

ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN ACADEMY
of OPTOMETRY

Fall 2023



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ACADEMY 23
NEW ORLEANS
OCTOBER 11-14

Presented by AMERICAN ACADEMY of OPTOMETRY

www.aaopt.org/2023

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Inspiring Excellence in Optometry and Vision Science: 2023 Academy and Foundation Awards

Please join us in honoring the 2023 award recipients at the American Academy of Optometry Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 13, 8:00 – 10:00 AM in the Ballroom C of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, Louisiana! Find inspiration in the awardees' achievements in the advancement of optometry and vision science. Learn about the research of our Prentice and Fry awards recipients through their COPE accredited lectures. Attendees receive one hour of credit for attending this special two-hour unopposed event.

Charles F. Prentice Medal and Lecture



The Charles F. Prentice Medal is the Academy's top award and lecture at the annual meeting, presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge through research in the visual sciences.

The recipient of this year's Prentice Medal is **Eric B. Papas, PhD, BScOptom**. Dr. Papas was instrumental in the development of the first silicone hydrogel lenses. Along with his inventions and research, he has been influential in training PhD students and publishing highly-cited research studies.

The Glenn A. Fry Award and Lecture



The Glenn A. Fry Award and Lecture is sponsored by the American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) and recognizes a distinguished scientist or clinician for his or her current research contributions.

Alex R. Bowers, PhD, MCOptom, FAAO, is the recipient of the 2023 Fry Award. Dr. Bowers has made significant contributions to the field of vision rehabilitation research and is recognized internationally as a leading expert in studying driving with hemianopia, central vision loss and with the use of low vision aids.



Irvin M. and Beatrice Borish Award

The Borish Award recognizes an outstanding young researcher who has shown exceptional promise to conduct independent optometric research directly related to etiology, prevention, detection, diagnosis, or management of clinical eye disorders.

The 2023 Borish Award recipient is **Rabia Mobeen, BOptom, BA, MPhil Optom**. Ms. Mobeen is a talented clinician-scientist-educator who demonstrates the spirit of the Borish award through her work not only in establishing post-graduate research work in her native Pakistan, but also in the area of immune response in the cornea during orthokeratology.



AAO-Essilor Award for Outstanding International Contributions to Optometry

The International Award recognizes an individual(s) or organization whose direct efforts and contributions have resulted in unquestionable significant and extraordinary advances in optometry and eye care internationally.

This year's International Award will be awarded to **Timothy A. Wingert, OD, FAAO**. The only optometrist to have four Fulbright Awards, Dr. Wingert instituted a study abroad program at the Rosenberg School of Optometry and also worked tirelessly in the leadership of the World Council of Optometry, as well as the VOSH International Board of Directors.



Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award

The Carel C. Koch Memorial Medal Award is presented to a person who has made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and development of relationships between optometry and other professions.

This year's recipient is **Nathan Efron, AC, DSc, FAAO**. Professor Efron has been instrumental in introducing the world of endocrinology, neurology, and related professions to the technique of assessing the structural integrity of corneal nerves using a corneal confocal microscopy which has led to it becoming a diagnostic tool for both peripheral and central neurodegenerative disorders.



Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award

The Vincent Ellerbrock Clinician Educator Award is presented to a distinguished clinician who has made outstanding and sustained contributions to the Academy's Lectures and Workshops program.

The 2023 Ellerbrock award recipient is **Anne Mika Moy, OD, FAAO**. A highly sought-after speaker at other optometric educational events and a top educator at the University of California Berkeley School of Optometry, Dr. Moy consistently returns annually to participate in the Lectures & Workshops program at the Academy to rave reviews.



William Feinbloom Award

The William Feinbloom Award is presented to an individual who has made a distinguished and significant contribution to clinical excellence and the direct clinical advancement of visual and optometric service and thus the visual enhancement of the public.

This year's Feinbloom awardee is **Jennifer Deakins McCreight, OD, FAAO**. Among other accomplishments in her dedication to the visual enhancement of the public, most recently Dr. Deakins McCreight worked to create the Alcon Children's Vision Clinic in the Fort Worth Independent School District. This model is first of its kind and aims to provide eye care to all children in need in the district.



Julius F. Neumueller Award in Optics

The AAOF's Julius F. Neumueller Award in Optics is awarded to a student pursuing the Doctor of Optometry degree in a school or college of optometry who submits a first-authored original research paper on one of the following topics: Geometrical Optics, Physical Optics, Ophthalmic Optics; Optics of the Eye.

This year the Awards Committee selected the following student to honor with this award:

Effects of Induced Aniseikonia on Binocular Visual Acuity, by **Annabelle Seddon** (principal author), Hanna Chaki, Hang-My Julie Dona Phan, Jessica G. Spink, Matthew Loc Phuc Ha, Surini Wijeyesuria, Queensland University of Technology, School of Optometry and Vision Science.

Garland W. Clay Award

The Garland Clay Award is presented to the authors of the manuscript published in *Optometry and Vision Science (OVS)* that has been among the top OVS papers cited in the world research literature in the preceding five years and has the majority vote of the Optometry and Vision Sciences Editorial Board.

The 2023 Clay Award paper is:

Ocular Component Development during Infancy and Early Childhood, by **Donald O. Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO; Loraine T. Sinnott, PhD; G. Lynn Mitchell, MAS, FAAO; Lisa A. Jordan, PhD, FAAO; Nina E. Friedman, OD, MS; Sara L. Frane, OD; Wendy K. Lin, OD.** *Optom Vis Sci* 95(11):976-985, November 2018.



Donald O. Mutti, OD, PhD, FAAO



Loraine T. Sinnott, PhD



G. Lynn Mitchell, MAS, FAAO



Lisa A. Jordan, PhD, FAAO



Wendy K. Lin, OD



Sara L. Frane, OD

Not pictured: Nina E. Friedman, OD, MS



Michael G. Harris Family Award for Excellence in Optometric Education

Presented by the American Academy of Optometry Foundation, the Harris Award recognizes an optometric educator who has demonstrated ongoing and consistent excellence in education of optometry students and/or advancement of optometric education.

This year the Harris Award is awarded to **Marlee M. Spafford, OD, MSc, PhD, FAAO.**

Professor Spafford's record of scholarship, teaching, and service clearly aligns with the award's intent to honor individuals who are meaningfully enhancing optometric education. Her exemplary contributions to optometric education span over a remarkable 38 years. Professor Spafford is a difference-maker in optometric education.



AAOF Outstanding Emerging Leader Award

The AAOF Outstanding Emerging Leader Award is presented to the individual who has displayed exceptional potential as a leader in the profession of optometry.

This year's recipient is **Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, MPhil, FAAO, PhD.** Ms. Hussaindeen is not only passionate about her work within the Academy's Admittance Committee and dedicated to challenging herself by being the first clinical Diplomate (in binocular vision, perception and pediatric optometry) in India, she has also committed herself to raising the practice of optometry internationally.



AAOF Excellence in Diversity Awareness and Education Award

The AAOF Excellence in Diversity Awareness and Education award is presented for excellence in the initiation, education, and support of programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion and belonging in optometry.

