

The Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section of the American Academy of Optometry

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section is to foster and conduct clinical, education, and research activities in Binocular vision, visual information processing and pediatric optometry.

Goals and Objectives (from the bylaws)

- Serve as a primary resource for the Academy for symposia, papers, posters, courses, information and research regarding the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions, and to advise the Board of Directors on policy in these areas.
- Encourage inquiry and research into the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by providing a forum of practitioners and scientists known as the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section where new advances in the field may be presented, questioned and defended.
- Promote, advance and enhance the identity of optometry as a profession providing these services.
- Encourage Academy Fellows to increase their competence in the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by recognizing as Diplomates those who demonstrate a broad base of knowledge and expertise in these conditions.
- Develop a large body of Clinical and Research Diplomates to further the clinical, educational, and research activities and goals of the Section.

The Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section of the American Academy of Optometry (hereafter referred to as the "Section") are those Fellows in the American Academy of Optometry who have expressed particular interest in the field of binocular vision, perception and pediatric optometry and have elected to be members in this Section.

The Section Executive Committee consists of the Section Chair, Vice-Chair, Diplomat Chair, Diplomat Vice-Chair, Case Reports Chair, Immediate Past Chair and the Research Diplomat Chair.

Diplomates of the Section are those Section members who have successfully completed the examination process administered by the Section, and have been granted Diplomat status by the Board of Directors of the Academy. The steps and procedures for attaining Diplomat status are described in detail in the Section's Candidate Guide.

The Section operates under the bylaws of the Section, the bylaws of the American Academy of Optometry, and such directives of its' Board of Directors as they may apply. In any instance where the following procedures conflict with Academy policies and/or bylaws, it shall be assumed that Academy policy will take precedence.

I Responsibilities

1. Serve at the appointment and pleasure of the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Optometry
2. Serve as a primary resource for the Academy for papers, posters, courses, information and research regarding the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions
3. To advise the Board of Directors on policy in these areas.
4. Encourage inquiry and research into the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by providing a forum of practitioners and scientists known as the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section where new advances in the field may be presented, questioned and defended.
5. Promote, advance and enhance the identity of optometry as a profession providing these services.
6. Encourage Academy Fellows to increase their competence in the diagnosis and management of binocular vision, visual information processing, and pediatric eye conditions by recognizing as Diplomates those who demonstrate a broad base of knowledge and expertise in these conditions.

II - Membership

Any member of the American Academy of Optometry may become a member of the Section by participating in Section activities, attending the Section's meetings, and by paying any dues required by the Academy. A minimum of 100 Fellows, verified every six years, are required to form and maintain a Section. Only Section members who are Fellows may participate in any voting (hereinafter 'voting members'), unless otherwise specified

III – Officers

1. The officers of this Section shall be a Section Chair, Section Vice-Chair, Clinical Diplomate Chair, Clinical Diplomate Vice-Chair, Research Diplomate Chair and Immediate Past Chair. Typically, the Section Chair also serves as the Section's Program Chair.
2. There shall be an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Section Chair, Section Vice-Chair, Clinical Diplomate Chair, Clinical Diplomate Vice-Chair, Research Diplomate Chair and Immediate Past Chair.

3. Only Fellows of the Academy may run for elected office in the Section.
4. Only Clinical Diplomates in the Section may serve as Clinical Diplomate Chair and Clinical Diplomate Vice-Chair.
5. Except for the Immediate Past Chair, the Section officers shall be elected biennially by the Section members at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section. A majority of the votes cast for a particular office shall be required for election to that office. An individual may serve only one consecutive term for each of the elected offices, with the exception of the Research Diplomate Chair.
6. All terms of office herein specified shall begin at the close of the Annual Academy Meeting at which the election takes place and shall end two years hence at the close of the Annual Meeting.
7. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to seek the removal from office of any officer for such cause as will preserve the dignity and integrity of the organization. A majority of the Section officers shall be required to petition the Board of Directors to remove an elected Section officer. If an office becomes vacant by resignation, illness, death, or refusal to act, a replacement shall be appointed by the Section Chair for the remainder of that officer's term. Should the office of the Section Chair become vacant, the Section Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.

IV - Duties of Officers

1. Section Chair.

The Section Chair shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Binocular Vision, Perception, and Pediatric Optometry Section and of the Section's Executive Committee.
- Appoint and/or approve the Chair of any committees within the Section who are to hold office during his/her term as Chair (i.e., Diplomate subcommittee chairs for Case Reports, Written Examination, Oral Examination, and Section Webmaster).
- Submit an annual budget for the Section to the Executive Director of the Academy.
- Superintend the performance of all activities of the Section, and perform such other duties and acts that usually pertain to this office.
- Communicate with the Section officers and membership through email and the Section's web page.
- As Program Chair, plan and superintend the programs of the Section at the Annual Meeting of the Academy during his/her term.
- This role includes:
 - Developing symposium topics
 - Arranging room set-up/AV equipment through the Academy office
 - Coordinating symposium guest speaker reimbursement through the Academy office

- Staying for the Annual Meeting Debriefing and Planning Meeting,
- which takes place the day following the Annual Meeting

2. Section Vice-Chair.

The Vice-Chair shall:

- Aid the Chair in the performance of his/her duties in such a manner and to such extent requested.
- Take minutes at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section and submit the draft version to the Chair for posting on the Section's web page (subject to approval at the next Annual Business Meeting of the Section).
- Raise funds from corporations, in consultation with the Academy Executive Director, to supplement the budgeted funds for the Section Reception at the Annual Meeting, and to fund one or more Resident Travel Fellowships to the Annual Meeting.
- Upon the death, resignation or during disability of the Chair or upon refusal to act, perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of his/her term or disability, as the case may be.

