In the early 20th century, Chicago often welcomed American Academy of Optometry annual meeting attendees in December. Academy members and their spouses enjoyed the urban pleasures of shopping, art and architecture along with Academy lectures and scientific discussion. October 11-14, 2017, 21st century attendees will also be able to enjoy the city while relishing four days of superb speakers, clinically-relevant research and continuing education, and an exceptional exhibit hall.

This year at 10 AM – 12 Noon on Wednesday, October 11, be sure to attend the plenary session, “Today’s Research, Tomorrow’s Practice: The Eye as a Mirror of the Brain,” where leading researchers will present their thinking on the role of the retina in brain diseases such as Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s, and multiple sclerosis. Speakers will include Dr. Robert Sergott of the Wills Eye Hospital and Dr. Christopher Hudson from the University of Waterloo School of Optometry.

Another not-to-be-missed event at Academy 2017 Chicago is the third joint symposium of the Academy and the American Academy of Ophthalmology titled, “Ocular Surface Disease: What You May Be Missing.” Dry eye and ocular surface disease is a field with new concepts on pathogenesis, improved diagnostic technology and a variety of new treatment options. This symposium will update current thought regarding diagnosis, treatment and the role of neuropathy in dry eye. Moderators Drs. Stephen Pflugfelder and Barbara Caffery will be joined by Drs. Victor Perez, Ellen Shorter and Carolyn Begley.

Continued…
Thursday morning, the science 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 2017 Hirsch symposium is entitled “Precision Medicine and the Future of Eye Care.” The current approach to disease treatment and prevention is based largely on patterns learned from studying the average response of many patients. How would treatment change if doctors had better, more specific information about an individual patient’s risk for disease? A new program of the National Institutes of Health, entitled the Precision Medicine Initiative, will enroll one million volunteers beginning in 2017 and is intended to fundamentally change our approach to patient care. The Hirsch symposium will explore the developments that have led to this initiative and what it may mean for the future treatment and prevention of eye disease.

Ezell Fellows Present is a symposium where three investigators at different stages of their careers supported early on through the Foundation’s Ezell Fellowships present their research. The symposium this year is titled, “Managing the Consequences of Abnormal Visual Development.” The elements of normal and abnormal visual development will be presented with updates on treatment strategies for amblyopia and strabismus in young children, as well as a discussion of visual deficits in patients with Down syndrome, and potential strategies to maximize their visual quality. Speakers include Drs. Susan Cotter of Southern California College of Optometry at MBKU, Rowan Candy of University of California Berkeley, and Heather Anderson of the University of Houston College of Optometry.

If you are wondering how you can participate in this year’s meeting in Chicago, it’s not too late! The submission window for the Scientific Program’s paper and poster presentations will be open May 1-31. For guidelines to submit, please visit the Academy website.

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**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.

**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. For details about the award please visit http://www.aaopt.org/about/careerdevelopment.

**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 13, 2017. For details about the award please visit http://www.aaopt.org/clinical-research-award.

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**2016 Clinical Research Award Recipient:**

**Dr. Tawna Roberts**

“Our research team is honored to be awarded the inaugural Clinical Research Award. It has long been recognized that unaided distance visual acuity is not particularly sensitive in identifying clinically significant hyperopia in young children. This AAO grant funding will allow us to evaluate an alternative method of detecting hyperopia in youngsters who undergo vision screenings.”

The research team is comprised of Amy Aldrich, OD, FAAO, Angela Chen, OD, MS, FAAO, Susan Cotter, OD, MS, FAAO, Lisa Edwards, OD, FAAO, Ingrid Lorenzana, OD, FAAO, Vivian Manh, OD, MS, FAAO, Neil McNinch, MS, and Tawna Roberts, OD, PhD, FAAO.
Nominations for the 2017 Academy Annual Awards Due April 1

It’s time to send in nominations for the Academy 2017 Chicago awards! The distinction, knowledge and expertise of the nominees and candidates continue to get better with each passing year. Help make Academy 2017 Chicago 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, 2017. Full information about the various awards can be found on the Academy’s website at http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2017/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. This is not just a one-time, one-year process. Candidates who did not receive the awards in the previous few years can be re-nominated. 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.

Academy 2017 Chicago is shaping up to be an outstanding meeting, and we appreciate your effort and assistance in making the 2017 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 and engaged in 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, along with a link where you can check your MOF progress.
Bringing You the Latest Advances in Optometric Research

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

The collective goal of the members of the Scientific Program Committee (SPC) is to bring their wide range of scientific and clinical expertise to evaluate the submitted abstracts of scientific research and case reports and construct a coherent and quality-driven program pertinent to both practicing optometrists and researchers. The SPC also determines the keynote speakers to be invited for featured scientific paper sessions with the remaining talks in those sessions selected from the submitted portion of the program. The SPC carefully reviews the student abstracts to narrow down the list of finalists for the Best Student Presentation recognition. The presentations of the finalists are evaluated by SPC members at the annual meeting.

