAO, and Terri Young, MD.

Academic Medical Center Optometrist SIG Annual Symposium
The symposium will focus on two different topic areas. The first hour will be a profession component: “How to begin doing research in academic institutions.” The talk will focus on the basics of starting research. The second component will cover education advancement: “Developing residency programs in a university health based system.” Speakers include Patti Fries, OD, FAAO, and Shane Havens, MD.

Anterior Segment Section: UVA-Light Corneal Crosslinking: Development, Application and Current Status
This session will include a review of the development of crosslinking, as well as current treatment strategies, future applications and a review of its FDA status. Speakers include Andrew Morgenstern, OD, FAAO, Clark Chang, OD, MS, FAAO, Casey Claypool, OD, and Shanda Ross, OD.

Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Section: Dealing with Today’s Visual Demands
Contemporary visual demands are very different from the requirements that existed 20 years ago. Almost all individuals of any age now spend long periods of time viewing digital electronic screens, resulting in significant complaints of eyestrain and visual fatigue. This symposium investigates the physiology underlying these symptoms, and speculates on potential treatment options for the future. Speakers include Mark Rosenfield, OD, PhD, FAAO, Billy Hammond, PhD, James Sheedy, OD, PhD, FAAO, and John McIntire, PhD.

Comprehensive Eye Care Section: Finding Zen: Evidence-Based Wellness in Eye Care
This symposium highlights the current trends for health and wellness in disease prevention including alternative and complementary medicine. A look at the evidence and current standards of care for the treatment of anterior segment, posterior segment, and neuro-opthalmic diseases will be discussed. The symposium seeks to provoke the discussion, “If there is evidence to support preventative medicine, are we practicing it for a healthier future?” Speakers include Tina Porzukowski, OD, FAAO, Shannon Scott, OD, FACOFP, Kelly Nichols, OD, PhD, FAAO, Michael Kozlowski, OD, PhD, FAAO, Leonard Messner, OD, FAAO, and Gregory Wolfe, OD, MPH, FAAO.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technology: Myopia Control Utilizing Contact Lenses
Contact lenses are “front and center” as the approach to emerging myopia changes from “correction” to “control.” In this symposium, presenters will consider different contact lens designs and materials (both those currently available and those in development), as well as the crafting of treatment regimens and their application in a clinical practice. Speakers include Jeffrey Krohn, OD, FAAO, Helen Swarbrick, PhD, FAAO, Padmaja Sankaridurg, PhD, Pauline Cho, PhD, FAAO, FBCLA, Donald Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO, and Robert Davis, OD, FAAO.

Glaucoma Section: Identifying Glaucomatous Progression in Primary Eye Care: A Case-Based Approach
In the chronic management of glaucomatous optic neuropathy, confirmation of disease progression is a critical step in limiting long-term functional loss. Although advances in technology and analysis software have greatly enhanced the clinician’s ability to detect meaningful change, the additional information these technologies provide is not always straightforward. Using a panel of national experts, this course will employ clinical cases to reinforce the necessity of physician-guided analysis of present technologies in pursuit of optimized detection/rate of glaucomatous progression, and when to intervene in routine optometric practice. Speakers include Blair Lonsberry, OD, MS, FAAO, Danica Marrelli, OD, FAAO, and Leo Sones, OD, FAAO, FACMO.

Low Vision Section: Treating Retinal Degenerations Today and Tomorrow: How Close Are We to Curing Genetic Eye Disease?
While the estimated prevalence of children with moderate to severe visual impairment in the U.S. is 0.04 to 0.18%, this segment of the population has the longest number of affected years with low vision. It is estimated that more than 60% of cases of blindness among infants are caused by inherited eye diseases such as retinal dystrophies and optic atrophy, among others. With the advent of techniques in genetic testing and gene therapy, the process of making a diagnosis and prognosis has changed significantly. This symposium will discuss the latest research in genetic testing, gene therapy, and clinical management implications for these patients. Additionally, the role of the low vision and primary care optometrist in counseling patients with hereditary eye disease will be discussed. Speakers include Nicole Ross, OD, MS, FAAO, Kerry Goetz, MS, Gustavo Aguirre, VMD, PhD, Artur Cideciyan, PhD, and Stacy Pineles, MD.