The 2023 award recipient is **Vondolee Delgado-Nixon, PhD, FAAO.** Dr.

Delgado-Nixon exemplifies the goals of the award with the excellent progress she has made providing education and training at her institution with students and staff, helping future optometrists consider and engage with the principle of diversity, health equity and including as they relate to health and healthcare.



Tony Adams Eminent Service Award

The Tony Adams Eminent Service Award honors those persons who have rendered extraordinary and/or distinguished long-term service to the Academy.

This year's awardee is **Ian L. Bailey, OD, FCOptom, DSc, FAAO.** Academy Fellow for 60 years, Dr. Bailey's first active participation in the Academy was in December 1976 in Portland, Oregon. At his very first meeting he was invited to give an Ellerbrock Continuing Education Course and three scientific papers. Since then, he has attended and presented at every single Academy meeting – up until the 2020 pandemic. Over those 45 years he has given almost 200 papers, courses, workshops and posters (exact total = 197).

Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses & Refractive Technologies Awards

These awards will be presented at the Section Awards Ceremony and Max Schapero Lecture, Wednesday, October 11, 4:00 to 5:00 pm, in Room 255-257 of the Convention Center. .5 hours of CE credit will be granted for attending this awards ceremony, because of the included lecture.



Max Schapero Memorial Lecture Award

The Schapero Award, which is the Section's highest award, honors a clinician, researcher, or scholar who has made a significant contribution to the cornea and contact lens field by virtue of his/her publications, lectures, or research efforts.

This year's honoree is **Jason Nichols, OD, PhD, FAAO**. Dr. Nichols has had a significant scholarly impact within optometry through his research, teaching and lecturing, publications, and service to the profession. Within academia, one of the most common metrics of productivity and impact is one's ability to attract research funding. As Principal Investigator, Jason has received over \$10m in extramural support (nearly \$100m as co-investigator), and maintains an active translational laboratory with industry, non-profit and NIH/NEI support (NEI R01 EY026947), all while at the same time carrying a significant administrative and university-wide leadership role.



Founders' Award

The Founders' Award is presented to the individual, group, or company who has made outstanding contribution to the clinical aspect of the art and science of contact lens fitting.

This year's awardee is **Ralph P. Stone, PhD**. Dr. Stone has demonstrated extraordinary contributions to the cornea and contact lens field. For over 40 years, his career in Research & Development has led to the development of numerous patents and many novel contact lens care, dry eye and other ophthalmic products. Thanks to his innovative thinking, ECPs have been able to provide countless patients with a better contact lens wearing experience and a decrease in dry eye signs and symptoms. As a result, his products have positively impacted the lives of millions of patients around the globe. Most recently, Dr. Stone developed a patented solution designed specifically for insertion of scleral lenses.



Exemplary Service Award

The recipient of this year's Exemplary Service Award is **Donald Korb, OD, FAAO**. Please join the Section in celebrating his service not only to the Section, but also to the Academy!

Public Health & Environmental Vision Section Henry B. Peters Memorial Award

The Public Health and Environmental Vision Section will hold their Section Awards Ceremony and Henry B. Peters Lecture on Friday, October 13, at 5:00 pm at the Hilton Riverside New Orleans Hotel in the Cambridge room. .5 hours of CE credit will be granted for attending this awards ceremony, because of the included lecture.



Henry B. Peters Memorial Award

This year's recipient is **Padhmalatha Segu, OD, FAAO**. Pat has succeeded in building valuable network relationships with numerous partnering organizations including the City of Houston, the Houston Health Department, the former Eye Care for Kids Foundation, and Lions Club. One of Dr. Segu's star accomplishments in our community has been the See to Succeed project where she was a founding partner and has served as the Clinical Director since its inception in 2011. This project strives to provide school-aged children with unresolved vision needs, the proper care they deserve.

We look forward to seeing you at these awards ceremonies to honor these distinguished individuals, acknowledging the countless contributions that they have made in advancing our profession.



Academy 2023 New Orleans: What You Expect and More!

This year, Academy members, visitors, and friends can look forward to another exceptional annual meeting. Academy 2023 New Orleans promises the continuing education, networking, and special events you have come to expect, along with opportunities to meet with our exhibitors and learn about their latest innovations in the optometric industry. To complement your attendance, the beautiful, culturally rich city of New Orleans offers a long, colorful history, indulgent food and drink, and irresistible live music.

At Academy 2023 New Orleans, there is something for everyone! Read on for quick highlights about what to expect for the annual meeting.

Before the Meeting



The Academy.23 meeting app is your master guide to all things Academy. Plan your daily schedule, decide on educational sessions, and map out your exhibit hall visits. You also can complete session evaluations and more.

Search for Academy.23 in the App Store or Google Play to download.

A tech desk will be available during the meeting on the third floor of the convention center near the Education Desk. Here you can receive assistance with your mobile app as well as help updating your profile or logging in to the Academy's member portal.

Registration Check-in

Our registration desk will be open conveniently throughout the meeting. Beat the rush on Wednesday morning by picking up your badge on Tuesday, October 10. Registration is available at two locations:

Registration Central: Ernest N. Morial Convention Center

- Tuesday - 1:00 - 5:00 PM
- Wednesday - 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Thursday - 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM
- Friday - 7:00 AM - 6:30 PM
- Saturday - 7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Satellite Registration: Hilton Riverside New Orleans Hotel

There will be satellite express registration at the Hilton Riverside New Orleans Hotel, located on the 3rd floor. This registration area is for those who have pre-registered online and need to pick up their badge only.

Satellite registration will be open during the following hours:

- Tuesday - 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- Wednesday - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- Thursday - 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Education

Academy 2023 New Orleans provides access to more than 300 hours of continuing education and the potential to earn up to 31 hours of continuing education credits. Aside from paid sessions such as the Leadership Academy, workshops, and Academy Classroom Exchange (ACE) courses, all sessions are available on a first come, first served basis. The American Academy of Optometry is accredited by COPE to provide continuing education to optometrists.

This year's unopposed Plenary Session features former NFL player Brandon Marshall and his experience with mental health issues. We will also be joined by Bernadette Melnyk, PhD, Chief Wellness Officer and Dean of Nursing at The Ohio State University, who will discuss workforce mental health care and share data specific to Academy Fellows. Academy Fellow, Dennis Pardo, OD, FAAO, LCSW, will cover how optometrists can help patients who are suffering with mental health issues.

The popular rapid-fire lecture series is back and offered each day during the annual meeting. Tune in for these fast-paced, captivating 12-minute talks. Topics include Next Generation Scleral Lens Fitting, Emerging Medical Therapies in Allergic Conjunctivitis, and much more.

If you need Continuing Education with Examination (CEE) to fulfill your state license renewal requirements, examinations are offered through the University of Houston (testing fees apply). Attendees who do not need CEE are welcome to attend these courses, which are indicated with a "CEE" icon on the Education Grid.

Interactive sessions are provided in a small group format. Consider adding an ACE course to your registration for \$25. These courses are offered throughout the meeting and have limited seating.

For those seeking hands on skills, we provide several interesting and useful sessions for optometrists at all skill levels. Sign up for a workshop when you register. Prices vary by workshop. If you need assistance adding an ACE course or workshop to your registration, email registration@aaoptom.org.