The SPC conducts its work almost year-round, including initial planning via conference calls in the spring followed by a three-day meeting in June, when the final decisions of abstract acceptance are determined and the meeting program is constructed. At the annual meeting the SPC members work around the clock to ensure a smooth execution of the paper and poster sessions. The SPC membership for 2016-2018 includes, Drs. Suresh Viswanathan (Chair), Michael Sullivan-Mee (Vice Chair), David Berntsen, Andrew Hartwick, Charlotte Joslin, Brett King, Sruthi Srinivasan and Eric Weissberg.

For the 2016 annual meeting in Anaheim, California, the committee reviewed a total 778 abstracts of which 561 were accepted for presentation. This was an all-time record both in terms of the total number of abstracts submitted as well as accepted, and the rate of acceptance was within the acceptance range from previous years. Also, similar to recent years, the attendance was high in the scientific paper sessions, especially in the Hybrid and Hot Topic sessions and the Thursday evening posters. The Scientific Program Committee is looking forward to continuing all of these traditions in Chicago, and additionally would like to partner with the members of the Academy’s Sections and Special Interest Groups in an attempt to increase not only the number but also the quality of submissions to the Scientific Program.

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 Scientific Program ultimately depends on the quality and quantity of the submissions received from you, our members. The Scientific Program Committee strongly encourages all optometrists and vision scientists, including students and residents, to submit abstracts for research papers, posters and clinical case reports. The abstract submissions window for scientific papers and posters for the Chicago meeting runs from May 1 through May 31, 2017.

For further information, visit http://www.aaopt.org/Meetings/Academy2017/SciProg to learn more about the abstract submission process. As a bonus, again this year, all presenting first authors (excluding students and residents) may register at reduced rates - $100 off the full meeting registration!

### 2017 Diplomate Preparatory Courses

This year all 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 2017 Chicago!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anterior Segment</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binocular Vision, Perception &amp; Pediatric Optometry</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 10 (afternoon) at ICO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Eye Care</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 11 at 2-5 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cornea, Contact Lenses &amp; Refractive Technologies</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 10</td>
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<td>Glaucoma</td>
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<td>Low Vision</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Optometric Education</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health &amp; Environmental Vision</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 10</td>
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Now, you can upgrade your weekly and monthly replacement lens wearers with the ALCON DAILIES® CHOICE PROGRAM

Recommend a healthy choice for your patients and practice
Reduce the price barrier with $200 savings* on a year’s supply
A convenient alternative to weekly and monthly replacement lenses

DAILIESCHOICE.com
*Via mail-in or online rebate on an annual supply of DAILIES TOTAL1® or DAILIES® AquaComfort Plus® contact lenses. Rebate is in the form of an Alcon Visa Prepaid Card. Must be a new patient to DAILIES TOTAL1® or DAILIES® AquaComfort Plus® contact lenses and must purchase an annual supply of the lenses within 90 days of eye exam and/or contact lens fitting. Applies to purchases from participating retailers only. Visit DAILIESCHOICE.COM for full terms and conditions. Offer ends 12-31-17.
### Academy 2017 Contracted Hotels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
<th>Rates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palmer House Chicago (Headquarters Hotel)</td>
<td>17 East Monroe Street, Chicago, IL 60603</td>
<td>Single and Double: $259/night</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wyndham Grand Chicago Riverfront</td>
<td>71 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601</td>
<td>Single and Double: $255/night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hyatt Regency Chicago</td>
<td>151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601</td>
<td>Single and Double: $269/night</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress Plaza Hotel (Student** &amp; Government* Hotel)</td>
<td>520 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605</td>
<td>Student Rate (Single/Double/Triple/Quad): $199/night Government Rate (Single/Double): $219/night</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriott Marquis Chicago</td>
<td>2121 South Prairie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616</td>
<td>Single and Double: $295/night</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairmont Chicago – Millennium Park</td>
<td>200 North Columbus Drive, Chicago, IL 60601</td>
<td>Single and Double: $275/night</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyatt Regency McCormick Place</td>
<td>2233 South Martin Luther King Drive, Chicago, IL 60616</td>
<td>Single and Double: $295/night (October 7-12, 2017) Single and Double: $195/night (October 13-16, 2017)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note that this is a government per diem rate hotel, and as such the rate can change as of October 1, 2017. 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.**

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### 10 Reasons to Stay at a Contracted Hotel in Chicago

1. **Academy receptions and social events will take place in the headquarters hotel, the Palmer House.** Save yourself the nightly walk/taxi by staying at the Palmer House or at another contracted hotel and take Academy-provided buses.

2. **All of the Academy contracted hotels are within easy walking distance of Chicago restaurants and attractions.**

3. **Enjoy the excitement of Chicago just outside of your room by staying at our contracted hotels.**

4. **Get your exercise in the hotel's gym or fitness center, or enjoy the many great dining options near the hotels.**

5. **Use the hotel concierge for great ideas on Chicago culture and sightseeing! It could be your best resource.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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, we face negotiating difficulties in future years.**

10. **The Academy has negotiated competitive rates at a variety of price levels and brands.**
Whisked Away by the Windy City

Chicago is more than just a big city. Besides its striking downtown, which includes some of the tallest buildings in the world, Chicago has a distinctive coastline, hundreds of vibrant parks and 77 unique neighborhoods.