Neuro-Ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: 2016 Lawrence Gray Symposium: Neuro-Ophthalmic and Binocular Vision Disorders from Kids to Adults
New onset diplopia can indicate a binocular vision disorder or a more worrisome neuro-ophthalmic disorder. This symposium will help you learn how to differentiate these causes of diplopia and understand the recommended surgical and non-surgical treatment options for the various etiologies of diplopia. In addition, this symposium will help you understand the similarities and differences regarding how specific neuro-ophthalmic disorders manifest in children as compared to adults. Speakers include Patricia Modia, OD, FAAO, Cristina Llerena Law, OD, FAAO, Stacy Pineles, MD, and Joseph Demer, MD.
This two-hour program will feature a medical physician’s review of the literature regarding our current understanding of the intricate connection between gut health, including the microbiome, and human health. An emphasis will be placed on neuro-behavioral and neuro-degenerative disorders, including Autism Spectrum Disorders and Alzheimer’s Disease. Cross-walks to ocular conditions are numerous, and will be presented and discussed by a panel of optometric experts. Speakers include Kimberly Reed, OD, FAAO, Rachel Coulter, OD, FAAO, Julie Tyler, OD, FAAO, and A. Paul Chous, OD, FAAO.

Optometric Education Section: Remediation of the Struggling Student Clinician: Theory and Practice
This symposium will review the evidence, theory, and practice of clinical remediation by categorizing common clinical deficiencies that require remediation, discussing the different models of remediation, and describing current remediation strategies. Results of a limited retrospective analysis of remedial cases will be presented to explore the impact of different strategies in specific cases. The symposium will present a brief overview of the literature on different models of remediation and the use of these methods in the context of both private and public optometry school models. Panelists will also discuss their plans to expand the quantitative analysis going forward. Speakers include Meredith Whiteside, OD, FAAO, Michael Giese, OD, PhD, FAAO, Daniel Taylor, OD, FAAO, Beth Harper, OD, and Kerri Yoshiyama, OD, FAAO.

Public Health and Environmental Vision Section: Eye Health Promotion and Vision Impairment Reduction: Results of a National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Study
The National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine has conducted a consensus study to examine the core principles and public health strategies to reduce visual impairment and promote eye health in the U.S. The study describes limitations and opportunities to improve vision and eye health surveillance, reduce vision and eye health disparities, promote evidence-based strategies to improve knowledge, access to and utilization of eye care, identify comorbid conditions and characterize their impact, and promote health for people with vision impairment. The chair of the committee will present detailed findings of the study (released summer 2016), and anchor a panel discussion that will highlight the study’s recommendations characterizing the public health burden, prevention and care, evidence-based health promotion interventions, and eye health and vision loss as a public health priority.

Retina SIG: Retinal Diseases for the Primary Care Optometrist: Diagnosis, Management and Referral
In co-management settings, because the optometrist is more accessible to patients, it is essential that there be clear discussion on co-management for retinal disease for an aging population. Two retinal specialists will present data on the disease, prevalence, and progression of retinal diseases, concluding with treatment strategies such as laser photocoagulation, and provide comparisons to anti-VEGF drugs. Speakers include Steven Ferrucci, OD, FAAO, Hajid Dadgostar, MD, PhD, and John Wells, MD.