This year's Scientific Program is jam-packed with a variety of paper, poster, and Hot Topic paper sessions. Additionally, the Residents Program Committee has expanded the traditional Residents Day paper and poster session program. Plan to attend the new Joint Scientific Program/Residents Program Poster Session on Friday from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in Exhibit Hall D. Residents Program papers will also be presented on Friday and Saturday. Please visit the Academy.23 mobile app for a complete list of paper and poster sessions offered this year.

ACADEMY²³ NEW ORLEANS OCTOBER 11-14

Presented by AMERICAN ACADEMY of OPTOMETRY

Exhibit Hall

The Academy's exhibit hall will showcase more than 100 exhibitors and provide multiple opportunities to interact with leaders in the optometric industry. The exhibit hall opens with a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, October 11, from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. Stop by on Thursday between 10:00 am – 6:30 pm and Friday between 9:00 am – 3:00 pm to see the latest industry innovations and explore the many booths. Join us for lunch Thursday and Friday from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (lunch ticket required) or stop by for an Attendee Reception on Thursday evening beginning at 4:30 pm. Check the Academy.23 app for the most up-to-date list of hours and participating exhibitors.

Special Events

Our generous sponsors will be providing a full scope of informative events detailing new developments in the treatment and management of various ocular diseases. Check the Academy.23 app for a complete list of Industry Lunch + Learns (Wednesday, Noon – 1:00 pm), Breakfast Sessions (Thursday and Friday, 8:00 – 8:45 am), and Innovation Station sessions (Thursday, times vary). Seating is first come, first served and no CE is offered for these sessions.

Join us on Friday night at 9:00 pm in the Hilton Riverside, Grand Ballroom ABC for dancing and music featuring the Bad Habits at the Academy Party! In order to attend the party, you will need to [RSVP here](#). When entering the party you will stop by the designated check-in desk where you will scan your Eventbrite ticket and receive a wristband for entry. One complimentary drink ticket is available per person while supplies last, so plan to arrive early. Drinks will also be for sale, but please note, the bar will accept credit cards only (no cash or mobile pay will be accepted at the Hilton Riverside).

Stay tuned for more exciting events and updates in the Academy.23 app. You don't want to miss a thing!

New Sustainability Initiatives at the American Academy of Optometry



Interview with Nancy Wong, OD, PhD, FAAO *Academy Board Member and Chair of the Sustainability Task Force*

Earlier this year, the Academy Board of Directors initiated a task force on sustainability. The roles of the task force include identifying and implementing sustainable initiatives to reduce the Academy's carbon footprint and establishing eco-friendly practices across all operations. Dr. Nancy Wong, Chair of the Sustainability Task Force, sat down with us to highlight some of the work they have already completed to achieve more sustainable practices.

Q: What can Academy members and attendees at Academy 2023 New Orleans expect to be different with this new focus on sustainability?

A: At the annual meeting, we have worked with our corporate partners to implement sustainable practices. For example, the lanyards and bags distributed to attendees at registration this year are made of recycled materials. Additionally, we are working with our exhibitors and convention center partners as well. You'll notice this year that the lunches served at the exhibit hall will feature only compostable or recyclable materials. There will also be opportunities to recycle throughout the convention center, including a contact lens recycling program. We have also eliminated the thousands of unsustainable badge ribbons and the green sheet this year.

Q: Are there any actions attendees can take now to participate in these initiatives?

A: Bringing a refillable water bottle would be beneficial to decreasing our plastic waste. The convention center will have more than 20 refillable stations conveniently located throughout the halls. There is a map of all filling stations in the Academy.23 mobile app.

Q: We've talked about the annual meeting. Are there any other plans members should be aware of?

A: The Academy office recently relocated to Winter Park, Florida, to a building designed with sustainability in mind. Features include motion-sensor lighting and built in water dispensers to increase energy efficiency and minimize waste, in addition to embracing digital media to reduce the reliance on paper and toner. The office has also partnered with Wekiva Island and O-town Compost to support community composting.



Q: It sounds like the Board of Directors has taken this initiative and really run with it!

A: I think the Board of Directors has really initiated a steadfast task force to develop and embrace sustainability policies. I'd like to make mention of the fact that it is not just the Board of Directors and staff. We are gathering ideas from our membership to establish best practices. It is a cumulative group effort on multiple individuals' parts.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share with Academy members and attendees?

A: We want them to partner with us, give us their best ideas and best practices as well. And we hope to build upon this. What you see implemented at future Academy meetings will be built upon the practices put in place during Academy 2023 New Orleans. If you have any ideas, please share them with the Sustainability Task Force [here](#).

2023 Ocular Photography Contest Results

The 2023 Comprehensive Eye Care Section Annual Ocular Photography Contest received 116 image submissions. The submissions were divided into anterior and posterior segment categories, which received 66 and 50 submissions, respectively. Grand prizes were awarded for the anterior and posterior segment categories, followed by four honorable mentions from the combined submissions. Submissions were graded in seven categories, each assigned a numerical value between 1 and 10: focus, exposure, field of view, difficulty of capturing image, absence of distracting elements, lighting and visual impact (wow! factor). The total scores from eleven optometrist judges were averaged to determine the winners.

Special thanks to our judges: Drew Anderson, Elyse Chaglasian, Alissa Coyne, Crystal DeLuca, Jeffrey Ho, Caryn LaBuda, Danica Marrelli, Glenn Saxon, Mollie Saxon, Frances Silva, Abby Tang, Brooke Vegas, and Bryan Wolynski.

Grand Prize: Anterior Segment

Trey Sullins, OD

Sullins Eye Care, PC, Athens, TN

Special Acknowledgment: Dr. Vishal R Raval, MS
Ophthalmologist

Title: Spontaneous Hyphema

Image System: Nikon FS-3 Slit-lamp with Canon 5D Mark II DSLR

Caption: A 49-year-old male without any notable eye-related issues experienced sudden blurred vision. The examination revealed a small, layered hyphema originating from the pupillary margin and a slightly elevated intraocular pressure. There were no visible signs of an iris vascular tuft or neovascularization.