Chicago has a reputation as a must-visit destination for diners. In fact, Chicago is one of only three cities in the country to have its culinary chops rated by the prestigious Michelin Guide. With incredible shopping on The Magnificent Mile, world premiere performances in its famed Theater District and one of the country’s most active nightlife scenes, this city is always buzzing. Chicago also vaunts more than 60 museums, five regional Tony Award-winning theaters and, no matter the season, there’s always a professional sports team to cheer to victory.

It’s this truly distinctive mix of global attractions and local charm that make Chicago one epic city. We look forward to seeing you there!

Academy 2017 Chicago Exhibitors (as of March 2017)

AAOMC
ABB OPTICAL GROUP
Advanced Ocular Care
Akorn Pharmaceuticals
Alcon Laboratories
Allergan
American Academy of Optometry
American Academy of Optometry Foundation
Annidis Corporation
Art Optical Contact Lens, Inc.
Bausch & Lomb
Blanchard Contact Lens, Inc.
BlephEx, LLC
Bio Tissue
Brien Holden Vision Institute
Bruder Healthcare Company
Coburn Technologies
Compulink
CooperVision, Inc.
DemandForce
Designs for Vision, Inc.
DGH Technology Inc.
Doctor Multimedia
Elsevier, Inc.
Enhanced Vision Systems Inc
Eschenbach Optik
Essilor of America
Eye Care and Care
Eye Designs LLC
EyeMed Vision Care/Luxottica Group
Eye Photo Systems, Inc.
Fashion Optical Displays
Forus Health Inc.
Good-Lite Co.
Haag-Streit USA/Reliance
Heidelberg Engineering
Heine USA, Ltd.
Icare-USA
iMatrix
ImprimisRx
Innexus | Website. Social Media. Marketing.
Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc.
Keebler Instruments, Inc.
Konan Medical
Lombart Instrument
LS&S Products Inc.
M&S Technologies, Inc.
MacuLogix, Inc
Marco
Menicon America
MiBo Medical Group
Moria, Inc
National Vision, Inc.
Nidek
NovaBay Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Oculus, Inc.
OCuSOFT
Ocutech Inc.
OptoPrep
Optos Inc.
Optovue, Inc.
Precision Vision
Primary Care Optometry News and Healio.com By SLACK Inc.
Reichert, Inc
Shire
Solutionreach
SUN Ophthalmics
SynergEyes, Inc
TearLab Corp
 TearScience
The Alcon Foundation, Inc.
Topcon Medical Systems, Inc.
Tru-Form Optics
Valley Contax
Vision Service Plan
Visionary Optics
Vivid Vision
VOLK Optical
Wells Fargo Practice Finance
Williams Group
X-Cel Specialty Contacts
Younger Optics
EyePromise/ZeaVision
Zeiss
What’s Your Area of Focus? Section and SIG Symposia

Academic Medical Center Optometrists SIG Symposium
The symposium will consist of two parts focusing on two different topic areas. The first hour will be a profession component on mentorship for optometrists in academic medical centers, presented by Timothy McMahon, OD, FAAO. The second component will cover education advancement: “Board Certification, the politics of credentialing/privileges at a medical institution.”

Anterior Segment Section: New Perspectives in Dry Eye: Neuropathic Corneal Pain
This course presents an overview of the etiology and present understanding of corneal neuropathic pain and ocular surface disease. A review of the anatomy and physiology, pathological alterations to nerve morphology, recognition of symptoms, as well as diagnosis and management strategies will be included. Speakers include Scott Hauswirth, OD, FAAO, Anat Galor, MD, Leslie Small, OD.

Joint Binocular Vision, Perception & Pediatric Optometry and Low Vision Sections: Cortical/Cerebral Vision Impairment (CVI): An Overview of the Attributes, Range of Clinical Presentations, Research Findings, and Challenges to Rehabilitate and Educate this Burgeoning Population
Cortical/cerebral vision impairment (CVI) is the leading cause of pediatric vision impairment in the developing world. There is a lack of consensus regarding what CVI is, the necessary findings required for diagnosis, who should make the diagnosis, and who should be involved with the delivery of services to these patients/students. The goal of this symposium is to increase the awareness of this condition to optometry. An over view of the condition and a general approach to clinical decision making will be followed by a riveting talk revealing the latest functional imaging studies pertaining to ocular-versus brain-based visual impairment on the developing brain. With this neurophysiologic underpinning, the next talk focuses on dorsal stream dysfunction that leads to the final talk about educational considerations for children with CVI. Speakers include Barry Kran, OD, FAAO, Corinna Bauer, PhD, Gordon Dutton, MD, Amanda Hall Lueck, PhD.

Joint Comprehensive Eye Care Section and Nutrition, Disease Prevention & Wellness SIG: Nutritional Influences on Eye Health
This symposium seeks to explore how nutritional factors influence systemic and ocular health down to the cellular level resulting in disease. Epigenetics, metabolomics, and functional integrative medicine will be discussed. The symposium aims to address how the comprehensive eye care provider can improve patient care to prevent vision loss and blindness. Speakers include Stuart Richer, OD, FAAO, Kim Allan Williams, MD, Diana Shechtman, OD, FAAO, Betty Kovaes, MS.