Vision in Aging SIG: Presbyopia: Contemporary Options for the Modern Patient
This symposium brings together experts in ophthalmic materials, contact lenses and surgical co-management to address contemporary options available for the management of the presbyopic patient. The symposium will address ophthalmic lens design and fabrication options, soft contact lens options for presbyopia, and new surgical methods of presbyopia correction. The emphasis will be on addressing the varied visual needs of the modern presbyopic patient. Speakers include John Kaminski, OD, FAAO, James Sheedy, OD, PhD, FAAO, Jill Woods, BSc(Hons), MCOptom, FAAO, and Derek Cunningham, OD, FAAO.

Vision Science and Binocular Vision, Perception and Pediatric Optometry Sections: Restoring Impaired Binocular Vision Function
Disorders of binocular vision are one of the most common problems encountered in optometry clinics. In recent years there has been a new wave of high-quality clinical research that has demonstrated the efficacies of scientifically sound therapies toward restoring impaired binocular functions. Four leading figures in the area of binocular rehabilitation will share their work on disorders of binocular vision and the future of treating binocular vision disorders. Speakers include Kristine Hopkins, OD, MSPH, FAAO, Dennis Levi, OD, PhD, FAAO, Daniel Spiegel, MS, MHS, PhD, Mitchell Scheiman, OD, FAAO, and Vivian Mahn, OD, MS, FAAO.
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 2016 Anaheim. They are seeking your help with names of potential candidates who are Fellows of the Academy and have, in your opinion, the experience and demonstrated leadership abilities to be considered for the Academy Board.

If you are an Academy Fellow and you know of Fellows willing and able to serve the Academy in this leadership capacity, please submit the name(s) by April 15th to Sarah Kidd at SarahK@aaoptom.org or by mail to American Academy of Optometry, 2909 Fairgreen Street, Orlando, FL 32803.

The Nominating Committee will review the names submitted and will contact individuals to determine their interest in serving on the Board. The deadline for completed applications is May 15th, 2016.

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.
2016 Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight™ Program

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART I: What is Leadership?

Wednesday, November 9
8:00 am – 11:00 am, $50 fee (Students $10)
Instructors: Julie A. Schornack, OD, MEd, FAAO, Darin Paulson, OD, FAAO, Dennis W. Siemsen OD, MHPE, Ray Pasko, BS, MBA, Lindsay Sicks, OD, FAAO, Harue Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART II: Putting Leadership into Action

Thursday, November 10
8:00 am – 11:00 am, $50 fee (Students $10)
Instructors: Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, FAAO, Sally Dillehay, OD, EdD, FAAO, Imran Khan, OD, MPH, FAAO, Linda Casser, OD, FAAO

INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP COURSE: How to Provide Productive Feedback

Thursday, November 10
1:30 to 4:30 pm, $75 fee (Students $20)
Instructor: Brenda Bence, MBA, CSP, ICF-Certified Executive Coach

Feedback has been called “The Breakfast of Champions” - and for good reason. The art of giving effective, productive feedback is one of the most critical interpersonal skills in the workplace. Yet it is one that is often dreaded, particularly when it comes to giving tough feedback to others on the job. This course will help you take the fear out of giving tough feedback while providing you with the tools to build better relationships at work and achieve better outcomes on the job.

“Attending the Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight™ program helped me to understand my existing leadership strengths and weaknesses both professionally and personally. I was able to build on the foundation that I had with a new cohort of skill sets to lead with confidence and purpose. I highly recommend this program to all my fellow colleagues and students.”

— Roya Attar, OD

We look forward to seeing you at this year’s Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight™ Program!

Low Vision Resources for Eye Health Professionals

Vision rehabilitation can help people with vision loss make the most of their remaining sight. Currently, 4.2 million Americans ages 40 and older are visually impaired. Of these, 3 million have low vision, and this number is projected to reach 5 million by 2030.

The good news is there is help for people living with low vision. When nothing more can be done from a medical or surgical standpoint, vision rehabilitation can help people maintain their independence and quality of life. Vision rehabilitation can include the following:

- Training to use magnifying and adaptive devices
- Teaching new daily living skills to remain safe and live independently
- Developing strategies to navigate around the home and in public
- Providing resources and support

Encourage patients to learn more about how vision rehabilitation can help them. The National Eye Health Education Program offers a variety of educational resources you can download or order at https://nei.nih.gov/nehep/programs/lowvision.