Grand Prize: Posterior Segment

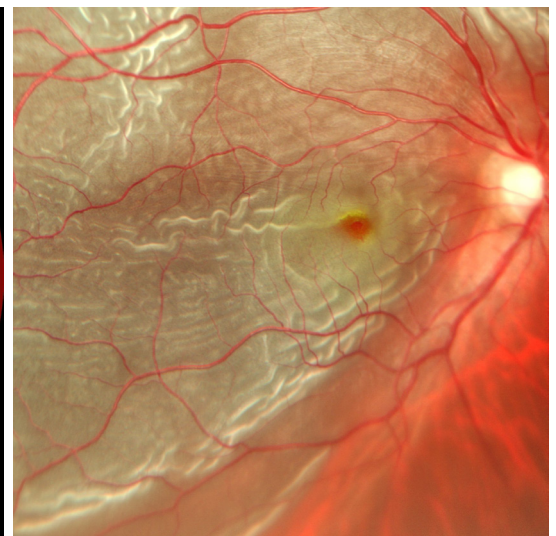
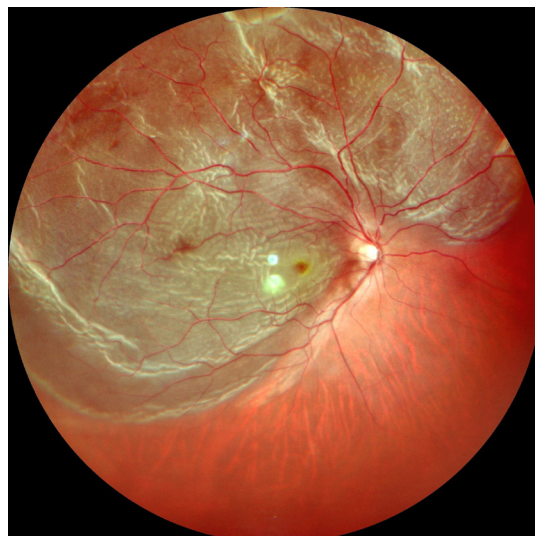
Avani Shah, B.Optom, Fellow Pediatric Optometry

Swaraashi Netralaya, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Title: Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment

Image System: Mirante Multimodal Imaging System, Anterior Segment with OPPO F7

Caption: A 56-year-old presented with complaints of sudden decreased vision in the right eye for the past few days. Fundus examination showed a rhegmatogenous retinal detachment.



Honorable Mention 1

Raghava Chary, B. Optom, DEHM

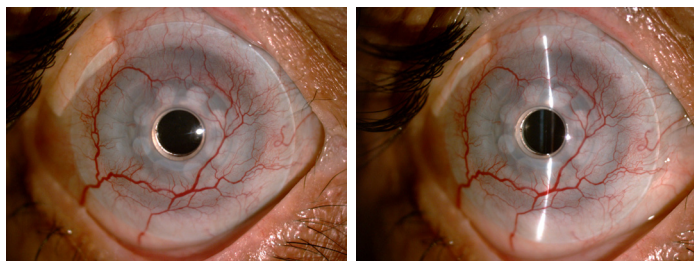
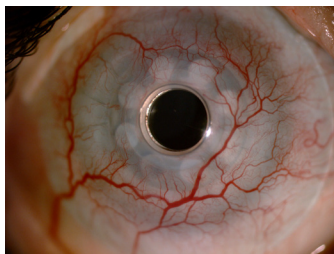
L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Telengana, India

Special Acknowledgment: Dr. Sirisha Senthil, MS, FRCS

Title: Vascularization around Boston Keratoprosthesis (KPro)

Image System: DC3 Topcon Slit-lamp Imaging

Caption: A 64-year-old male with a surgical history of Boston Keratoprosthesis (KPro) in the right eye following a chemical injury in 2011 and implantation of an Ahmed glaucoma valve in 2018. At his recent visit in 2023, he was noted to have 360-degree vascularization around the KPro. A bandage contact lens was placed for continued wear to stabilize the ocular surface and is replaced every 3-4 months for treatment.



Honorable Mention 2

Raghava Chary, B. Optom, DEHM

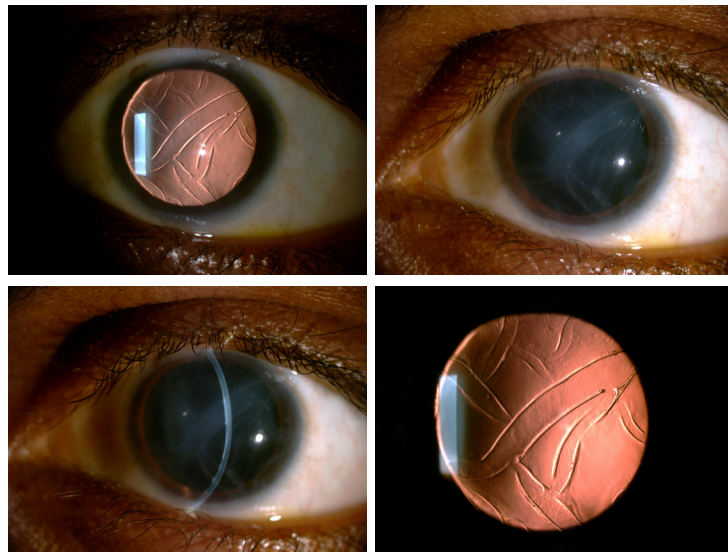
L V Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad, Telengana, India

Special Acknowledgment: Dr. Anil K. Mandal, MD

Title: Haabs Striae in Primary Congenital Glaucoma

Image System: DC3 Topcon Slit-lamp Imaging

Caption: A 15-year-old male with a history of primary congenital glaucoma which was diagnosed and treated with combined trabeculectomy and trabeculotomy at 7 months old. The images show multiple Haabs striae in the left eye.



Honorable Mention 3

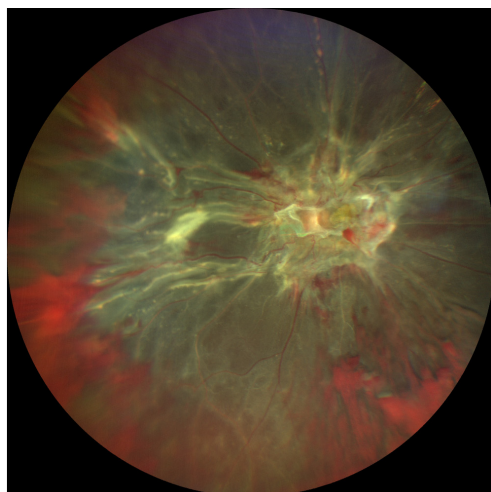
Nicholas Puzzella, OD

The Eye Institute, Salus University, Philadelphia, PA

Title: Tractional Retinal Detachment

Image System: Zeiss Clarus 500 Fundus Camera

Caption: A 24-year-old female with uncontrolled Type-1 Diabetes Mellitus presented with severe blurry vision in her left eye. She had noticed the decrease in her vision for several months. Upon examination, she was found to have a complete tractional retinal detachment of the left eye.



Honorable Mention 4

Krushna Gopal Panda, M. Optom

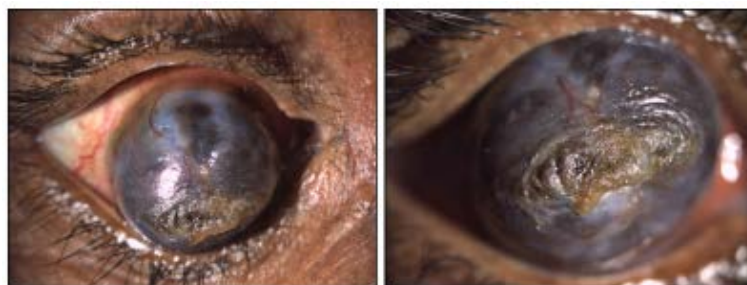
L V Prasad Eye Institute, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Special Acknowledgment: Pritimayee Samantaray, Ocular Photographer

Title: Anterior Staphyloma

Image System: Zeiss SL-800 Slit-lamp Camera

Caption: A 48-year-old female presented with a history of redness, pain, discharge, photophobia, and progressive vision loss in the right eye since she was 1-month-old. Slit-lamp biomicroscopy of the right eye showed bulging of the cornea with adherent uveal tissue and gross vascularization.