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies: Ocular Surface Disease and Irregular Cornea Grand Rounds: A Multidisciplinary Approach
Ocular surface disease with or without corneal irregularity is challenging to treat both optically and physiologically. This expert “all-Chicago” panel will present challenging cases and treatment approaches including medical, surgical, and contact lens management of corneal disease. The multidisciplinary approach to management of these patients will be evident as AAO Diplomates and Fellows present cases shared with internationally recognized corneal surgeons. Speakers include Timothy McMahon, OD, FAAO, Charlotte Joslin, OD, PhD, FAAO, Dmitri Azar, MD, Louise Sclafani, OD, FAAO, Ann Laurenzi-Jones, OD, FAAO, Marian Macsai, MD.

Glaucoma Section: MIGS: Emerging Technologies in Glaucoma Surgery
Evolving technologies in the field of micro-invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) have set the stage for a shift in treatment approach for qualifying patients with open angle glaucoma. It offers a welcomed new option for patients intolerant to medical management who lack the severity that necessitates the high risks of traditional surgical procedures. Optometrists must be prepared to accurately identify and selectively refer those candidates who would benefit most from this new technology. Speakers include Brett Bence, OD, FAAO, Sarah Wood, OD, FAAO, Madhu Gorla, MD.
Neuro-ophthalmic Disorders in Optometry SIG: The Lawrence Gray Symposium: Neuro-ophthalmic Top 10 Lists
Evaluating neuro-ophthalmic disorders can be perceived as being difficult and intimidating. This symposium helps you learn how to avoid the most common mistakes when evaluating diplopia, visual fields, and unexplained visual loss. In this fast-paced program focusing on Neuro-ophthalmic Top-10 lists, world-renowned neuro-ophthalmologists provide clinically applicable tips to increase your comfort level in dealing with these concerning presentations. Speakers include Jonathan Trobe, MD, Cherie Farkash, OD, FAAO, Valerie Purvin, MD.

Optometric Education Section: Assessment Techniques In and Out of the Clinic
Participants in the symposium will be able to describe how assessment fits within the educational cycle. You will be able to write learning objectives in the different learning domains (knowledge, skills, and attitudes) within Bloom’s hierarchy. You will also be able to choose assessment tools for each domain considering Miller’s 4 levels of assessment in healthcare. Speakers include Patricia Hrynchak, OD, MScCH, FAAO, Rebecca Kammer, OD, PhD, FAAO, Shilpa Register, OD, PhD, FAAO.

Public Health & Environmental Vision Section: The Politics, Challenges, Innovations, and Opportunities of Healthcare Reform
This symposium brings together the leaders of the Chicago area healthcare policy makers. They will discuss the path to sustainability and good outcomes in the changing strategy of the repeal and replace events of post-election 2016. What are the expectations of healthcare reform as it pertains to private insurance, hospitals, and government programs? What is the role of managed vision care? There will be a focus on the politics, challenges, innovations, and opportunities of Healthcare Reform. Strengthening operations, quality, safety and business development for the health system will be discussed. Speakers include Cheryl R. Whitaker, MD, Karen C. Teitelbaum, MBA, Anthony T. LoSasso, PhD, Jeff Smith, OD.

Retina SIG: Posterior Segment Inflammatory Diseases and Malignancies
Diagnostic dilemmas of the posterior segment will be discussed. Speakers will bridge the gap from diagnosis to treatment in posterior uveitis and choroidal melanoma. Speakers include Pauline Merrill, MD, Jack Cohen, MD.

Joint Vision in Aging and Nutrition, Disease Prevention & Wellness SIGs: Aging and Nutrition in Modern Eye Care
Nutrition in eye care has become an integral part of modern eye care practice. Eye care practitioners increasingly make nutrition supplement recommendations for their older patients. There are many considerations unique to older adults with general and ocular nutrition needs along with relevant clinical information beyond AREDS. Speakers include Stuart Richer, OD, FAAO, Emily Chew, MD, Billy Hammond, PhD.

Vision Science SIG: Blood Flow in Retinal Disease and Glaucoma Measurement, Understanding Tissue Oxygenation, and Clinical Applications
Reduced blood flow through the vasculature can drive retinal disease and glaucoma. Using adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscopy or OCT techniques, blood flow through the fundus can be mapped noninvasively (e.g. without the injection of fluorescein). Both drop-out of blood vessels and vascular proliferation can be seen and related to a patient’s prognosis. The oxygen supply to the inner and outer retina are probed with an even wider variety of methods, providing a better understanding diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. Speakers include Robert Linsenmeier, PhD, Hao Zhang, PhD, Mahnaz Shahidi, PhD, David Huang, MD, PhD, Brett King, OD, FAAO.
Scenes from Academy 2016 Anaheim

Left to Right: Attendees enjoy the warm California sun during the lunch break; Plenary Session speaker Malcolm Gladwell signs his book for an attendee; Attendees examining an infant during a hands-on workshop on pediatrics.

Left to Right: Dr. Brett Bence (right) presents the presidential medallion to Academy Incoming President Dr. Joe Shovlin (left); Attendees from the University of Montreal School of Optometry.