Low vision resources for eye health professionals from the National Eye Health Education Program:

- Resources at-a-Glance
- Fact sheet
- Video
- Booklet and DVD
- Patient profiles videos
- Educational module
- Speaker’s guide
Students Supporting the Academy Throughout the Year

The 2015 class of Student Fellows from Northeastern State University, Oklahoma College of Optometry.

The 2015 class of Student Fellows from Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry.

The 2015 class of Student Fellows from the University of Montreal, School of Optometry.

Dr. Brett Bence (center), Academy President, during his visit to UC Berkeley School of Optometry in May 2015.

The Salus University, Pennsylvania College of Optometry Student Chapter encouraging students to join the Academy during a student fair.

Join Our Social Media Network
Academy After Graduation: Becoming a Fellow

Bonnie-Kim Hang, AOSA National Liaison to the Academy, UAB Class of 2016

It’s almost the end of the school year and for many of us, a well-deserved break is near. Whether you’re a first year just starting optometry school or a fourth year about to graduate, I hope you’ve had successful fall and spring semesters.

If you were able to make it to the Academy meeting in New Orleans last year, you were part of something very special. It was a record-breaking year for students. The conference was filled with world-class CE lectures, invaluable networking opportunities, and memorable social events that everyone enjoyed.

For those of you who were not able to make it to the New Orleans meeting, I hope you will consider attending this year’s meeting in Anaheim, California. If you are interested in expanding your optometric education beyond the classroom, or if you’re curious about job or residencies after graduation, this meeting holds a plethora of opportunities for you.

Fourth years, I strongly encourage you to consider pursuing your Fellowship after graduation. I firmly believe our success is measured not only by how we perform in our optometry school studies, but also in how advantageous we are in furthering our knowledge through conferences like the Academy’s.

The value of being a Fellow of the Academy will extend well into your career. Plus, the Academy offers an additional incentive for 2016 graduates — if you submit your application online by December 31, 2016 your first year of dues and fees will be waived. I hope you will decide to pursue it!

On behalf of the AOSA and the Academy, I hope you all finish strong with your studies this semester. Best of luck with finals. I look forward to seeing you all in Anaheim!

2015 Best Student Scientific Program Presentation

The Academy Scientific Program Committee is pleased to recognize Julie A. Mocko for the Best Student Scientific Program Presentation: Relationships Between Neural and Vascular Parameters in a Rate Model of Oxygen Induced Retinopathy: Effects of High Dose Vitamin A Treatment.

This recognition was selected from more than 750 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 2015 Best Student Scientific Program Presentation was based on the authors’ presentations of their work at Academy 2015 New Orleans.

“I would like to thank the Academy Scientific Program Committee for choosing my presentation on ‘Relationships between neural and vascular parameters in a rat model of oxygen induced retinopathy’ as the Best Student Scientific Presentation of 2015. It is a great honor to have my doctoral research, and all of the hard work of my mentors and collaborators, recognized with this award!”

— Julie A. Mocko, PhD Candidate, UH College of Optometry
Chapter News

Arizona Chapter

The Arizona Chapter would like to announce its upcoming Annual Spring Meeting being held at Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry on Saturday, March 5th from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. Six hours of COPE-approved continuing education will be offered to attendees including a keynote lecture in the area of neuro-ophthalmic and vascular disease as it relates to monocular and binocular vision loss, as well as lectures covering anticoagulant medications and adverse drug reactions in eye care. In addition, there will be an anterior segment themed grand rounds presentation where new Fellows will present on interesting contact lens/red eye cases. For registration and other meeting information please visit the Chapter’s website at http://www.aaopt.org/AZChapter.