Academy 2023 New Orleans

Education

Merton C. Flom Leadership Academy

The Leadership Committee will recognize the accomplishments of 37 Academy Fellows who will celebrate the completion of the Flom Leadership Academy in New Orleans. These individuals have explored their own personal strengths and have examined how to leverage those strengths to become more effective leaders through a live introductory course and eight additional virtual modules during the past year. Virtual module topics included the following:

- Principles of Effective Leadership 1: Service and Ethics in Leadership
- Principles of Effective Leadership 2: Development and Implementation of Your Vision
- Embracing Diversity in Leadership
- Effective Communication in Leadership
- Leader's Guide to Productive Meetings
- Public Speaking for Leaders
- Writing Skills for Leaders
- Mentorship for Present and Future Leaders

Warm congratulations to all who successfully completed this course, and sincere thanks to all course faculty members for their efforts to equip the next generation of leaders with the skills necessary to move our profession forward! To learn more about the Flom Leadership Academy, [click here](#).



The Merton C. Flom logo incorporates a replicated signature of the original 1990's Leadership program creator, Dr. Merton C. Flom – in honor and recognition of his exemplary dedication and significant contributions to the advancement of the optometric profession through Leadership training. The goose is symbolic in a few ways::

- Participants gain the knowledge and skills to “take flight” as leaders.
- The upward motion indicates participants are focused on moving toward the future.
- When geese fly in a V-formation, there is always a “leader.”

Jill Bryant, OD, MPH, FAAO
Elyse Chaglasian, OD, FAAO
Ngozi C. Chidi-Egboka, OD, MPH, FNCO, FAAO
Jason Chin, OD, FAAO
Marlena Chu, OD, FAAO
Marisa Chung, OD, FAAO
Rebecca Deffler, OD, MS, FAAO
Kathryn Deliso, OD, FAAO
Samantha Dodda, OD, FAAO
Brian Dornbos, OD, FAAO
Daddi Fadel, OD, FAAO
Anita Gulmiri, OD, FAAO
Sulman Hans, OD, FAAO
Naureen Haroon, OD, MPH, FAAO
Lisa Hornick, OD, FAAO
Jameel Rizwana Hussaindeen, MPhil, FCOVD-I, FAAO, PhD
Hashim Khan, OD, FAAO
Molly King, OD, FAAO
Jenna Koskey, OD, FAAO

Caitlyn Lew, OD, FAAO
Revathy Mani, PhD, MPhil, FNORA, FAAO
Andrew Meagher, OD, FAAO
Lan Chi Nguyen, MBA, FAAO
Shalu Pal, OD, FAAO, FSLS, FBCLA
Johnny Pascual, OD, FAAO
Nimesh Patel, OD, PhD, FAAO
Linda Pham, OD, FAAO
Clinton Prestwich, OD, FAAO
Patricia Salazar, OD, FAAO
Faith Schneider, OD, FAAO
Casandra Solis, OD, FAAO
Gayathri Srinivasan, OD, MS, FAAO
Melissa Tawa, OD, FAAO
Jennifer Tong, OD, FAAO
Sarah Truman, OD, FAAO
Mary Kate Walters, OD, FAAO
Benjamin Young, OD, FAAO

Education for All Learning Styles

Interactive Academy Classroom Exchange (ACE) Courses in New Orleans

Looking for a more interactive learning experience at the Academy meeting? The Academy recognizes that not all continuing education is suited for delivery in a large ballroom. ACE courses were designed to give participants small group learning experiences to maximize discussion and interaction among attendees and course presenters. To facilitate this learning environment, the class size is limited to 36 attendees. You can add these courses to your meeting registration online for \$25 each or email registration@aaoptom.org for assistance.

Wednesday, October 11

GO-01: ACE: Challenging Cases in Myopia Management - Those You Do Not See in RCTs

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Speakers: **Maria Liu, Sarah Singh**

PH-04: ACE: Pharm Hour: Side Effects of What OD's Commonly Prescribe

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Speakers: **Blair Lonsberry, Mitch Ibach**

TD(AS)-02: ACE: Dry Eye Jeopardy!

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Speakers: **Lisa Hornick, Melissa Barnett**

CL-03: ACE: Corneal and Scleral G.P. Multifocal Fitting

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Speaker: **Susan Gromacki**

GO-06: ACE: Assessing Visual Fields in Clinical Practice

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Speaker: **Michael Kalloniatis**

GO-26: ACE: Using Art Training to Develop Clinical Observation Skills

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Speaker: **Ryan Bulson**

Thursday, October 12

GL-03: ACE: Tips and Tricks to Differentiate Glaucoma from Other Causes of Retinal Nerve Fibre Layer Loss

At Capacity

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Speaker: **Henrietta Wang**

GO-08: ACE: The Nuts and Bolts of Myopia Control

At Capacity

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Speaker: **Jeffrey Walline**

CL-09: ACE: Scleral Lens Troubleshooting: Fitting Diagnostically vs Utilizing Advanced Technology

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speakers: **Jamie Kuzniar, Jason Jedlicka**

PB-06: ACE: Integrating Culture into Optometric Treatment Plans

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Speaker: **Matthew Pearce**

FV-11: ACE: Head Scratchers: Diagnostic Challenges in Pediatrics and Binocular Vision

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Speakers: **Alexandra Williamson, Diane Tucker**

TD(AS)-06: ACE: Botulinum Toxin Update and Hands-on Dosing ACE Workshop

At Capacity

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Speaker: **Leonid Skorin**

Friday, October 13

SD-06: ACE: A Brief Overview of Common Indications for Lab Studies

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Speaker: **James Fanelli**

TD(AS)-10: ACE: Clinical Corneal Concerns

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speaker: **Joseph Sowka, Greg Caldwell**

CL-14: ACE: Multifocal Fitting Tips for Soft, GP, Scleral and Hybrid Lenses

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Speakers: **Shalu Pal, Melissa Barnett**

PB-08: ACE: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fundamentals in Action

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Speakers: **Janette Dumas Pepper, Keshia Elder**



FV-16: ACE: Prescribing for Hyperopia in Infants, Toddlers and Preschool Age Children

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Speaker: **Reena Patel, Kristine Huang**

GL-09: ACE: OCT Interpretation of Optic Nerve Head and Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Scans

One Seat Left!

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Speaker: **Lee Vien, David Yang**

Saturday, October 14

CL-19: ACE: A Challenging Clinical Contact Lens Grand Round

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Speakers: **Langis Michaud, Daniel Brazeau**

TD(AS)-19: ACE: Jumpstart your Dry Eye Practice

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Speakers: **Erin Rueff, Elaine Chen**

GO-23: ACE: Performing an Eye Exam in Spanish

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Speaker: **Alexander Martin**

TD(PS)-11: ACE: Mastering OCT Interpretation Through Case Discussion

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Speakers: **Jessica Haynes, Carolyn Majcher**



Academy's Scientific Program Papers and Posters

Your source for the latest in optometric research

Each year the Scientific Program Committee evaluates hundreds of abstract submissions to curate the best lineup of optometric research for the Academy's annual meeting. The Scientific Program is pleased to present the following paper and poster sessions in a wide variety of topic areas for your enrichment at Academy 2023 New Orleans. Attendees may earn COPE-accredited CE in 15-minute increments for the paper and poster sessions. Hot Topic sessions follow standard lecture CE procedures and require 50 minutes of attendance to earn one hour of CE.