Left to Right: New Academy Fellows attend the pre-banquet reception; A poster presenter explains her research to an attendee.
2017 Merton C. Flom Leadership InSight© Program

This year marks the 24th year that Leadership InSight© courses will be offered at our Annual Meeting. Under the leadership of Mert C. Flom, OD, PhD, FAAO, 28 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. Dr. Flom passed away in early 2010, and is remembered as not only an outstanding vision scientist, clinician and educator, but also a visionary with a passion for leadership.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART I: What is Leadership?
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, individual strengths, different leadership styles and using leadership to influence organizational culture.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LEADERSHIP – PART II: Putting Leadership into Action
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.

INTERMEDIATE LEADERSHIP COURSE: Teamwork: Optometry’s Role in an Integrated Healthcare Environment
In the past, health care delivery has been fragmented; patients obtained their health care from a variety of isolated providers, who rarely communicated with each other. During the past several years, however, we have seen considerable efforts to better integrate care. This course will explore the implications of an integrated health care system for optometrists, and will provide insights and guidance for individuals who wish to better prepare themselves to fully participate in an integrated health care system.

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

Remembering Harue Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO
We would like to recognize Dr. Harue Marsden, who passed away on February 2, 2017 at the age of 57. She was an integral part of this program for many years and she will be missed.

Academy Announces 2017 Career Development Recipient

The Academy is pleased to announce Fuensanta A. Veradiaz, OD, PhD, FAAO, as the 2017 Academy 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 New England College of Optometry will provide matching funds, dollar for dollar, up to $50,000 per year for each year of funding.

Dr. Vera-Diaz, an Academy Fellow since 2012, is a full-time tenure-track Assistant Professor of Optometry at the New England College of Optometry. Her research is aimed at providing insight into the effect of retinal image quality in myopia and will serve as supportive evidence for a subsequent larger study on the etiology of human myopia. The goal of her studies beyond this project is to develop individualized optical correction and 3D digital therapies that will slow the progression of existing myopia and eventually prevent myopia.

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 fact, the mean age of first time National Institutes of Health (NIH) grantees is over 40 years of age. In an effort to positively influence and reduce the age at which early stage optometric researchers attain large scale federal support, the Academy launched the Career Development Award. Read more about the award online at http://www.aaopt.org/About/careerdevelopment.
Board Member Spotlight: Carl Spear, OD, MBA, FAAO

This year we welcome Dr. Carl Spear to the American Academy of Optometry’s Board of Directors. Dr. Spear became a Fellow in 1998 and has been very active in the Academy, serving as a member of the Membership and Exhibits Committees, and most recently as Chair of the Exhibits Committee for the past two years.

When asked what he hopes to accomplish as a member of the Board, Dr. Spear said, “I envision the Academy as the premiere optometric organization in the world. To that end, we must always remain true to our mission of promoting the art and science of vision care through lifelong learning. One of my mentors was the late Dr. Ed Walker, and it would be my vision that as an organization, we could instill the love and sense of pride that he had in being a member of the Academy into everyone.”

Dr. Spear earned his OD degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed his residency in Primary Care Optometry/Ocular Disease at Northeastern State University College of Optometry and later earned his MBA from Auburn University.

Following his education, Dr. Spear gained a wide variety of experience working in multiple settings from military and academia to private optometric practice as well as with companies focused on ophthalmology. He also has extensive experience in practice management, teaching multiple lectures at past annual meetings to help optometrists increase profitability and the value of their own businesses. In addition to his management expertise and diverse practice background, Dr. Spear also brings his strong leadership skills to the Board in an effort to help navigate the Academy forward in a rapidly evolving and complex healthcare system.

“As a board member, my primary objective is to treat the Academy as I would any entity or business organization where I am in a leadership role,” said Spear. “I will focus on growth of membership and increase in non-membership revenue without compromising the core values and principles of our organization. I would hope that when my tenure is complete I am able to leave the Academy stronger and in a better place than when I started.”

Join Our Social Media Network
As we get back into the swing of things this semester I would like to thank all of the students who were able to attend the Academy meeting in Anaheim last November. It was truly an extraordinary experience that included exciting student events, world-class lectures, plenty of networking opportunities and many memorable moments. For all of you who were unable to attend, I highly encourage you to come to the next Academy meeting in Chicago, October 11-14, 2017.

One of the best things about Academy meetings is the opportunity to pursue Student Fellowship, something my friends and I all completed in Anaheim. Student Fellowship allows students the opportunity to advance their knowledge and hold themselves to the highest academic standards. Student Fellowship also inspires students to pursue Fellowship after graduation, something the AOSA and I highly encourage. Fellowship provides an avenue for distinction and excellence above and beyond our optometry degree. Furthermore, it demonstrates commitment to the profession of optometry and a passion to further push our field into a positive light. Personally, I will pursue Fellowship to make valuable contributions to the field of optometry, stay on top of the latest in scientific research and join an elite network of professional camaraderie. Better yet, the Academy offers incentives to those who apply for Fellowship after completing optometry school. If you submit your application online by December 31, 2017, your first year of dues and application fees will be waived!

On behalf of the AOSA and the Academy, I wish you all the best of luck the rest of this school year. I look forward to seeing you all later this year in Chicago!