Florida Chapter

The Florida Chapter will hold its next meeting April 29-30, 2016. Current speakers include Drs. Paul Karpecki, Joe Pizzimenti, John McClane and Dave Woods. There will be a total of 14 CE hours available. The meeting will be held at the Mission Inn in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida. Contact Dr. Art Young for registration information at eyeguy4123@msn.com.

Illinois Chapter

The Illinois State Chapter held Rosenbloom Rounds, a continuing education event, on February 4, 2016 at the Chicago Lighthouse in Chicago. Drs. Kara Crumbliss and Danielle Piser provided an update on advancements in tech devices and applications for the low vision patient. Dr. Valerie Kattouf presented an update on how devices and their prolonged use are affecting vision in patients. The lectures were sponsored by HumanWare.

Quebec Chapter

On November 27, 2015, the Quebec Academy Chapter held its annual meeting. Amongst the highlights of the meeting was a chance to honor new Fellow, Dr. Caroline Faucher, Associate Professor at the University of Montreal School of Optometry. At the same time, the chapter honored 50 year Fellow, Dr. Howard Backman, private practitioner and a Life Emeritus Fellow. The two had a chance to meet and exchange how becoming a Fellow has influenced them.

New Jersey Chapter

In 2015 the New Jersey Chapter provided 31 hours of CE in response to the rising educational requests from colleagues, which culminated in the largest attendance record in the history of the chapter. In addition, the chapter maintained its commitment to enhance optometric education by funding student travel fellowships for Academy 2015 New Orleans as well as offering scholarship assistance to both Salus University and SUNY ($10,000 each). The New Jersey Chapter has made a cumulative endowment contribution in the amount of $166,000 to Salus University.

Dr. Lori Grover, Dean of PCO at Salus University, received a $10,000 scholarship donation from Dr. Clark Chang of the New Jersey Chapter.

North Carolina Chapter

The North Carolina Chapter invites Academy members to save the date for the 4th Annual Roger Cummings Residents Symposium taking place at the W. G. “Bill” Hefner VAMC in Salisbury, NC on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

NOVA Southeastern University Student Chapter

Nova Southeastern University is proud to announce that 22 students completed the requirements to become Student Fellows at Academy 2015 New Orleans. The school also had the largest student attendance at the meeting. The new Student Fellows were recently recognized in a small ceremony where they received lapel pins and certificates.

University of Houston Student Chapter

A record-breaking 58 students from the University of Houston College of Optometry (UHCO) completed Student Fellowship at Academy 2015 New Orleans. The chapter has been busy hosting events, including the Annual Residency Panel that allowed students to hear about the experiences of current UHCO residents. The chapter will also be participating in the upcoming UHCO Research Showcase, an event highlighting research conducted by graduate and optometry students, post docs, research assistants/associates, residents and Fellows.
Fellows Celebrate 25, 40 and 50 Year Anniversaries

Class of 1966, 50 Years!
Dr. William A. Bauscher, McCall, ID
Dr. Joseph E. Birnbaum, Monroe, NY
Dr. Elizabeth E. Caloroso, Placentia, CA
Dr. Joe B. Collins, Jacksonville, AR
Dr. Harold E. Davis, Oak Lawn, IL
Dr. John R. Davis, Dexter, NM
Dr. Troy E. Fannin, Kerrville, TX
Dr. Benjamin C. Lane, Lake Hiawatha, NJ
Dr. Michael E. Margaretten, Hollywood, FL
Prof. Michel Millodot, Penarth, United Kingdom
Dr. William E. Oakley, Rocky Mount, NC
Dr. James R. Prince, Weems, VA
Dr. Milton Reisman, South Bend, IN
Dr. Martin C. Rubin, Longmeadow, MA
Dr. Ronald D. Solomon, Colorado Springs, CO
Dr. Jack F. Vaughan, Dallas, TX