Wednesday, October 11

P-01 Papers: Atropine & Myopia

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Keynote: Katherine Weise, OD, MBA, FAAO

P-02 Papers: Glaucoma Supersession

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

P-03 Papers: Myopia Clinical Trials and Predicting Progression

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Thursday, October 12

SE-07 Hot Topics: Evidence-Based Pediatric Eye Care

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SE-08 Hot Topics: Low Vision

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

SE-09 Hot Topics: Ocular Surface

8:00 AM – 9:00am

SE-10 Hot Topics: Novel Techniques in Glaucoma

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

P-04 Papers: Clinical Dry Eye

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

P-05 Papers: Accommodation Responses and Effects

9:00 AM – 10:45 AM

P-06 Papers: Ocular Surface Disease Mechanisms

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

P-07 Papers: Optometric Education

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

P-08 Papers: Keratoconus Biomechanics

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

P-09 Papers: Mechanisms in Myopia

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

P-10 Papers: New Ideas in Retinal Imaging and Choroidal Research

2:45 PM – 4:15 PM

P-11 Papers: Low Vision Rehabilitation

3:15 PM – 4:30 PM

Friday, October 13

P-12 Papers: Novel Antimicrobial Agents and Ocular Pathogens

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

P-13 Papers: Spatial Vision and Perception

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

P-14 Papers: Meibomian Gland Imaging

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

P-15 Papers: Public Health

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

P-16 Papers: Traumatic Brain Injury

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

P-17 Papers: Retinal Disease Updates: AMD Management and DM Imaging

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Saturday, October 14

P-18 Papers: Visual Performance and Quality

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

P-19 Papers: Normal and Abnormal Oculomotor Function

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Poster Sessions

POS-01 Thursday Evening Poster Session

Thursday, October 12, 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

POS-02 Joint Scientific Program/Residents Program Poster Session

Friday, October 13, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Abstracts and presenter information can be found in the Academy.23 mobile app.

Academy 2023 New Orleans

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As of September 7, 2023

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eSight	1409	Ocumetra.....	1346	Visioneering Technologies, Inc.	623
Essilor Custom Contact Lens Specialists	1519	OcuRx.....	1148	Visionix.....	801
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		Optos Inc.....	1427	Wolters Kluwer.....	902
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Academy 2023 New Orleans

Students and Resident Events

The Academy meeting is more than exceptional education. It's also networking, celebrating, and collaborating with the optometric profession outside the lecture hall. Join friends and colleagues from across the world at these exciting events!

Wednesday, October 11

EssilorLuxottica | Eye Care

LENSCRAFTERS[®] OPTICAL[®] PEARLE[®] VISION[®]

Student Welcome Parade and Reception

7:00 – 9:30 pm

*Students only



VSP Resident Reception

8:00 – 10:00 pm

*Residents only



Young OD's Reception

8:00 – 11:00 pm

*Open to residents and ODs in practice seven or fewer years

Download the Academy.23 app for room locations and additional information about these events.

Thursday, October 12

Student Focus Exhibit Hall Hour

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Student and Resident Awards Lunch

(lunch provided)

Noon – 1:00 pm

EssilorLuxottica Academic Challenge

Doors open at 7:30 pm, event starts 8:00 pm



Offsite: House of Blues

Friday, October 13



Residency and Graduate Program Fair

(lunch provided)

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Joint Scientific Program/Residents Program Poster Session

1:00 – 3:00 pm



The Ohio State College of Optometry faculty and student AAO officers honored 19 new Student Fellows with a pinning ceremony held at Ohio State's Faculty Club. Front row(L to R): Makayla Hoying, Serafima Petrenko, Hayley Samson, Nicholas Bernhardt, Kara Dunkle, Kaitlin Ackinclose, Molly MacLeod, Kathryn Hohman. Back row (L to R): Charlie Bahr, Kelly Klimo, Michelle Buckland (advisor), Ashley Fennel, Kaleb Clemons, Tyson Montgomery, Sarah Muha, Gagandeep Singh

Residents Program Papers Part 1

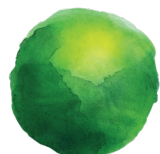
3:30 - 5:00 pm



Resident & Practitioner Reception

5:00 - 6:30 PM

*Residents only



CooperVision®

Coopervision Bright Party

(RSVP Required)

7:30 - 10:30 pm

*Students only

Academy Party

9:00 pm - 12:00 am

RSVP required via the QR code



Saturday, October 14

Residents Program Papers Part 2

9:30 am - Noon

Residents Program Career Development Lunch

Noon - 2:00 pm

*Residents only

Become a Student Fellow

OD student members of the Academy with a graduation year of 2024 or later are invited to participate in the Student Fellowship program. This is a great opportunity to experience all the Academy has to offer by attending select sessions during the annual meeting. Successful completion will earn you a certificate, lapel pin, and complimentary registration for Academy 2024 Indianapolis. View all requirements and guidelines at www.aaopt.org/sf.

Student Lounge

EssilorLuxottica | Eye Care

LENSCRAFTERS® OPTICAL® PEARLEOVISION

Recharge at the Student Lounge

Wednesday, October 11 - Friday, October 13, times vary

EssilorLuxottica Eye Care is excited to announce the return of the Student Lounge where students can rest, relax, and recharge in an area designated all their own. Whether you power down to catch up on emails and school work or power up at a charging station in between educational sessions, we invite you to come and enjoy the student lounge oasis during one of our special student-focused activities and throughout the conference. Need a new headshot? We have you covered. Be on the lookout for communications directly from EssilorLuxottica Eye Care to sign up for your time slot.

Fellowship Anniversaries

Class of 1973

Dr. Mitchell Fink, Willingboro, New Jersey
Dr. John Fitzpatrick, Bonsall, California
Dr. Desmond Fonn
Mr. Andrew Gasson, London, United Kingdom
Dr. Wayne Hagerman, Sitka, Alaska
Dr. Zeta Hidalgo, Alexandria, Virginia
Dr. Louis Katz, Modiin, Israel
Dr. Kenneth King, Idaho Falls, Idaho
Dr. Leslie Kratz, Palo Cedro, California
Dr. Gary Krueger, San Diego, California
Dr. Clifford Leong, Saratoga, California
Dr. Gordon Letts
Dr. Ralph Levoy, Winthrop, Massachusetts
Dr. David Littlefield, Kansas City, Missouri
Dr. Keith Masnick
Dr. Jack Melton, Edmond, Oklahoma,
Dr. Robert Miller, East Greenwich, Rhode Island
Dr. William Monaco, Wesley Chapel, Florida
Dr. Robert Moses, Merrillville, Indiana
Dr. Roger Phelps, Ojai, California
Dr. Robert Pinson, Olympia, Washington
Dr. Jack Richman, Hingham, Massachusetts
Dr. Errol Rummel, Toms River, New Jersey
Dr. Jeff Schaeffer, Mount Laurel, New Jersey
Dr. Barry Schneider, Saint Petersburg, Florida
Dr. Robert Vodvarka, Dallas, Texas
Dr. Michael Wesson, Milledgeville, Georgia
Dr. Siu Wong, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Dr. Max Worley, Corsicana, Texas
Dr. Burton Worrell, Los Gatos, California
Dr. Stanley Yamane, Jacksonville, Florida