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2016 Best Student Scientific Program Presentations

The Academy Scientific Program Committee is pleased to recognize the Best Student Scientific Program Presentations from Academy 2016 Anaheim:

Lane Position, Steering, and Velocity Control in Biopic Drivers
Amber Mathias, The Ohio State University College of Optometry

“I am grateful for the opportunity the Academy provides for students to present their research to the vision science community. I am very honored to be recognized for our work in sign identification and driving outcomes in biopic drivers with central vision impairment.”

Relationship between Intrinsically Photosensitive Retinal Ganglion Cells and Refractive Error, Light Exposure, and Melatonin
Kaleb Abbott, University of Houston College of Optometry

“Presenting at Academy 2016 Anaheim was a fantastic experience from both a student and researcher perspective. It was a nice personal challenge. I strongly recommend that students not only attend Academy meetings, but present their findings as well, be it clinical or lab work in nature. A most deserving thank you to Dr. Lisa Ostrin and the University of Houston College of Optometry for their dedication to research excellence and efforts to put students in a position to succeed.”

These presentations were selected from more than 130 scientific submissions. The top 5 candidates were identified by the committee following the review at the annual planning meeting in July. Final selection of the 2016 Best Student Scientific Program Presentations was based on the authors’ presentations of their work at Academy 2016 Anaheim.
Chapter News

Arizona Chapter
The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Optometry held their Annual Spring Meeting at Midwestern University Arizona College of Optometry on Saturday, March 4th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Six hours of COPE accredited continuing education was offered to attendees including a keynote lecture by Dr. Wendy Harrison exploring electrodiagnostic techniques in patients with unexplained vision loss. In addition, there were lectures covering the public health issue of Zika virus infection as it pertains to optometrists, and exam ‘tricks’ for identifying patients with inorganic vision loss. Grand Rounds: Fellowship Showcase highlighted new Arizona Fellows of the Academy as they presented uniquely challenging cases.

Florida Chapter
The Florida Chapter will hold its next meeting on April 21-22, 2017 at the Mission Inn in Howey-In-The-Hills, Florida. Featured speakers will include Drs. Carlo Pelino, Stuart Kaplan, and Sue Frick. Six hours of CE, plus two hours of Florida Optometric Jurisprudence and two hours of Medical Errors will be offered for a total of 10 hours of CE. For more information email Dr. Art Young at eyeguy4123@msn.com.

New Jersey Chapter
The New Jersey Chapter will hold its next meeting on April 5-9, 2017 at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Featured speakers will include Drs. Joseph Shovlin and Eric Schmidt. A total of 16 hours of CE will be provided. For more information email Dennis Lyons at dhl2020@aol.com.

North Carolina Chapter
The North Carolina Chapter held a very successful meeting on December 3, 2016 in Kernersville, NC. 4 hours of COPE-approved continuing education was provided with excellent lectures from Drs. Moshe Schwartz and Susan Gromacki.

The chapter will be hosting its next meeting: The 5th Annual Roger Cummings Resident Symposium on Saturday, May 6 from 9AM – 1PM at the W.G Hefner VA Medical Center in Salisbury, NC. 10 residents representing the W.G. Hefner VA Medical Center, The Greenville, SC VA Outpatient Center and the Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, NC will present cases in a grand rounds format. Four hours of COPE-approved continuing education will be offered to attendees.

For more information on the NC Chapter of the Academy please contact Dr. Beth Cody at Elizabeth.Cody@va.gov

Nova Southeastern University Student Chapter
Nova Southeastern University had more than 40 students participate in and complete the Student Fellowship Program in Anaheim. We are extremely proud of our students and their interest and support of the Academy. The chapter is currently working on raising money for students to attend the 2017 meeting in Chicago.

Rosenberg School of Optometry Student Chapter
The Rosenberg School of Optometry student chapter of the Academy hosted their annual Residency Day event on November 4, 2016. The event started off with a catered lunch and round-robin style discussion of each residency program. The students in attendance learned all about the various residency programs offered by RSO directly from the residents themselves. Following lunch, local doctors earned 4 hours of free continuing education by attending case presentations by the residents on a wide variety of topics, including endophthalmitis, vestibular schwannoma, specialty scleral lens fittings and vision rehabilitation for stroke patients. Over 50 RSO students and numerous local optometrists attended the event. If you are interested in receiving information regarding Residency Day 2017, please contact Richard Trevino, OD, FAAO at rctrevin@uiwtx.edu.

Kentucky College of Optometry Student Chapter
The KYCO Student Chapter hosted an informational session about the Academy on February 6th. Students heard from Drs. Roya Attar and Donnie Akers about the benefits of being a member of the Academy. The session also gave some insight into what it means to be a student fellow, which sparked a lot of interest with our students. The chapter is eager to get involved and has many fundraising events lined up for this semester, in order to raise money to attend the Academy Annual Meeting in Chicago!
Fellows Celebrate 25, 40 and 50 Year Anniversaries

Class of 1967, 50 Years!
Dr. Barry L. Cole, Hawthorn East, Australia
Dr. Theodore G. Crook, Camden, SC
Dr. Rusi Dastoor, Bombay, India
Dr. Ronald J. Selvin, Chestnut Hill, MA
Dr. Frederick B. Setzer Jr., Hoover, AL
Dr. James E. Sheedy, Corvallis, OR
Dr. P. Sarita Soni, Bloomington, IN
Dr. Michael R. Spinell, Philadelphia, PA
Prof. Alan Tomlinson, Kitchener, Canada
Dr. Ronald D. Wade, South Bend, IN
Dr. Joe Yager, Orlando, FL
Dr. Frank Zisman, San Francisco, CA