Class of 1976, 40 Years!
Dr. Catherine Amos, Hoover, AL
Dr. Forrest D. Baillie, Zanesville, OH
Dr. Ron Bateman, Fort Collins, CO
Mr. Sergio Berti, Rome, Italy
Dr. Andrew R. Buzzelli, Pikeville, KY
Dr. Bobby J. Christensen, Midwest City, OK
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Dr. Duane K. Kaneshiro, Vacaville, CA
Dr. George Kresovich, Beaufort, SC
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Dr. Kenneth A. Lebow, Virginia Beach, VA
Dr. Thomas L. Lewis, Dresher, PA
Dr. Ian J. Middleton, Santa Rosa, CA
Dr. Van B. Nakagawara, Millilani, HI
Dr. Donald C. Reynolds, Germantown, TN
Dr. Mitchell M. Scheiman, Bala Cynwyd, PA
Dr. Joel A. Silbert, Cherry Hill, NJ
Dr. Samuel C. Smart, Fredericksburg, VA
Dr. Richard L. Windsor, Hartford City, IN
Dr. Robert D. Woodruff, Columbus, IN

Class of 1991, 25 Years!
Dr. Dwight H. Akerman, Fort Worth, TX
Dr. Jeffrey C. Anderson, Boone, IA
Dr. Sheila F. Anderson, Ellicott City, MD
Dr. Aries Arditi, Chappaqua, NY
Dr. Jeffrey K. Austin, Henderson, NV
Dr. Max E. Bailey, Richmond, IN
Dr. J Bruce Baldwin, Hillsborough, NC
Dr. Curtis R. Baxstrom, Federal Way, WA
Dr. Eric Borsting, Fullerton, CA
Dr. Albert B. Boyer, Saint George, UT
Dr. Tara D. Brown, Edmond, OK
Dr. Mark A. Bullimore, Boulder, CO
Dr. Catherine A. Chiarelli, Toronto, Canada
Dr. Mark J. Cinalli, Parkersburg, WV
Dr. Robert M. Cole III, Bridgeton, NJ
Dr. John E. Conito, Milwaukee, WI
Dr. Doug T. Cook, Guthrie, OK
Dr. Neil Cox, London, United Kingdom
Dr. Fred H. Dubick, Burbank, CA
Dr. David G. Durkee, Big Rapids, MI
Dr. Frederick R. Edmunds Jr., Victor, NY
Dr. Kia B. Eldred, Pearlund, TX
Dr. Barbara A. Fink, Columbus, OH
Dr. Stuart B. Frank, Edmonds, WA
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Dr. Dennis Karambelas, Providence, RI
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Dr. Barry M. Weiner, Timonium, MD
Dr. Caryn M. West, Sumter, SC
Dr. Donna M. Wicker, Ann Arbor, MI
Dr. Doris Wong, Las Vegas, NV
Dr. Yen Lee Yap, Glen Waverley, Australia
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 2015 activities.

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Hot Topics in Optometry

Visit www.whatshotoptometry.org for complimentary access to the best recent papers in the top optometry international journals. The website is a joint initiative of the editors of Clinical and Experimental Optometry, Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics and Optometry and Vision Science — the top three international journals by impact factor measure.

FAAO - It’s a Distinction Worth Noting!

Attention Fellows! Do your patients know what it means to have an optometrist with the credentials “FAAO”? It’s a distinction worth noting! The Academy has developed a brochure to let your patients know what it means to be a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. The brochure explains that you have demonstrated professional competence and the fulfillment of rigorous qualifications set by the Academy. If you are interested in receiving a print-ready PDF that can be sent to a printer of your choice, please contact Jenny Brown at JennyB@aaoptom.org.
Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) Student Travel Grant

Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK) and the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) have partnered to present the first BSK Student Travel Fellowship at the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) Meeting in November 2016. One grant, in the amount of $750, will be awarded annually.