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Dr. Stephanie Baba, Alameda, California
Dr. William Bachman, Chesterfield, Missouri
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Dr. Edward Bennett, Saint Charles, Missouri
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Dr. Steven Hokoda, Seattle, Washington
Dr. Murray Johnson, Dallas, Texas
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Dr. John Kent, San Antonio, Texas
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Prof. Robert Massof, Pasadena, Maryland
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Dr. Noah Eger, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania
Dr. Melissa Ernst Brenot, Boerne, Texas
Mr. Raphael Eschmann, Muri bei Bern, Switzerland

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Dr. Teresa Lowe, New York, New York
Dr. Stacy Lyons, Boston, Massachusetts
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Dr. Michelle Marciniak, Aurora, Illinois

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Dr. Albert Woods, Satellite Beach, Florida
Dr. Karen Yeung, Fullerton, California
Dr. Audra Yoshimura, Los Angeles, California
Dr. Nadia Zalatimo, Manchester, New Hampshire
Dr. Edward Zikoski, Rockledge, Pennsylvania



American Academy of Optometry Foundation Past President, Dr. Stanley Yamane, sitting down for an interview with current Foundation Board Member, Dr. April Jasper.



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Presbyopia Correcting Eyedrops: Added Value for Patients, Optometrists, and Industry

Jason S. Ng, OD, PhD, FAAO



Presbyopia is a condition that optometrists have treated since the inception of the profession. It has a prevalence of approximately 40% in the United States¹ and has an upward trajectory as the population ages. Even after the first decade of life, accommodative amplitude declines until it is nearly lost in the fifth decade of life. A recent report has reminded us that the reading add at the standard near testing distance of 40 cm is a better way to categorize presbyopia severity than age.² Indeed some patients younger than 50 require higher adds than we might usually expect based on historic tables. On the other hand, patients with presbyopia often continue to function adequately due to a depth of field increase from naturally declining pupil size.

From bifocal to multifocal glasses or contacts to refractive surgery, including intraocular lenses, the landscape to manage

presbyopia has never been so vast. We can thank industry partners for working with patients and clinicians for pushing innovation in this area. Topical therapy with lens softeners has the potential to treat presbyopia and also prevent cataracts (the two conditions being considered along a spectrum of what has been called dysfunctional lens syndrome) but have unfortunately failed in phase 2 trials.^{3,4} Topical therapy to manage presbyopia has been successful with the FDA approval of 1.25% pilocarpine about 2 years ago.⁵ Several other therapeutics (e.g. other concentrations of pilocarpine, carbachol, and aceclidine) have completed, or are currently in, phase 3 trials. All these topicals stimulate pupil miosis to increase the depth of field beyond the naturally occurring increase. Causing too much pupil miosis would lead to a decrease in retinal illuminance that would degrade many vision functions (e.g. visual acuity, contrast sensitivity, temporal vision, color vision) and so one part of the outcome measure in clinical trials has been to ensure that subjects don't lose more than 1 line of distance visual acuity, which also happens to be near the lower limit of normal test-retest variability.⁶ Presumably, the companies bringing these topicals to market have carefully aimed for a particular target pupil size when determining the best concentration for their therapeutic. Having said that, so far topical drops for

presbyopia have been achieving pupil sizes in the 1.5-2.5 mm range without losing more 1 line of distance of visual acuity.

Here are some scenarios where eye care professionals can improve a patient's quality of life and meet their needs by using topicals for presbyopia:

1. Patients that decline to wear glasses (e.g., low refractive error) because they only need them for long duration near tasks.
2. Patients that have had refractive surgery (e.g., LASIK) and prefer not to wear reading glasses since they want to be glasses/contacts free as long as possible.⁷
3. Patients that have single vision contact lenses and are not interested in monovision or multifocal contact lenses.
4. Patients that aren't satisfied with the quality of vision with multifocal contact lenses.
5. Patients that wear a daily toric contact lens to fit their lifestyle, since no multifocal toric contact lens options are currently manufactured.
6. Patients with dysphotopsia from multifocal CLs or multifocal/EDOF IOLs or from prior refractive surgery.

Clinical Corner (continued)

7. Patients that want to recover from the extra light sensitivity from dilation (i.e. dilation reversal). At the time that this article is released, it is likely that the FDA review of 0.75% phentolamine for mydriasis reversal will be completed.

While topical therapeutics for presbyopia are targeted as an adjunct to other interventions, there is desire for

patients and clinicians alike to overcome some of the current challenges. These challenges include inadequate duration of once-a-day dosing, the utilization of preservatives like BAK that can compromise the ocular surface over time, and potential side effects like headache, hyperemia, blurred vision due to ciliary spasm, and increased risk for retinal complications.^{5,8,9} Upcoming topical therapeutics for the

management of presbyopia will allow for true once a day dosing, be preservative free, and have of the aforementioned side effects. It is an exciting time for the management of presbyopia, and it is important that optometrists educate their patients about all possible treatment options to maximize their vision function and quality of life.

References

1. Fricke TR, Tahhan N, Resnikoff S, et al. Global Prevalence of Presbyopia and Vision Impairment from Uncorrected Presbyopia: Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Modelling. *Ophthalmology*. 2018;125(10):1492-1499. doi:10.1016/j.ophtha.2018.04.013.
2. McDonald MB, Barnett M, Gaddie IB, et al. Classification of Presbyopia by Severity [published correction appears in *Ophthalmol Ther*. 2021 Nov 20;]. *Ophthalmol Ther*. 2022;11(1):1-11. doi:10.1007/s40123-021-00410-w.
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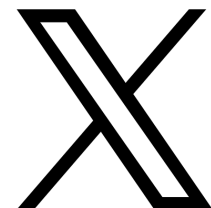
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American Academy of Optometry FOUNDATION

Advancing Optometry's Future

Official Foundation of the American Academy of Optometry | Fall 2023

President's Message



New Orleans is calling and we must go! This year's annual meeting, Academy 2023 New Orleans, promises to deliver great continuing education, the latest research findings, networking opportunities, and a showcase of the newest products and services. The American Academy of Optometry Foundation (AAOF) supports the AAO in its efforts to promote excellence in vision research and clinical practice.

During the last year, the AAOF supported the future of optometry and vision science by awarding scholarships, travel fellowships, awards, and grants to students, residents, researchers, and faculty. Thanks to the generous support of donors and industry partners, the Foundation provided more than \$1.2 million in awards and programs in 2023.