3. Immediate Past Chair.

- The Immediate Past Chair shall aid the Chair in the performance of his/her duties as requested.

4. Clinical Diplomate Chair and Vice-Chair, Research Diplomate Chair.

Refer to Diplomate Program (VI) below.

V - Meetings

1. The Annual Business Meeting of the Section shall be held during the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry.
2. A minimum of 10 members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
3. All binding action(s) of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present.
All Section members may participate in voting, with the exception of voting on changes to the Diplomate program, in which case only Diplomates may vote.
4. Except as may otherwise be required by the Constitution or Bylaws of this Academy or Section, all meetings shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the then current edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

VI - Diplomate Program

1. The Diplomate Program Committee shall be comprised of the Clinical Diplomate Chair,

Clinical Diplomate Vice-Chair, Research Diplomate Chair, and several Subcommittee Chairs (for Case Reports, Written Examination, Oral Examination, and Diplomate Renewal). Each Subcommittee Chair shall select subcommittee members to carry out the work of reviewing case reports or developing and conducting examinations, in consultation with the Clinical Diplomate Chair.

2. The primary responsibilities of the Clinical Diplomate Chair shall be to insure that the integrity and quality of the program are maintained, and that the prescribed process for achieving Diplomate status is followed. The Clinical Diplomate Chair shall be responsible for:

- Coordinating the overall activities of the Diplomate program, including informing candidates of the time and place of all examinations at the Annual Meeting
- Continuously reviewing the candidacy process, encouraging and mentoring the candidates and assigning another mentor to them as needed
- Providing guidance to the officers and members of the Diplomate program committee
- Recruiting members for the Diplomate program committees
- Keeping the Academy office informed of the status of candidates and new Diplomates
- Performing such other duties and acts that usually pertain to this office

3. The Clinical Diplomate Vice-Chair shall aid the Diplomate Chair in the performance of his/her duties in such a manner and to such extent as the Chair may request. The Diplomate Vice-Chair coordinates the Practical Examination at the Annual Meeting, and in this capacity is responsible for:

- Finding a local host doctor or clinic for the practical examination
- Communicating with the host regarding facilities, patients, patient records, and equipment
- Informing the candidates of the time and place of the examination, as well as equipment they need to bring
- Selecting Diplomates to assist with the examination
- Arranging transportation for the candidates and examiners to and from the examination
- Providing sufficient recording forms and appropriate equipment for the examination
- Reimbursement of patients and a small gift for the host
- Grading of the examination results and reporting them to the Diplomate Chair
- Submitting expenses to the Section Chair for reimbursement approval

4. Each Subcommittee Chair is responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing the candidacy process for that area.

The responsibilities include:

- Recruiting subcommittee members, in consultation with the Clinical Diplomate Chair
- In the case of the Written Examination or Oral Examination Subcommittee

Chair, assigning responsibilities within the subcommittee including development, updating, implementation, grading, and reporting of results of the written and oral examinations to the Clinical Diplomate Chair, who will discuss the results with the candidates

- In the case of the Case Reports Subcommittee Chair, assigning case report reviewers to critique case reports and conveying their comments to the candidates anonymously, as well as assisting the candidates in finding resources to achieve successful completion of the case reports requirements

5. The responsibilities of the Subcommittee members include:

- Reviewing submitted case reports
- Providing mentorship to the candidates
- Developing and evaluating the written and oral examinations
- Other duties as the Subcommittee Chair may direct

6. The Research Diplomate Chair shall carry out the responsibilities of recruiting and advising the candidates for Research Diplomate, and shall assist with paper topic selection, review of the candidate's submitted paper, and the candidate's oral interview. The Chair shall select other Research Diplomates and ad hoc committee members to assist with examination of candidates.

A minimum of five new Diplomates every six years are required to maintain a Section. In the event that this goal is not achieved, the Section must petition the Board of Directors for a waiver to this requirement.

VII - Miscellaneous Provisions

1. All bills incurred by the Section, before being forwarded to the staff liaison at the Academy office for payment, shall be approved by the Chair.

2. These Bylaws shall become effective upon the approval thereof by the Board of Directors (Formerly referred to as the Executive Council) of the American Academy of Optometry and by this Section.

VIII – Amendments

1. These Bylaws may be amended from time to time by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Section present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting of the Section. No amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Optometry.