Eligibility and requirements are on the AOF website at http://bit.ly/1Q8PJhS. Submissions open July 1 and close August 1, 2016.

CEwire 2015 Supports the American Optometric Foundation

The AOF was one of the non-profit organizations to receive a donation of the proceeds from CEwire2015. Thank you to CEwire for their contribution of $10,000. CEwire is the new virtual CE conference by ODwire.org and recently featured the AOF for CEwire 2016.

Visit Our Website

We encourage you to visit the American Optometric Foundation’s website at www.aaopt.org/aof to learn more about our organization and stay apprised of the many programs we administer.

Dr. David Kirschen (2nd from right) accepts a donation from ODwire.org representatives (left to right) Dr. Steve Silberberg, Dr. Paul Farkas, and Dr. Adam Farkas, on behalf of the AOF at Academy 2015 New Orleans.
New Ezell Fellowships for 2016

Since 1949, the American Optometric Foundation has offered Ezell Fellowships to encourage talented persons to pursue full-time careers in optometric research and education. These fellowships support graduate students enrolled in a full-time program of study and training in vision-related research that leads to a Master’s or PhD degree.

The Ezell Fellowships have become the flagship program of the AOF. Fellowships are for one year and the current amount of the award is $8,000. Each student also receives travel grants, which are $750 each, to the annual meetings of the American Academy of Optometry and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

The American Optometric Foundation has awarded more than 300 Fellowships to students pursuing graduate studies. Among the list of former Ezell Fellows are over 20 deans and presidents of optometric schools and colleges, over 130 faculty members and over 160 Fellows of the American Academy of Optometry, including three of its presidents.

Thanks to the generous support from the Vision Impact Institute, a new Ezell Fellowship will be offered in 2016.

In addition, the Baycross Christian Family Foundation is generously supporting a new Binocular Vision and Pediatrics Ezell Fellowship in 2016.

The deadline to apply for an Ezell Fellowship closed March 1. Recipients will be notified June 1.

For additional information on establishing an Ezell Fellowship, please contact Maureen Dimont, Development Director, at 321-710-3961 or MaureenD@aaoptom.org.
The AOF Welcomes New President’s Circle Members

The Foundation’s President’s Circle was established in 1997 to recognize donors who contribute total gifts of $10,000 or more through either a pledge, one-time gift, or over time. The AOF recognizes our newest Presidents Circle members who joined their colleagues to support vision research and education.

Dr. Sherry Bass
Dr. Douglas Benoit
Dr. Alan Glazier
Dr. Chris and Ms. Debbie Johnson
Dr. Richard Meetz

Existing President’s Circle members also reached a new level of commitment.

Founder’s Circle (gifts $100,000 - $999,999)
The Allergan Foundation
CooperVision

President’s Circle Gold (gifts $20,000 - $49,999)
Dr. Melissa Bailey
Baycross Christian Family Foundation
Dr. Rachel Anastasia “Stacey” Coulter
Dr. Ruth E. Manny
Optometric Glaucoma Society

The AOF is deeply grateful for the ongoing commitment from this special group of donors.

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

Top Optometric Researcher Selected for Allergan Research Grant

The American Optometric Foundation (AOF), in partnership with the Allergan Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2015 recipient of the Allergan Research Grant. Congratulations to Nicole Carnt, PhD, BOptom, FAAO, who has been awarded a $60,000 grant for her project “An investigation of the host immune reaction in response to corneal infection.” She is a two-time AOF William C. Ezell Fellow (2010, 2011) and Research Fellow at the Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney.

This highly competitive grant is awarded to a talented optometrist and/or vision scientist who is an Academy member and is currently undertaking cutting edge research in the area of either glaucoma or the anterior segment. This is the second year that the Allergan Foundation has sponsored this generous grant through the AOF.

Dr. Carnt will be honored for her achievement at the annual AOF Celebration Luncheon during Academy 2016 Anaheim.
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