The AAOF provides an array of programming to support the AAO's strategic plan. In addition to scholarships and research grants, the AAOF offers online training for new staff, podcasts discussing the latest research, and training and certification for clinicians seeking to become investigators in clinical trials. For more information about our programs, visit our [website](#).

The AAOF's commitment to promoting optometric research, excellence and innovation in clinical practice remains strong. Please visit booth #1101, located in the exhibit hall during the Academy meeting to learn more about AAOF programs or to discuss how you can support the AAOF with your time or talents.

Please consider donating. Every donation ensures our success. Your support makes all our programs possible.

See you there!

Sincerely,

Rachel A. "Stacey" Coulter

Rachel "Stacey" Coulter, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD
Diplomate, BVPPPO
President, AAOF

New President's Circle Members

The American Academy of Optometry Foundation appreciates the generous support of President's Circle members. We are pleased to present the new members with special thanks from the Foundation Board of Directors.

New President's Circle members since January 1, 2023

Greg Nixon and Vondolee Delgado-Nixon

Walter Whitley

Karl Citek

Sherry Day Kao and John Kao

David Jasper

Richard Soden

Sanjeev Kasthurirangan and
Sowmya Kavikumar



2023 Ezell Fellows

This year the Foundation has selected 16 outstanding vision researchers to receive the prestigious Ezell Fellowships. For 75 years, the Ezell Fellowship program, named after Foundation founder, Dr. William C. Ezell, has recognized talented optometric researchers pursuing careers in research and education. The Ezell Fellowship program is made possible through the generous endowments and ongoing contributions from members, donors, corporate leaders, and friends of the Foundation.

American Academy of Optometry Foundation Ezell Fellow



**Kierstyn Napier-Dovorany,
OD, FAAO**

Indiana University School of
Optometry

American Academy of Optometry Ezell Fellow



**Yvonne Adu-Agyeiwaah,
OD**

University of Alabama at
Birmingham
School of Optometry

American Academy of Optometry Centennial Ezell Fellowship



**Nicole Ross,
OD, MSc, FAAO**

New England College of
Optometry

American Academy of Optometry Centennial Ezell Fellowship



**Erin C. Jenewein,
OD, MS, FAAO**

NOVA Southeastern College of
Optometry

AAO Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies Ezell Fellow



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MSc, PhD, FAAO**

University of New South Wales,
Australia

Bert C. & Lydia M. Corwin Ezell Fellowship



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B.Optom, MS**

University of California, Berkeley,
Herbert Wertheim School of
Optometry and Vision Science

John N. Schoen Ezell Fellowship



**Marielle Reidy,
OD, MS, FAAO**

The Ohio State University
College of Optometry

Michael G. Harris Ezell Fellowship



**Ellen K. Antwi-Adjei,
OD, MPH**

Kwame Nkrumah University of
Science and Technology

**Optometric Glaucoma
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**Janelle Tong,
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School of Optometry and Vision
Science

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American Academy of Optometry



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American Academy of Optometry Foundation

925 S. Semoran Blvd. Ste. 120 Winter Park, FL 32792 USA

Phone: 321-319-4870 Email: aaof@aaoptom.org www.aaopt.org/aaof

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A Foundation Initiatives Update

Approximately three years ago, the Foundation developed targeted programs to support the Academy's strategic plan and provide members with programs that improve patient care. Today, all six programs have been implemented.



Clinical Podcast Series distributes eight video podcasts a month discussing trending, clinically relevant research to improve patient care. The series had more than 8,500 downloads thanks to the participation of 31 Academy members in the role of hosts, editors and experts.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



Clinical Investigator Certification provides practicing optometrists with the training and skills to serve as a clinical investigator for sponsored research within their practices. Many of the 111 graduates surveyed indicated they are participating in a clinical trial or communicating with companies that sponsor clinical trials.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Staff Training Fundamentals helps train optometric staff through an online application developed for new employees in optometry practices and clinics. Modules of training provide an overview of ocular anatomy, lens types and materials, records and compliance and more. To date, more than 500 Fellows have previewed or enrolled.

[ENROLL NOW](#)



OD/PhD Scholarship Program provides funding for optometrists in pursuit of a PhD in a vision science field. Each awardee receives \$30,000 payable over two years. The inaugural scholarship was awarded Spring 2022. The Foundation awarded two scholarships this year for the 2023-2024 academic year.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Bright Ideas Pitch Competition encourages new ideas and innovative thinking. Five finalists pitched their ideas to a panel of five judges during Academy 2022 San Diego. The Bright Ideas competition will be held again during Academy 2024 Indianapolis.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Research Funding stimulates research through pilot grants totaling \$100,000 and partner collaborations such as Meta/Facebook Reality Labs Research, who provided \$450,000 for research in augmented reality, virtual reality, and myopia. This year the Foundation is funding more than \$600,000 in grants, awards, scholarships, and other programs.

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Inspiring Excellence in Eye Care



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The American Academy of Optometry provides exceptional education, supports innovative research, and disseminates knowledge to advance optometric practice and improve patient care

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Fostering intellectual curiosity, embracing innovation and pursuing knowledge

Excellence

Achieving the highest standards of clinical practice, critical thinking, scholarship, and professionalism

Evidence-based care

Promoting high-quality care informed by rigorous research

Integrity

Inspiring ethical behavior in scientific research, clinical practice, and the educational environment

Collaboration and Collegiality

Encouraging a respectful and collegial environment across the Academy and in our engagement with diverse external partners



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5 Strategic Pillars

- Education
- Research
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925 S. Semoran Blvd Suite 120 Winter Park, FL 32792

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Chief Executive Officer

TrishS@aaoptom.org

Richard Jones, CPA

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RichardJ@aaoptom.org

Noraine Caballero

Data Specialist

NoraineC@aaoptom.org

Dana Edwards, MLIS

Directory, Information Technology

DanaE@aaoptom.org

Bob Gray, MS

Vice President, Philanthropy

BobG@aaoptom.org

David Harrison

Director, Digital Engagement

DavidH@aaoptom.org

Jamie Hoffman

Office Manager

JamieH@aaoptom.org

Sarah Kidd

Manager, Programs and Donor Relations

SarahK@aaoptom.org

Ewa Koguciuk

Coordinator, Education

EwaK@aaoptom.org

JoEl LaBorde

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

JoL@aaoptom.org

Zaide LaBoy

Coordinator, Meetings & Industry Relations

ZaideL@aaoptom.org

Amy Loy

Director, Event Operations

AmyL@aaoptom.org

Michael Markese

Coordinator, Accounting

MichaelM@aaoptom.org

Ian Mitchell, CPA, MBA

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IanM@aaoptom.org

Kayla Ritten, MBA, CAE

Vice President, Membership

and Communications

KaylaR@aaoptom.org

Sherry Sreekrisenjee

Accounting Manager

SherryS@aaoptom.org

Betty Taylor, CEM

Vice President, Meetings &

Industry Relations

BettyT@aaoptom.org

Christina Velasquez

Director, Education

ChristinaV@aaoptom.org

Helen Viksnins, MEd, FAAO

Vice President, Education &

Professional Relations

HelenV@aaoptom.org

Adrienne Wilhoite

Director, Exhibits &

Corporate Support

AdrienneW@aaoptom.org