Class of 1977, 40 Years!
Dr. Arol R. Augsburger, Chicago, IL
Dr. Felix M. Barker, Rock Hill, SC
Dr. Jimmy D. Bartlett, Vestavia, AL
Dr. Peter B. Benvenuto, Memphis, TN
Dr. Thomas F. Brill, North Port, FL
Dr. Lynn J. Coon, Wasilla, AK
Dr. John M. Eagleson, Madison, IN
Dr. Marc C. Epstein, Great Neck, NY
Dr. Paul B. Freeman, Sewickley, PA
Dr. Jerome M. Garber, Old Westbury, NY
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Dr. Raymond M. Goga, Wausau, WI
Dr. David A. Greenberg, Rochester, MN
Dr. Anthony J. Hanks, Port Macquarie, Australia
Dr. Daniel A. Hayhoe, Cambridge, Canada
Dr. David J. Helfman, Rochester, MN
Dr. Janet E. Sears, Port Macquarie, Australia
Dr. Brian E. Smith, Port Macquarie, Australia
Dr. Byron L. Hollander, Verviers, Belgium
Dr. Ralston J. Johnson, Stuttgart, Germany
Dr. Richard J. Kado, Tokyo, Japan
Dr. Victor L. Kautz, Tokyo, Japan
Dr. Christiane L. Kerei, Maastricht, Netherlands
Dr. John W. Lovely, Maastricht, Netherlands
Dr. Robert B. McMillan, Maastricht, Netherlands
Dr. Frans H. M. van der Meulen, Maastricht, Netherlands

Class of 1992, 25 Years!
Dr. Gregory S. Abel, Fort Collins, CO
Dr. Christine L. Astin, Marlborough, United Kingdom
Dr. D. Rudolph Black, Tomball, TX
Dr. Anthony P. Borgognoni, Plano, TX
Dr. Edward Bosnich, Miami, FL
Dr. Sylvie Bourassa, Quebec, Canada
Dr. Norma K. Bowyer, Morgantown, WV
Dr. Clifford W. Brooks Jr., Bloomington, IN
Dr. Michael T. Cady, Ormond Beach, FL
Dr. Michael A. Chaglasian, Chicago, IL
Dr. Mike T. Christensen, Cordova, TN
Dr. Bradley Coffey, Portland, OR
Dr. Yves Cousseau, Ste-Therese, Canada
Dr. Bart V. DePascale, Bluffton, SC
Dr. Sally M. Dillehay, Alpharetta, GA
Dr. W. Carlton Edwards, Douglasville, GA

Prof. David B. Elliott, Bradford, United Kingdom
Dr. James L. Fanelli, Wilmington, NC
Dr. Stephen J. Feinberg, Washington DC
Dr. Marc Fournier, Gaspe, Canada
Dr. Renee J. Garofalo, Fort Worth, TX
Dr. Charline A. Gauthier, Winter Park, FL
Dr. Robert D. Gibbs, Yakima, WA
Dr. Sidney I. Greenberg, Florence, AL
Dr. Gary G. Gunderson, Chicago, IL
Dr. Andrew S. Gurwood, Churchville, PA
Dr. Robert S. Hammond, Fuquay Varina, NC
Dr. Stephen J. Harney, Lowell, MA
Dr. Rick L. Hartman, Fuquay Varina, NC
Dr. Michael B. Haugen, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
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Dr. Mark K. Helgeson, Park River, ND
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Dr. Richard W. Hoberg, Sioux City, IA
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The American Academy of Optometry and the American Academy of Optometry Foundation thank their generous corporate sponsors for their support of 2016 activities.

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Hot Topics in Optometry

Visit [www.whatshtooptometry.org](http://www.whatshtooptometry.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 have met 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 email membership@aaoptom.org.
Official foundation of the American Academy of Optometry | Spring 2017

Announcing a New Name for the Academy’s Foundation

We are pleased to announce that the American Optometric Foundation has officially changed its name to the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF). The Foundation Board of Directors voted to change the name for the purpose of better aligning and branding the Academy’s foundation.

The Foundation continues to develop and provide financial support for optometric research and education in vision and eye health to improve clinical patient care.

Message from David

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your support in helping the American Academy of Optometry Foundation become what it is today. This year the Foundation celebrates 70 years, and it is our mission to continue advancing optometry’s future.

During Academy 2016 Anaheim, the Foundation raised more than $230,000 in donations and new pledges. The Foundation thanks all registrants, sponsors, donors, awardees, and volunteers for your generous support.

This year the Foundation will provide over $450,000 in fellowships, scholarships, and grants to deserving students, residents, and faculty. The Foundation will present two new awards, the Joseph T. Barr Early Cornea and Contact Lens Research Award and the Donald Korb and Joan Exford Dry Eye Award.

I encourage you to continue to support the Foundation’s mission. The website www.aaopt.org/AOF provides the latest information. Together, we can make a greater impact on vision and eye health to improve clinical patient care.

Sincerely,
David G. Kirschen, OD, PhD, FAAO
President, AAOF

Visit Our Website

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

Like the AAOF’s page on Facebook to connect with your colleagues and to receive important updates related to AAOF’s programs: www.facebook.com/AmericanAcademyofOptometryFoundation
In 2014, the American Academy of Optometry Foundation began a tradition of honoring a former Ezell Fellow by naming an Ezell Club Fellowship in their name for that given year. For 2017-2018, the Ezell Fellowship will be named for Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, FAAO. This fellowship will be recognized at Academy 2017 Chicago.

As a graduate student, Dr. Karla Zadnik never applied for an Ezell Fellowship because she was already supported by a federally-funded grant. However, Dr. Zadnik ultimately became a very influential optometric clinician scientist. She chaired two multi-center observational trials sponsored by the National Eye Institute. These investigations significantly increased our clinical knowledge of eye and visual development, myopia, and keratoconus. They also improved the stature of clinical science in optometry while teaching clinicians about the rigors of good science and inspiring clinicians to pursue research endeavors and careers. Dr. Zadnik is also the Chair of the American Optometric Association’s Council on Research and the American Academy of Optometry’s Research Committee, which co-host a bi-annual research institute that has generated over $80 million dollars of clinical research grants since 1988. The scope of her research influence is both far and deep, and that is why she is the first recipient of an American Academy of Optometry Foundation Honorary Ezell Fellowship. If you would like to make a donation in honor of Dr. Zadnik, please visit http://www.aaopt.org/AOF/donate.

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF), in partnership with the Allergan Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2016-2017 recipient of the Allergan Research Grant. The 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 areas of glaucoma and/or the anterior segment.

Congratulations to Stephen A. Burns, PhD, FAAO, professor at Indiana University, School of Optometry. He has been awarded a $60,000 grant for his project, “High Resolution, Adaptive Optics Imaging of the Trabecular Meshwork in Vivo.” Brett J. King, OD, FAAO, clinical professor and Thomas J. Gast, MD, PhD, senior scientist at Indiana University, are co-investigators on this project.

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. A major donor reception was held at The Ranch in Anaheim. The Foundation recognizes the newest President’s Circle members and those who increased their level of giving to a higher level during Academy 2016 Anaheim.

New President’s Circle
Heather and Gary Anderson
Lisa Ostrin
Jerome Sherman

President’s Circle Gold
Eric Ritchey and Moriah Chandler

President’s Circle Platinum
Jeffrey Walline

President’s Circle Diamond
Karla and Kurt Zadnik

The AAOF 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, Director, Development at MaureenD@aaoptom.org.
New Board Members

Rachel A. “Stacey” Coulter, OD, MS, FAAO
Rachel A. “Stacey” Coulter, OD, MS, FAAO received her doctor of optometry degree in 1991 from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), completed a residency in Pediatric Optometry at PCO in 1992, and received an MS degree in education from Nova Southeastern University (NSU) in 2012. Currently, Dr. Coulter is a Professor of Optometry at NSU where she teaches in the classroom, clinic, and residency program and is active in clinical research. Dr. Coulter is a Diplomate and past Chair of the Academy’s Binocular Vision, Perception, & Pediatric Optometry Section. Dr. Coulter has a career-long interest in vision and its link to child development and learning. Dr. Coulter is the 2016 recipient of the American Academy of Optometry’s Feinbloom Award for her contributions to clinical excellence.

Kerry Giedd, OD, MS, FAAO
Kerry Giedd is a founding partner of Eola Eyes, a private group practice in Orlando, Florida, specializing in contact lenses. She is currently a member of the editorial board of Primary Care Optometry News. Dr. Giedd has served as a clinical investigator, consultant, and/or speaker for companies in the contact lens industry including Bausch + Lomb, CooperVision, Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Alcon, and Allergan. Her practice has been nationally and locally recognized as the recipient of many awards, including CooperVision’s 2015 Best Practices Award. She is a longstanding board member of the Central Florida Lions Club’s Project Right to Sight and was honored to be recognized by the Small Business Administration as the 2012 Women in Business Champion of the Year for the state of Florida.

Dave Sattler, FAAO
Dave Sattler began his career with Alcon in 1986 and after 28 years of service, he retired from Alcon in 2014. He is now running his own consulting business. Dave is also a board member of the Southern College of Optometry and First Eye Care. He previously served 8 years as a board member for Optometry Cares, the American Optometric Association Foundation. In 2015, the Optometric Management trade journal recognized Dave as one of the top 50 most influential people who have made significant contributions to the profession of optometry.

Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD, FAAO
Karla Zadnik, an internationally recognized leader in optometric research and education, became The Ohio State University College of Optometry’s dean in June 2014. She received her OD and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. She became a Diplomate of the Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies in 1986. Professional highlights include: American Academy of Optometry President (2011-12); American Academy of Optometry Foundation Glenn A. Fry Award Recipient (1995); National Advisory Eye Council of the National Eye Institute (NEI)/National Institutes of Health (2000-04); Study Chair for the NEI-funded Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Ethnicity and Refractive Error (CLEERE) Study; and Chair of the first-ever NEI-funded multicenter study based in optometry, the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study (1994-2007).
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPTOMETRY
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Orlando, FL 32803

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